

**ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH 3 FEBRUARY 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 C Williams, Cllr J Rayner (left at 20:29)

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk
In attendance: 6 members of the public

20/98. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Phizacklea, Cllr L Smitten
Not in attendance: Cllr M Cheney, Cllr S Henderson

20/99. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Lawler - Item 21/105; no dispensation required.

20/100. Consider the Minutes of the December 2020 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2 December 2020 be approved. They will be signed following the meeting.

20/101. 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](#).

20/102. Clerks report

- May 2021 elections – At this current time, the elections are still going ahead, which will include the election of 15 councillors for the parish council. Wiltshire Council will be encouraging as many people as possible to apply for postal votes. Important dates and other processes will be advised as soon as they are provided by WC.

20/103. Review of outstanding issues

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

- a) [05/02/2020] Manhole cover on West Street – The cover had been repaired but it was only temporary and has now come loose again.
- b) [29/07/20] Suspected drug dealing in the village – Following further complaints about drug dealing and ASB on Southward Lane and surrounding area in December, a letter was sent to the Chief of Police and PCC. Sgt Edwards got in touch within days of both letters being sent. Due to no issues being reported directly to the police it makes it difficult for them to assign resources to increase patrols. However, Sgt Edwards confirmed he would task patrols to come out to the village. Letters urging people to report issues were sent out. We have been advised that since this action was taken the issues that were previously occurring have ceased.
- c) [27/09/20] Roof overhang warning sign by Coppins on Oxford St – Wiltshire Council have replaced the sign.
- d) [04/11/20] Bicycle parking - The Hills bin in the courtyard of the Community Junction has been moved and the cycle rack is now available for anyone to use.

- e) [02/12/20] Trees on Marlborough Rd & Lottage Road - Letters sent to Wiltshire Council, Scottish & Southern Electricity Network and Openreach to raise the concerns about these trees. Acknowledgement received from Cllr Wayman was received, but there has been no further response.
- f) [02/12/20] Southward Triangle – Sarsen stones have been put at the bottom of the slope.

20/104. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Concern raised about the amount of traffic going the wrong way up The Butts. Cyclists, horse riders & vehicles.
- Issues with anti social behaviour occurring around the benches at the top of Southward Lane was raised. The council were asked if they would consider moving the benches below the bank so that they were away from nearby houses. The issues have been occurring since spring/summer last year but have not been reported to the police.

It was suggested that the resident raising their concerns about traffic on The Butts put a letter in the Dabchick about it. The council will also look at it as part of their ongoing review of road safety. Residents were urged to report all instances of ASB to the police anywhere in the village. The police have advised many times that they cannot act if they are not aware that there are issues. The council will discuss the moving of the benches at the March meeting.

20/105. Update, and consider any action in relation to, boundary in Goddards play

The other party did eventually contact the solicitor on 17 December, 2 weeks after the date they were asked to respond by. Within their letter they stated

“I have no issue with the Parish Council installing a boundary structure of their choice adjacent to my perimeter enclosure. Please note I do not want the said structure attached in any way to my property.”

The council have arranged with the Scouts and Guides for their gas cannister to be moved in front of the gate to block this access. This work has been carried out, and the Scouts and Guides are thanked for their help with this.

The total cost to the village to resolve this issue is £993.10. There have also been many hours of additional work for the clerk and councillors.

20/106. Consider changes to Heritage Group lease for Community Room

Standing orders suspended during this item for questions to be answered by the Heritage Group.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to extend the lease for 15 years to 30 April 2036 and for it to be updated to show Aldbourn Community Heritage Group Incorporated Organisation as the lease holders. All costs for updating the lease and registering it with the Land Registry to be met by the Heritage Group.

20/107. Update on, and consider any action in relation to, Assets of Community Value

Full update to be available for the March meeting.

20/108. Consider plan for tree works in Rectory Wood and on Palmer's field

Due to the current lockdown, it has not been possible for councillors to meet on site to discuss the works and put a plan together. They will meet as soon as it permissible to do so.

After discussions with ARC, the hedge on the Palmer's Field boundary will not now have an occasional tree left but be cut right across, with the base left slightly wider than the top.

