

**ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING 7 APRIL 2021
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

Present

Cllr A Edmonds (Chair), Cllr A Deuchar (Vice Chair)
Cllr W Brown, Cllr H Bland, Cllr B Hill, Cllr L Harris, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr P Lawler, Cllr S Muirhead,
Cllr A Phizacklea, Cllr J Rayner, Cllr C Williams

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 4 members of the public, Cllr J Sheppard (Wiltshire Council)

20/144. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Cheney, Cllr L Smitten

Not in attendance: Cllr S Henderson

20/145. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Brown - item 21/154. No dispensations required.

20/146. Consider the Minutes of the March 2021 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2020 be approved. They will be signed following the meeting.

20/147. Consider monthly financial statement

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 as [Appendix A](#).

20/148. Update on Parish Council Elections May 2021

Dates of note:

19 April – Deadline to register to vote

20 April – Deadline to apply for postal vote

27 April – Deadline to apply for a vote by proxy

6 May – Day of poll

20/149. Review of all outstanding issues

Below is a list of those issues that have been resolved or updated since the last meeting.

- a) [06/01/16] Potholed surface of Grasshills – The remaining section has at last been resurfaced with road chippings.
- b) [06/11/19] Virtual path on Marlborough Road – Still under consideration with CATG, though it may be moved into the top 5 priority issues at the 16 April meeting.
- c) [05/02/20] Loose manhole cover on West Street – Still loose, despite repeated attempts by Openreach to fix it. Cllr Sheppard will ask highways to push Openreach for a permanent fix.
- d) [05/02/20] Local policing – Sgt Edwards/PC Grigor will attend the annual assembly on 28 April to answer questions from residents and the council.
- e) [03/03/21] Peak track poor surface conditions nr Lottage Road – The landowner has made some repair works and will carry out further ones if required when the weather improves.

20/150. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

There were no questions from the public present.

20/151. Consider adoption of new Financial Regulations

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Financial Regulations as presented.
A copy will be added to the website.

20/152. Consider adoption of the following policies: i) Social Media & Electronic Communication; ii) Information Security; iii) Data Protection; iv) Health & Safety

Deferred to a future meeting due to issues with some councillors being unable to access the links to view the documents.

20/153. Consider update to Freedom of Information and Publication Scheme

Deferred to a future meeting due to issues with some councillors being unable to access the links to view the documents.

20/154. Discuss and consider any action in relation to Assets of Community Value

It was **RESOLVED** eight in favour with four abstentions to register the following as Assets of Community Value:

The Blue Boar, The Crown, Memorial hall and Sports & Social Club, Post office, Co-Op Aldbourn Kitchen (takeaway), The Common, Allotments, Methodist Chapel

It was **RESOLVED** nine in favour with three abstentions that The Forge and Library will be registered as an Asset of Community Value

It was **RESOLVED** nine in favour with three abstentions that the garages on Whitley Road and Farm Lane will be registered as Assets of Community Value

The Junction & the Nissan hut will be considered at a later date.

All the owners of the properties being registered will be advised prior to registration taking place.

20/155. Update on flooding issues

The filtration unit has been turned off and Cllr Josephy is chasing Thames Water on the removal of the unit and fencing.

20/156. Update on road & pedestrian safety review and consider any action required

The latest version of the plan was discussed. Cllrs Harris and Williams will update the draft plan with the suggestions put forward.

20/157. Update on re-installation of the pump

The bolts have now been replaced and the final payment has been made.

The pump and bollards need repainting. It was agreed that Mr Warren will be asked to help with this. Any expenditure can be approved as per item 4.1 of the Financial Regulations.

20/158. Update on Heritage Group lease & licence for the Community Room

The declaration in relation to the exclusion of the Landlord and Tenants Act was signed on 12 March. The lease and licence were signed on 1 April. The new lease runs until 31 March 2036.

20/159. Consider verge rewilding

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a trail wildflower planting for 1 year go ahead, with a review at the end on areas A1, B3, B8, B10, B12, B15, B17, B18, B20, C1, C3, F1, F2. The Carbon Neutral liaison group will work with the grass cutting contractor and Carbon Neutral in relation to schedule of grass cutting in these areas.

