

**ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH 2 DECEMBER 2020
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

Present

Cllr A Edmonds (Chair), Cllr A Deuchar (Vice Chair)
Cllr H Bland, Cllr M Cheney, Cllr S Henderson, 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: 3 members of the public

20/76. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr W Brown & Cllr L Smitten.

20/77. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Edmonds item 20/89 – No dispensation required.

20/78. Consider the Minutes of the November 2020 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 November 2020 be approved. They will be signed following the meeting.

20/79. 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](#).

20/80. Clerks report

- The external audit has been completed with no comment from the auditor. The completion of audit notices have been put on the website and noticeboard.
- Weather and Covid restrictions permitting, permission has been given for St Michael's Church charity, to put a fund-raising stall on the pond area on 12 December.
- Again, weather and Covid restrictions permitting, the church has been given permission to hold Christmas carols on The Green on Saturday 19 December.

20/81. Confirm update to clerk's hours and remuneration

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve changes to the clerk's hours from 8 hours to 10 hours a week from 1 December 2020. Also, to approve new hourly rates from 1 December 2020 and 1 April 2021. As set out in the email from Cllr Josephy to the clerk on 4 November 2020.

20/82. Discuss 2021/2022 budget & precept

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the budget for 2021/2022 as presented and set the precept amount at £35,788 for 2021/2022.

The precept amount takes into account the reduced tax base for 2021/2022 and means that the precept amount requested for the Parish Council will not be increased and remains the same as it was for 2020/2021. For a band D property this will again be £48.78.

A copy of the budget and precept is attached as [Appendix B](#)

20/83. Review of all outstanding issues

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

- a) [29/07/20] Suspected drug dealing in the village – There continues to be problems around the tennis court area, with no sign of a police presence or any other action. Cllr Edmonds has been trying to get in touch with the community police officer, Sgt Edwards, but has not received any response back. This has now been passed to Cllr James Sheppard and he has been asked to escalate it to the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner.
- b) [29/07/2020] Faulty chip on one of the SIDS – Unit is now working and whilst data could not be accessed previously, it has been recording and historical data has been downloaded.
- c) [27/09/20] Roof overhang warning sign by Coppins on Oxford St has rusted through and fallen off – Wiltshire Council has confirmed the sign will be replaced.
- d) [07/10/20] Tree works by SSE around the sports field – Cllr Edmonds met with SSE on site. Advised which trees were under the direct responsibility of the PC and agreed to any affected being trimmed. Work now carried out by SSE.
- e) [04/11/20] Bicycle parking - The Community Junction are moving the Hills bin in front of the cycle rack on their forecourt. The cycle rack will be available to anyone who wishes to use it.

20/84. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Various questions on the budget.
- The Council were thanked for putting in a sum for a potential grant to AYC again next year.

20/85. Update on, and consider any action in relation to, Assets of Community Value

There have been replies from the Memorial Hall Committee, the owners of the blacksmith/library & the owners of the building housing the Avenue Day Nursery. Some had supported the idea of trying to protect properties, others felt it was not the right thing for their property.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a temporary working group made up of Cllrs Lawler, Muirhead & Phizacklea will review the letters received so far and the full list of properties/areas again. They will come back to the Council in February 2021 with further recommendations on what the next steps should be which will probably include removing some properties/areas from the list.

20/86. Consider plan for tree works in Rectory Wood and on Palmer's field

Cllr Rayner advised that having now had a chance to fully review the survey, as well as having made a site visit, there is nothing that needs doing urgently, though some initial work will be required within the next 12 months. He will put together a suggested programme of works to be considered at the February 2021 meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract Mr B Mildenhall to cut back the hedge along the southern edge of Palmer's Field, and the small section of hedge near Farm Lane. Costs to be agreed under delegated powers. (Subject to agreement from ARC, as per the terms of the Lease).

20/87. Update on clearance of the Winterbourne and meeting with Thames Water

Cllr Josephy had meet with Thames Water and discussed the recent works, as well as the filtration unit. There has been an impressive amount of work carried out so far, and it is hoped that this will lessen the water infiltration and subsequent surcharging. Thames Water have confirmed that they intend to bring the filtration unit in earlier this year. The trigger for installing it will be a water level of 136mtrs at the Water Acre borehole. Currently the levels are at 133mtrs and are rising by roughly a meter a week. Having the filtration unit on site earlier will mean the need for tankering will be lessened, though approval will still be required from the Environment Agency before the unit can be turned on.