Mr Mildenhall has agreed to cut the hedge but has been waiting for conditions to be dryer in order not to cause damage to the field with his tractor. With the wet weather continuing it could be the end of the year before this can be carried out due to cutting not being allowed between March and September.

20/109. Update on clearance of the Winterbourne and meeting with Thames Water

Currently the groundwater levels are above the levels at which surcharging and flooding occurred last year. With no flooding currently, this would indicate that the recent works carried out by Thames Water are having an effect. The filtration unit is in the village and Thames Water are obtaining approval from the Environment Agency in order that it can be turned on as soon as surcharging starts. With ground water levels continuing to rise, it probable that this will happen within the next 7-10 days.

The weed spraying was carried out last year, but whilst it appears to have been effective by the tennis courts, it does not appear to have worked on the Winterbourne. Other suppliers/measures will be looked at for this year.

20/110. Update on re-installation of the pump

The pump was re-installed on 17 December, and it is working correctly. However, two bolts from the base plate are missing. Whatley & Co have been advised that the final invoice will not be settled until these bolts are replaced.

20/111. Discuss allotments off Hillwood Road

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to open a dialogue with Aster housing re the possible purchase of the land where the council run allotments are.

20/112. Update on road & pedestrian safety review, and consider any action required

Full update to be available for the March meeting.

20/113. Update on improving communications

Dabchick articles have a big role to play in raising the profile of the council. The last two articles have done an exceptionally good job of this.

The longest & and shortest serving members will be writing articles for the April Dabchick to give their view on being a councillor. If it can be arranged, they will also do a short video too. Other regular articles will be going up on social media, website and noticeboard to continue to promote the parish council elections and encourage people to apply to stand.

The Facebook page continues to grow, with 687 followers and 576 page likes (approx. an 8% growth since November). The 'news' section of the website is being used for more PC articles and others that are of interest.

The website is looking into setting up an email subscription service to allow the council and the website to send out communications direct to those that sign up.

Attendance at council meetings will be encouraged as it is one of the best ways to find out about what being a councillor entails.

20/114. Consider request for family memorial

A request for a family memorial has been received. A bench was not favoured as there are more than enough of them already, and there are then issues with ongoing maintenance. Other options, such as maybe sponsoring maintenance of an area will be looked at.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting.

20/115. Receive and adopted the December 2020 planning committee Minutes

The Minutes from the meetings held on 23 December 2020 were received and adopted.

A copy is attached to these Minutes.

20/116. Wiltshire Council Report

Whilst appreciating that Cllr Sheppard is busy, the council is disappointed that he has not attended a meeting since September 2020.

20/117. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) SID data – The volume of traffic showed a 25% fall in traffic last year, and this trend has continued in January. Sadly 20% of vehicles are still travelling in excess of 30mph.
- b) Pond - The recent cold weather has exacerbated the issue of the cracks in the concrete causing the leaks at the top to increase. Resealing the gaps will be looked at with a view to getting them repaired in the summer.
- c) Carbon Neutral - The liaison councillors have held a meeting with the group. Community allotments and rewinding of verges are two of the things currently being looked at.
- d) Are there any thoughts on how virtual meeting options can be continued to be used when face to face meetings restart?
The legislation which allows virtual meetings ceases on 7 May 2021, and currently there is no indication that they will be extended beyond this. This means councillors would need to meet face to face from then onward. However, it may be possible to utilise technology to stream meetings to the public in the future.
- e) The neighbourhood plan is almost at Regulation 14. This is point where the proposed plan will go out to the public for consultation. All feedback from this consultation is then fed back into the plan in order to produce the final version. There will then be a referendum vote by the whole village as to whether the plan is to be adopted or not. Feedback from Wiltshire Council on the plan as it currently stands has been very positive.
- f) The market cross has not yet had the missing mortar replaced.

20/118. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- ARC invited the council to an update meeting.

20/119. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

20/120. Confirm date of next meeting

To be held virtually on Wednesday 3 March 2021 @ 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:04

Signature of the Chair: _____ Date: 3 March 2021