20/160. Ratify decision on further use of the football field by Ramsbury FC

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to ratify the agreement for Ramsbury FC to use the football field on Southward Lane for practice on Saturday mornings and football matches on Sunday until the end of May 2021, subject to conditions already advised.

It was noted that the portable toilets are not yet in situ and that this has been chased. There was also a small amount of fighting between players and spectators last weekend. However, this was resolved quickly by the Ramsbury FC officials.

20/161. Consider request for donation from the Vodafone fund

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the council would not approve funding from the Vodafone fund at this time for the Carbon Neutral community garden. The council does fully support a grant application by the Carbon Neutral group to the Marlborough Area Board.

20/162. Consider events on The Green in June and July 2021

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow the Dr Who car "Bessie" to be parked on The Green on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 June 2021, as part of the 'A weekend at Devil's End' event being organised by the Crime & Comedy Theatre Company. Subject to standard conditions of use and that the organisers ensure any activities which take place are within the Covid compliance regulations that apply at that time.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow Aldbourne Band to use The Green for their 'pond concert' on 4 July 2021. Subject to standard conditions of use and that the organisers ensure the event taking place is within the Covid compliance regulations that apply at that time.

20/163. Consider adoption of the 2 & 16 March 2021 planning committee Minutes

The Minutes from the meetings held on 2 & 16 March 2021 were adopted.
Copies are attached to these Minutes.

20/164. Wiltshire Council Report

Cllr Sheppard thanked the council for the kindness they had shown him during the last 4 years. He went on to thank Cllr Edmonds for chairing the council so well.
The ongoing issues with sewage and flooding has been raised with Danny Kruger. Whomever ends up in the role of the Aldbourne & Ramsbury Ward Councillor needs to keep pressure on Thames Water to resolve this. Wiltshire Council continue to hold Teams meetings and they are running well. Wiltshire Council do not anticipate holding face-to-face meetings again until least September 2021.

Cllr Sheppard was asked about the issue of the fence at the top end of Lottage Road. He advised that he had consulted with the highways officers on this and that they had confirmed that the fence has been erected on private land and that no regulations or laws had been broken. He deferred to the highways officers who have a greater knowledge of the law and highways.

Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllr Sheppard on behalf of the council for all his help and input over the last 4 years.

20/165. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) Now that Covid restrictions are lifting it will be possible for councillors to meet to discuss the Rectory Wood tree report and put a plan of action together.
- b) Both SIDs have been returned to the manufacturer due to ongoing faults with them.
- c) It was noted that fish are disappearing from the pond. A heron has been seen in the area, but a fishing net was also found.

- d) Concern was raised about the number of dogs being taken into the Goddards play area and allowed to remain in there as well as run free off leads. There is no right of way across this area. Further signage will be put in place to remind owners that this is play area and dogs are not allowed into it.
- e) The public toilets have reached the stage where they require refurbishment work. There were no objections to costs for works being investigated so that they can be considered at a future meeting. There is currently some graffiti in the toilets that is proving problematic to remove. Cllr Sheppard offered to see if someone in Wiltshire Council could advise on what was best to use to remove it.
- f) The gate to Whitley Field requires a new latch/lock. A replacement will be investigated.

20/166. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- The council were thanked for all the work they do for the village, particularly Cllr Edmonds, who has made the council much more accessible. It is a shame more people do not attend meetings to see what happens.
- Questions were asked as to whether the event in June is a commercial one, and if so if any charge was being made for use of the area. Also, if there was any update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The event on The Green is a commercial one but the organisers do not make any profit from the event. All monies go to the actors. The Neighbourhood plan is still being reviewed by AECOM.

20/167. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

Just prior to item 20/168 Cllr Edmonds thanked the council for all their support during her term as Chairman. She also thanked the clerk for her support.

20/168. Confirm date of Annual Council Meeting

The new council takes office on 10 May. It will not be known until 9 April whether the election is uncontested or whether there will be an election. As it currently stands, the Annual Council meeting will be held on either Wednesday 12 May or Wednesday 19 May. It is not yet known if this meeting will be held face-to-face or virtually.

The Annual Parish Assembly is being held virtually on Wednesday 28 April @ 7.30pm. The local policing team will be in attendance to answer questions from Aldbourne residents and the council. Local groups will also be presenting their reports.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:13

Signature of the Chair: _____ Date: ?? May 2021