The herbicide spraying along the Winterbourne and the tennis courts did not work. The contractor has been asked to carry this out again as soon as the weather permits.

Wiltshire Council have not yet managed to clear the silt in the Winterbourne near Goddards Lane. In order to get it cleared before the water starts to run, a group of volunteers will hand clear it this Sunday.

20/88. Update on re-installation of the pump

Cllr Bland advised he had been into Whatley's office today and they had promised the pump would be re-installed on Thursday 3 December.

20/89. Discuss trees on Marlborough Rd and Lottage Rd

The Council frequently receive complaints about the trees along Marlborough Road and Lottage Road (above the raised path). None of the areas in question are within the responsibility of the Parish Council, though the Council does feel that the concerns should be flagged up. Some areas do appear to be within the remit of highways at Wiltshire Council, but others potentially have no registered owner. Wiltshire highways have advised that those above the bank on Lottage Road fall within the riparian ownership of the adjoining landowners as the bank retains their land. The Parish Council are not wholly convinced by this argument.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to write to Wiltshire Council, Scottish & Southern Electricity Network and Openreach about the concerns surrounding the trees on both Lottage Rd and Marlborough Rd. A letter will also be sent to the landowners whose properties adjoin the raised path section on Lottage Road to advise them of what Wiltshire Council has stated about riparian ownership.

20/90. Planning:

i) Consider response to application 20/09707/FUL North Farm – Proposed staff cottage

It was **RESOLVED** eight in favour and five against, no objection, but to ask that three parking spaces are installed due to the proposed cottage being for staff and thus there are likely to be three vehicles. The property is remote from the village centre and not close to any public transport.

ii) Consider and adopt the October 2020 committee Minutes

The Minutes from the meetings held on 28 October 2020 were approved and adopted. A copy is attached to these Minutes.

20/91. Wiltshire Council Report

No report.

20/92. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) A request has been received from the Blue Boar for a contribution towards the memory Christmas tree which is put on The Green each year. Usually this is donated, but this year the donor has been unable to provide a tree. Mr Hehir has therefore paid for it himself. There was a general feeling that normally a donation to a commercial business would not be agreed. However, it was recognised that these are not normal times and there is a clause within the donations guidelines that would allow for a donation should the majority agree. A donation will be considered using delegated powers, subject to agreement by the majority via email.
- b) The hedge belonging to one of the properties that backs onto the football field has been trimmed by the residents. However, the hedge trimmings have not been cleared from the football field.
- c) There are signs that vehicles are driving up onto Southward Triangle, which is making a mess of the grass. Cllr Scott asked if he could put some form of barrier up to prevent this from happening.

Cllr Bland offered to provide some sarsen stones. There were no objections to this, subject to them being large enough to not be rolled out of the way, and not so big they blocked the viewpoint.

- d) The SID data for when the M4 was closed on the weekend of 12/13 September show that 3,500 vehicles travelled along West Street into the village. A normal pre Covid weekend would be approximately 850 vehicles and a post Covid one 300. This of course does not include any vehicles that came in the opposite direction or along Castle Street or Oxford Street.
- e) The annual play area inspections have just been carried out. There are a few minor maintenance issues that need to be carried out within the next 12 months.

20/93. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Various questions and observations on Assets of Community Value.
- Various properties around the village will be displaying a blue heart as part of national initiative adopted by the Carbon Neutral group. The heart will indicate that the garden is being left to grow in its natural state (rewilding).
- The Community Junction shop re-opens this week, along with the youth club.

20/94. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

20/95. Update, and consider any action in relation to, boundary in Goddards play

The letter from the solicitor re-affirming the legal position in relation to this boundary was sent on 11 November and a response was requested within 21 days, which would be today. No response has been received. The boundary will need to be resecured once again. This will be considered using delegated powers, but all councillors will be consulted via email on the exact details.

20/96. Consider delegation of duties over the winter recess

It was RESOLVED unanimously to give delegated powers to the clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, over the winter recess, for all Parish Council functions where delegated powers do not already exist.

20/97. Confirm date of next meeting

To be held on Wednesday 3 February 2021 @ 7.30pm. It is anticipated that this will be held virtually but details of the location will be on the agenda once it is published.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:45

Signature of the Chair: _____ Date: 3 February 2021