

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 7 JULY 2021
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Cllr W Brown (Chairman), Cllr L Smitten (Vice Chairman)
Cllr H Bland, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr B Hill, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr P Lawler,
Cllr A Phizacklea, Cllr A Stibbard

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 1 member of the public, Cllr J Sheppard (Wiltshire Council)

21/50. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Elms, Cllr J Rayner

Not in attendance: Cllr C Ainsworth

21/51. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

There were no declarations of interest.

21/52. Consider the Minutes of the June 2021 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2 June 2021 be approved and signed.

21/53. 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](#).

21/54. Clerks report

- The Carnival Committee are running two events on 28 & 29 August on The Green. Both have been given permission, subject to standard conditions for use of that area.
- Wiltshire Council has finally come back to confirm that the remaining vacancy can be filled via co-option. Consideration of filling this vacancy will be made at the September meeting.

21/55. Review of outstanding issues

- a) (06/01/16) Grasshills surface – The lane was resurfaced in March 2021 but shortly after Lottage Road was closed by Thames Water. With all the traffic diverting along Grasshills, the new surface quickly broke up. Cllr Sheppard confirmed he continues to try and get further work carried out.
- b) (06/04/21) Poor surface of the footpath on South Street – Wiltshire Council will not take any action as the damage does not meet safety intervention levels. However, it continues to be a real issue for many, particularly wheelchair users. The Council will get some photographs of the issue and Cllr Sheppard confirmed he would escalate this issue.
- c) (04/07/18) Possible damage to the culvert at the top of Lottage Rd – Cllr Sheppard confirmed that he has spoken to Wiltshire Council about this and the highways engineer is keen to investigate. However, they currently have no drain camera to use and there is no budget to purchase one. The Council will raise this as an issue with Cllr McClelland at Wiltshire Council.

- d) (30/07/19) Knotweed on ALDB29 – This has now been sprayed and the area will be monitored for any new growth, with a view to taking further action if required.
- e) (05/02/20) Loose manhole cover on West Street – Cllr Sheppard continues to chase this with Thames Water several times a week. He will be escalating it to the area MP and the Press if there is no action soon.
- f) (01/04/20) Market Cross – The stonemason will be carrying out the lime mortar repairs within the next few weeks.
- g) (09/07/20) Exposed streetlight cable on Grasshills – This has now been covered.
- h) (28/09/20) Railing damage by Ivy Cottage – These have still not been repaired. However, these railings are regularly damaged by vehicles and a method to better protect them is required. The Council will ask Cllr Sheppard to raise this with highways.
- i) (02/12/20) Tree inspections on Marlborough & Lottage Rd – This is due to be carried out now. The Council will contact Cllr McClelland to ensure this does not get forgotten about.
- j) (19/09/21) Drain overflowing on Palmer's Field – This issue is to be monitored. It is likely that with the proposed development of this area the issue will be resolved then. It is not causing any major issues or property flooding currently.
- k) (02/06/21) Aldbourn Indicative Housing Needs – Previously Aldbourn was in the east Housing Market Area (HMA). However, the emerging Local Plan calculates the number of new houses by local housing need, rather than area housing need. The next Local Plan consultation is in 2022. The Council will discuss setting up a small working group at the September meeting to further consider this issue and draft a response.
- l) (02/06/21) Dr Who Event – This is now taking place on 7/8 August, with most of the event now outside on The Green, rather than in the Memorial Hall.
- m) (02/06/21) Band Concert – The event has been rescheduled for 1 August.
- n) (02/06/21) Tidy around the pump – The area has been tidied and the repainting carried out. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Warren.
- o) (02/06/21) Shed on the allotments – This has now been moved to the community garden.

21/56. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Organising getting FTTP to the village was raised. It is envisaged that whilst the Parish Council would lead this, they would work with several others from the village so that the burden was not completely on them.

The Council agreed that working to bring FTTP into Aldbourn would be a positive step for the village. Cllr Stibbard and Cllr Brown will discuss this further with Mr N Payne and come back with more information at the September meeting.

21/57. Update on responsibilities & outside bodies liaison roles & confirm any changes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Butler & Cllr Edmonds will join the Palmer's Field working group and that Cllr Butler will become the School Governors liaison.

