

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2019
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, ALDBOURNE

Present

Cllr. A. Edmonds (Chairman)
Cllr. H. Bland, Cllr. J. Gould, Cllr. L. Harris, Cllr. B. Hill, Cllr. N. Josephy, Cllr. J. Rayner,
Cllr. W. Brown (from 20:15)

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 8 members of the public, Cllr. J. Sheppard (Wiltshire Council)

19/34. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. M. Cheney, Cllr. A. Deuchar, Cllr. P. Lawler, Cllr. J. Moore, Cllr. S. Muirhead & Cllr. C. Williams

19/35. Consider and sign the Minutes of the May 2019 Annual Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2019 be approved and signed.

19/36. Update on matters arising

- a) (19/15b) White Lining – The contractors were in the village 22-24 May, which was earlier than expected, and did carry out much of the work requested. Unfortunately, they have not painted the t-bar by the bus stop or refreshed the centre line on the B4192, particularly the area around the bend by Marlborough Road. The graphics for the wider parking bay by the pond have also been painted in the wrong place. Cllr. Sheppard advised he had chased these issues up and that the contractors have been tasked to come back to complete the work and correct the errors made. Aldbourne is a top priority for the contractors next visit to the area, which will be sometime within the next five months.
- b) (19/15e 03/04/19) 20mph review – A list of the roads agreed has been submitted to CATG for consideration of a speed limit review. The next meeting is on 20 June. Cllr. Moore will be attending this meeting on behalf of the council.
- c) (19/15f 03/10/18) Back Lane Pump – Refurbishment has been completed. Thank you to Mr Nigel Payne and Mr Alistair Hetherington for carrying out this work. The pump looks fantastic and has received many positive comments.
- d) (19/23 03/04/19) Creation of path beside the B4192 – One estimate has been received. Cllr. Edmonds has met with another company, and their estimate is awaited.
- e) (19/47 01/05/19) Highway infringements – Mr Cook has been asked to look at the two issues raised, and give advice on whether he feels they are highway infringements or not. He hopes to get out this way in the next few days, and will update the council once he has.
- f) (19/50 01/05/19) Funding requests – More details on costs and other revenue streams are awaited for the outside electrical socket and the festival.

19/37. Receive monthly financial report and to sign any cheques for payments

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the accounts and cheques for payment as presented by the clerk.

A copy of the financial report is attached to these Minutes.

19/38. Questions and request from the public for councillors to consider

- A cheaper measure to help make the verge beside the B4192 easier to walk on would be to get it cut more often.
- The pump by the bus stop is pumping water out of the base, rather than the spout. It looks like the seal between the pump and the sleeve, previously put in after vehicle damage in 2014, has failed.

The verge is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council, who due to budget cuts only cut it once a year now, The surface is still quite uneven even when the grass is short, hence the council has been looking into a footpath. However, the Parish Council will see if Mr Bill Mildenhall could cut it as he will have the correct licences for working on the highway. The council will ask Whatley & Co to look at the issue with the pump.

19/39. Update on Lease & Management Agreement for ARC and consider solicitor costs

Cllr. Josephy advised that he had spoken to the council's solicitor today, who confirmed he had received comments/updates from ARC's solicitor following the council's comments on the documents sent back in early May. These now need to be reviewed by the FSFD prior to a response to ARC's solicitor. The FSFD and the council's solicitor are doing all they can to have a final lease and management agreement ready for consideration at the July meeting.

The final total for the fees, subject to no unforeseen issues, is going to be £3,500. This is £200 more than agreed in March 2019. Whilst above the original budget, the work involved has been a great deal more than originally anticipated. The total is half of what the standard rate would have been. The council's solicitor has confirmed that this current fee is capped. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve a final budget of £3,500, plus any disbursement charges, and subject to no unforeseen circumstances, for the solicitor costs to draw up the lease and management agreement with ARC.

19/40. Neighbourhood Plan update and consider any actions required

The feedback from the Design Day has been distributed to all those that attended, plus the council. It is also available to view on the council's website. The next round of funding has been applied for.

19/41. Update on SIDs and consider any action required

Cllr. Hill advised that both units were replaced with new/updated ones on 19 May, and currently are performing as they should. The statistics from 19-31 May have been downloaded and show that on South Street there were 30,621 vehicle movements, and 25,504 on West Street. Of these 17,398 were driving in excess of 35mph (26%) and 32,984 were driving in excess of 30mph (50%). The peak movements are between 5 am and 9 am and 3 pm and 7 pm, with a mini rush between 11 am and 1 pm. The average in the two peak times is three cars a minute and in the lunch rush two a minute. Shockingly, on three occasions there is a log in the early hours of the morning of vehicles travelling at an average of 99mph as they enter West Street from the Swindon direction.

Cllr. Sheppard asked that he be sent all the statistics to enable him to petition the Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police about getting enforcement action carried out in the village.

19/42. Update on the future of Aldbourne Post Office

Cllr. Edmonds advised that a submission on behalf of the Parish Council had been made to the Parliamentary Committee reviewing Post Offices. They had also written to Claire Perry, MP. The council's letter, along with three from residents in the village, were read out at the Parliamentary review. There is no news from Post Office Ltd on what they are going to do about the remuneration, though they have indicated they are aware of the issue.

The Parish Council has also submitted an article to the next Dabchick publication encouraging residents to use Aldbourne Post Office for as many transactions as possible. Especially those that they might usually carry out on-line. 2,500 Post Offices are due to close this year, mostly due to the fact that they run at a loss. Everyone is determined to ensure that Aldbourne will not be one of them, either now or in the future.

