

ALDWARD AREA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 25 August 2020 at 7.00pm by teleconference

Present: John Topliss, Lynette Evans, Andy Follington, Richard Padgett

In attendance: Alison Pollock (Clerk and RFO)

Minute

46/20 Apologies for absence - none

47/20 Declaration of interests in agenda items – none

48/20 Public forum – no members of the public were present.

49/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2020

The minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chairman. It was agreed to defer discussion on matters arising from the minutes until the September meeting.

50/20 Review financial accounts for year ended 31 March 2020

The main purpose of the meeting was for the parish councillors to review the accounts prepared and already circulated by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), in time to meet the statutory deadlines.

The RFO confirmed that as agreed at the previous meeting, a Certificate of Exemption from a Limited Assurance Review by an external auditor had been submitted by the 31 July deadline. This means that the parish council does not need to pay for external auditors which would cost the parish £200 plus VAT.

The Responsible Financial Officer took the parish councillors through the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 that she had prepared, and took questions from the parish councillors. The parish councillors reviewed their governance of the finances of the council and the annual governance statement was agreed to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The accounts were approved.

The RFO confirmed that the Return and accounts had been subject to an internal audit, with a clean bill of health, carried out by Mrs Sarah Robinson of Youlton. The parish councillors asked the clerk to pass on their thanks for this task.

All documents will be posted on noticeboards and the parish website www.aldwardparish.co.uk together with details on how the public may request to scrutinise the relevant paperwork. This ensures compliance with transparency and legal requirements for Smaller Local Authorities.

51/20 Dates of future meetings – Wednesday 16 September 2020 starting at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed.....Chair.....Date