21/58. Discuss neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 & consider any action/expenditure

The Regulation 14 consultation will take place between 20 September and 15 November 2021. There will also be two drop-in sessions in the village on a Friday 24 September and Saturday 25 September. Feedback received will be taken into account when the plan is updated before it is then sent to Wiltshire Council for further inspection. Information about the events will be delivered to all households.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the final draft householder letter required as part of Regulation 14, which will go out with the feedback form, will be distributed to everyone via email for comment. The clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, is given delegated powers to approve the final version.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to set a budget of £1,000 (net) for printing and venue hire costs as part of the Regulation 14 process.

21/59. Discuss refurbishment of public toilets

Cllr Lawler updated the Council on the ideas so far for the refurbishment and gave an indication of the costs for some items. A full plan and costs will be presented at the September meeting.

21/60. Discuss verge cutting and wildflower areas

Wiltshire Council will now not be cutting the rural highway verges until September each year. Mr B Mildenhall has been asked to cut the verge from the village to New Barn at a cost of £60, in order to make this area safer for walkers. It was noted that this work had been carried out. The Council feel that Wiltshire Council's approach of wilding highway verges is wrong and in many cases around Aldbourne actually dangerous.

It was **RESOLVED** ten in favour and one against that the Council will contact Cllr McClelland, to raise their concerns about the later verge cutting.

The Council will be reviewing the wildflower planting throughout the village at the September meeting. Anyone who has any comment to make on the project, please either let the clerk know or speak to any councillor.

21/61. Consider adoption of pedestrian and road safety audit

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to note the pedestrian and road safety audit, which includes a review of the 2013 Traffic Plan, and issues that have come up in the past. No action on any item will be taken without a full discussion by the Parish Council and if necessary the village. A copy of the audit report will be added to the website.

21/62. Discuss expenditure for gates at Goddards play area entrance

Costs for gates are still being received. More information should be available for the September meeting.

21/63. Discuss expenditure for Ash tree survey

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract Certhia Consulting to carry out the Ash Tree survey in Rectory Wood and Palmers Field at a cost of £125.

21/64. Discuss Whitley Field entrance

The field entrance is owned by Wiltshire Council. However, Wiltshire Council highways asks that the Parish Council make contact with residents where there is a highway infringement in the first instance. Whilst having every sympathy with the reasons this planting was carried out, it was felt it could not be left in situ as it was reducing the width of the entrance, parking availability and could be mistaken for a "land grab".

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to write to the owner of the hedge plants and ask that they be removed. If there is no action, the issue will be escalated to Wiltshire Council highways.

21/65. Discuss maintenance of Winterbourne and pond

Cllr Josephy confirmed he was still trying to find someone to advise on the repairs to the pond. The Winterbourne is very overgrown this year, further backing up the suspicion that last years weed spraying did not work.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a hand clearance of the weeds in the Winterbourne by volunteers will be carried out this year.

21/66. Consider responses to planning applications

PL/2021/04740 Laines Farm buildings, Stock Lane - Proposed erection of an agricultural building to be utilised as a learning centre and farm office

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously no objection, with the following comment:

Whilst acknowledging that it is not a material planning consideration, there is concern that the recycled clay tiles may be sourced from Lodge Lower Barn buildings which have been allowed to fall into disrepair, and which may be curtilage listed with the barn next door.

PL/2021/06450 Southlands, 4 Marlborough Road – Works to trees in a conservation area.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that due to there being a need to obtain more information on the reasons for this tree being felled, delegated powers already in place will be used to make a response to this application once all information has been obtained.

The next full planning committee meeting is on Monday 26 July at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

21/67. Wiltshire Council report

Nothing further to report.

21/68. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

a) There are a lot of building materials outside 37 Lottage Road and some are spilling onto the pavement.

Cllr Brown will speak to the owner about this issue.

b) A celebration of Chris Martin's retirement from Ramsbury Fire station is taking place on 26 July. A member of the Council will be in attendance. A donation of £40 towards the cake will be given, and agreement for this will be made under existing delegated powers.

c) The Goddards path is very overgrown, as is the church one.

The clearance of both will be chased with Pittams

d) There is now a new chain and padlock securing the Whitley Field vehicle gate.

21/69. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

None

21/70. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

21/71. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:18

Signature of the Chair: _____ Date: 8 September 2021