19/43. Update on report of drug issues in the village to the PCC

The PCC had replied to the Parish Council's letter, and assured them that the issue of drugs in the village is being taken seriously. There are operational matters that prevent the police from saying more, which can make it look like nothing is happening to combat the issue.

Regular patrols are being made, and PCSO Sykes has spent a lot of time actively trying to encourage residents to report matters, either via 101 or Crime Stoppers.

PCSO Sykes has also spoken to Cllr. Edmonds, and sent posters which show how and when to report issues to the police.

19/44. Update on Operation Nightingale

The week long dig was a resounding success with many items of interest found. All the trenches have been covered back up, and the grass is re-establishing well. Cllr. Edmonds expressed the council's thanks to Mrs Jo Hutchins, who was an excellent liaison between the dig team and the council.

19/45. Consider expenditure for installing springer in Claridge Close

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract ARD Playgrounds to install a new springer in the Claridge Close play area at a cost of £967.00+VAT (the cost includes removal of the old unit).

19/46. Consider purchase of under 13 nets for Whitley Field

Cllr. Harris advised that with a small amount of refurbishment to the goal posts, nets and grass the current goals would be perfectly serviceable for many more years. He had spoken to youngsters in the area, some of them within the under 13 bracket, and they were all happy with the larger nets and did not feel they would use smaller ones. As the larger nets are perfectly serviceable, it was agreed there was no requirement for additional expenditure to purchase smaller nets.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow a budget of up to £25.00+VAT for Cllr. Harris to refurbish the existing goals and grass.

19/47. Update on tree project by the tennis court and consider tree planing scheme

Item taken after 19/52

19/48. Consider renewal of website domain name

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to renew the website domain name for a further year, up to a cost of no more than £15.00+VAT.

19/49. Receive & adopt the May planning committee minutes

The Minutes from the meetings held on 1st May 2019 were approved and adopted.

A copy is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Sheppard reported that Thames Water had advised the fence at end of Lottage Road is not sited above the culvert. The council felt this was not correct. Cllr. Sheppard agreed to query this with the Wiltshire Council drainage team. The driveway at this site is a re-gravelling of an existing drive that was granted planning permission previously. Wiltshire Council are therefore satisfied that there have been no planning breaches on this issue.

19/50. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

Nothing further to report

19/51. Wiltshire Council report

Nothing further to report.

19/52. Correspondence

Correspondence received and sent during the last month was noted.

Cllr Brown arrived

19/47. Update on tree project by the tennis court and consider tree planing scheme (taken out of order)

Cllr. Brown advised that a mix of the original proposal and one suggested by Mrs Bound had been discussed. The suggestion is for there be around 30 trees planted, which include a mix of Beech, Hawthorn, Cornelian Cherry, Scots Pine, Norway Maple and Field Maple. To save on costs a village planting day on 23 November @ 10am has been suggested.

The clerk will seek quotes for the trees and also the hire of a small digger to dig the holes.

19/53. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- The 2020 Festival Committee are in the process of registering with the Charity Commission. There has been a slight delay as the name 'Aldbourne Festival' was already in use. The group using it have agreed to change their name to enable it to be used by the festival committee. £500 has been promised as soon as bank accounts are open. The committee will be making appeals to local businesses once they are registered with the Charity Commission. All groups approached to ask if they can help organise activities have confirmed they would be happy to do so.
- Comment was made about clearing the site for the new trees and watering them once planted. It was also felt that 30 was a lot of trees for such a small site.
- It was asked if the one of the SIDs could be put on Southward Lane.
- There are several properties along South Street where their plants have grown into the path and thus reduced its width.
- What are the councils thoughts on the excessive number of signs advertising the school fete and 5k run, as well as a local estate agent?
- Cllr. Hill was praised for his persistence with the SID units, it is good to hear that they are at last working.
- Parking on The Green is increasing. What action are the council taking to reduce it?

The comments re the trees were taken on board.

There is no pole for the SID on South Street, and permission from Wiltshire Council would need to be sought in order to site one there.

The council will contact the properties where foliage is overhanging the pavement to ask that it be cut back.

The council absolutely agreed the signage was excessive. They urged everyone to contact the school about it.

The Enclosures Act 1857 (Section 12) and the Commons Act 1876 (Section 29) make it an offence to park vehicles on The Green. Though from time to time vehicles are given permission to go onto the grass for a short period. The council is concerned about the increase of general parking too, and recently put down more sarsen stones in an attempt to stop it, as well as speaking to people they have seen using the area for parking or turning. They have also been more stringent about not allowing vehicles onto The Green when permission has been sought. Though there have been occasions recently when permission has been refused and this has been ignored. They will look at adding more sarsen stones to 'plug' the gaps. As custodians of The Green, the Parish Council should be contacted by anyone wishing to use it for any purpose.

19/54. Consider co-option of one councillor

Two candidates had stood for the election, Mr Scott Henderson and Mr Lee Smitten. Unfortunately, due to a prior engagement Mr Smitten had not been able to attend this meeting, but had sent a comprehensive resume about himself. The Chairman invited Mr Henderson to provide some background about himself to the council.

A paper ballot was taken and it was **RESOLVED** by five votes to three to co-opt Mr Scott Henderson to Aldbourne Parish Council.

Mr Henderson signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office following the meeting.

19/55. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 3 July 2019 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:40

Chairman Signature: _____ 3 July 2019