

# Alkham Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

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### **7.00pm PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MAIN MEETING:**

#### **PLANNING :**

##### **1.1 To table planning applications received for consideration**

1.1.1 DOV/ 18 / 01035 The Marquis, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, CT15 7DF  
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990

Proposal: External works to incl. removal of paint to all elevations;

replacement door with window; removal of existing steps; installation of lights & illuminated hanging sign. Internal works to include insertion of fireplace, erection of glazed lobby & erection of stud partitions to ground floor; removal of existing & erection of new partitions, installation of ensuite, creation of new openings & installation of new fireplace to 1st floor. Approved by all Councillors present

1.1.2 DOV/ 18 / 01034 The Marquis, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, CT15 7DF

Sandblasting of external brickwork, formation of terraces, relocation of bin store, erection of a retaining wall and creation of an additional 19 parking spaces (removal of external steps). Approved by All Councillors present

##### **1.2 To table planning applications dealt with since last meeting**

There were none

##### **1.3 To table decisions by the Planning Authority since the last meeting**

There were none

#### **Main Meeting:**

##### **1. Venue:**

Alkham Village Hall at 7:30pm

##### **2. Present:**

Councillors:

Neil Burrows, Anthony Barrier, Den Barnard, David Beaney, Geoff Hillier, Martin Hibbert,

Clerk:

Irene Bowie

Members of the Public:

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##### **3. Apologies and absences:**

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies received from Cllr Marczin- Bundy, Cllr Geoff Lymer

**4. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

Cllr Beaney declared an interest in item 9.1.1

**5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

To consider the minutes and if in order sign as a true record

Cllr Hillier identified two corrections these were amended and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Beaney proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true account of the meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Hibbert. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed that minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by Cllr Burrows.

**6. Matters arising from the minutes** (not included in other agenda items)

There were none

**7. To approve the 2019-20 budget and precept requirements**

The Clerk circulated a draft budget to all members with Precept increase options for 2019/2020. The Clerk explained that for the last two financial years the Parish Council spend was greater than precept. The overspend were taken directly from reserves.

The figures for 2018-19 were complicated by the fact that the precept had been paid in the previous year, giving a perception of greater reserves. 2017-18 there was an overspend of £3,360. The current year 2018-19 estimated overspend would be in excess of £4,000. The budget figures for 2019-20 indicated that the overspend will be approx. £3,436. The Clerk explained that the precept could only be calculated using the 2018/19 tax base as the 2019/20 tax base had not yet been received from DDC.

The Parish Council discussed the reduction in reserves, which at year end 2019 are anticipated to be approx. £48,000. However, much of this is ring fenced for specific projects to improve matters for the village, including the community plan, traffic action group and the upkeep of village assets.

The Parish Council agreed to take measures to prevent further depletion of reserves. It was agreed that grants and external funding will be sought for projects before reserves are spent. Savings have been made where possible, with many budget items reduced by a small % to try and limit the increase in Precept for 2019/20, without having a dramatic impact on village services. However, it was agreed that the all the traditional items of general maintenance and administration associated with the parish – salaries, the ongoing costs of running the open spaces, contested elections etc., should be met from the precept.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed to raise the parish precept from £8,142 to £12,500 for 2019-20. Proposed by Cllr Hibbert and seconded by Cllr Barrier

and agreed by all. **Resolved: The Parish Council will increase the precept for 2019/20 to £12,500 a percentage increase of 53.52%**

The Council Tax is based on a statutory calculation of the number of chargeable households in the parish and is used to calculate the Council Tax for the year. Utilizing the 2018/19 tax base for Alkham which is 307.61 for Band D equivalent properties.

The increase in the Alkham precept proposed for 2019/20 is £ 4,358 which when divided by the Tax Base of 307.61 Band D equivalent houses within the parish, results in Parish Council Tax figure of £ 40.64 for the year. This equates to an increase of £14.17 on last year's figure of £26.47. This is a weekly increase of 27p. The Alkham Parish Council Precept is now £40.64 per annum which equates to £0.78 per week per Band D equivalent house.

The Parish Council are always reluctant to increase the Precept but hopes that residents will feel that the increase will be beneficial. Alkham continues, deservedly, to be a very popular parish, because of its vibrant community and excellent facilities. The Parish Council is seeking to do everything in its power to make sure the Alkham Parish continues to be a good place for everyone to live.

#### **8. Public Participation and Comment**

*Meetings of the Parish Council are not public meetings, but members of the public have a statutory right to attend meetings of the council as observers. They have no legal right to speak unless the Parish Council Chairman authorises them to do so. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself.*

There were none

#### **9. Finances:**

9.1	Accounts paid to be ratified	
	9.1.1 DB Works Gate Playing field/Football Pitch	£ 679.00
	9.1.2 Harmer and Sons Grass Cutting, Playground	£ 248.40
	Inspections October 2018	
9.2	Accounts for payment	
	9.2.1 Invoice from Coastal Mowers & Plant for Mower & Labour Charge Blade	£ 130.00
	9.2.2 Honorarium payment of to Larry Lambourne for 2018	£ 250.00
9.3	Late Payment requests to be discussed for approval and payment	
	Clerk Salary + tax Rebate November 2018	£ 974.60
	Cllr Hillier TAG Report printing and Binding	£ 118.00

**All payments proposed by Cllr Barnard, seconded by Cllr Hibbert. Resolved:**

**Payments presented at this meeting to be paid and ratified.** Cllr Beaney having declared an interest in item 9.1.1 did not participate in the discussion and did not vote.

#### **10. Agenda Items for next meeting**

The Clerk reported that an instruction had been received from the Chairman of the Alkham Valley Society to remove all reference to the society, including the membership process, from the Parish Council Website.

Items for discussion to be forwarded to the Chairman by 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

#### **11. Dates of Future Meetings**

**7th January 2019, 4th March 2019**

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm **Signed: Cllr N Burrows 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**