

**ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH 4 NOVEMBER 2020
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

Present

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

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk
In attendance: 2 members of the public

20/54. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Cheney, Cllr S Henderson, Cllr B Hill,
Cllr L Smitten, Cllr C Williams

20/55. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Lawler - item 20/70. Resolved unanimously to grant a dispensation which allows Cllr Lawler to participate in discussions in relation to this item, but not to vote on any resolutions put forward. Dispensation to last for a period of twelve (12) calendar months.

20/56. Consider the Minutes of the October 2020 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 October 2020 be approved. They will be signed following the meeting.

20/57. 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.

Cllr Lawler joined the meeting during this item.

20/58. Discuss 2021/2022 budget & precept

The draft budget had been sent out and Cllr Josephy ran through this. Any comments or changes need to be advised before the December meeting when a final decision will need to be made on the budget and the precept amount.

20/59. Consider update to procedures or cheque signing

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to suspend the need for the cheque stubs to be initialled by those signing, for the duration of the time that face to face meetings are not being held. This will allow cheques to be posted out with the invoices to be signed, rather than the clerk having to drive over to the village to get this actioned.

20/60. Review of outstanding issues

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

- a) [03/10/16] Wider parking bay painted in the wrong place – New bay painted, but old graphics on wrong one not removed. WC originally said that the unwanted graphics could not be removed. However, following intervention from Cllr James Sheppard this has now been agreed. M. Cook hopes to be able to remove the graphic either later this year, or early next.
- b) [04/03/20] Assets of Community Value – Letters advising what this and how it could affect owners have been sent out. The council will discuss this further in December.

- c) [06/03/20] Erosion of highway verge outside No. 11 Lottage Rd - Letter sent to resident by WC to advise works had been illegally carried out and M. Cook has also met with them. MC advises that the bank will be left as it currently is and WC will continue to monitor the situation.
- d) [29/07/20] Issues with drug dealing in the village – Whilst increased police patrols were promised, there had been no evidence of this. However, there does seem to have been a reduction in activity in one area since the last meeting. The reason for this is unknown. The situation will continue to be monitored.
- e) [09/09/20] Low plants encroaching on the pavement by Turnpike – These plants have now been cut back from the path. There is a small section further along that the parish steward will be asked to clear on his next visit.
- f) [07/10/20] Planning system reform consultation - Response sent advising that the council broadly supported the letter sent by NALC. Also raised an objection to the reduction in affordable homes on smaller sites. This is something that would have a big impact on Aldbourn and mean the younger generation would struggle even more to stay in the village.
- g) [07/10/20] Tree works by SSE around the sports field - SSE got in touch, but it was not clear exactly which trees they were going to work on from the information sent. More information was requested but no response was received.

20/61. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- The Carbon Neutral group gave an update on their recent activities. They are looking at public EV charging points, wildflowers on some highway verges, a review of allotments to see if the land can be productive and encourage land diversity, and looking into reducing waste in the village through schemes such as “packing not included”. The group are keen to work with Parish Council and help Aldbourn to be at the forefront of these initiatives.
- There were various questions on other items within the agenda.

The council were pleased to hear about the plans, particularly the EV charging points that they had already discussed with the group. They would be happy to work with them on all the initiatives.

20/62. Update on Neighbourhood Plan (Taken out of order before item 20/66)

Cllr Muirhead joined the meeting during this item.

20/63. Update on works agreed in Rectory Wood (Taken out of order)

Cotswold Tree Surgeons did get back in touch after the October meeting. They have agreed a lower price of £600 as they will be cutting less back than originally specified. They have today advised that they hope to carry out these works on Monday 9 November. They are permitted to work during the current lockdown.

20/64. Consider report for Rectory Wood/part of Palmer’s Field & any action required (Taken out of order)

The inspection has been carried out and the report was received today. On a brief look at it, there is nothing that needs imminent work but some remedial work is going to be required within the next few months. The report will be distributed to all councillors to allow them to agree in December a plan of action.

20/65. Update on request to install EV charging point by path to Goddards Lane PA (Taken out of order)

Cllrs Rayner & Brown met with the resident following the last meeting. The resident had wished to encroach onto the footpath to the play area, as well as use part of the highway in that location. It was agreed that any attempt to encroach onto the footpath would be problematic and that Cllr Rayner & Cllr Brown would not be able to recommend support of this to the council. The resident accepted that it would be problematic to use any part of the footpath, and is now liaising with Wiltshire Council to try and find a solution that allows them charge their vehicle at the roadside.

The council are likely to be consulted on this should an agreement be reached between WC and the resident, but as land they own is no longer being considered this issue can be removed from the agenda.

20/62. Update on Neighbourhood Plan (Taken out of order)

The plan is progressing as well as it can during continued restrictions because of COVID-19. There are several further assessment that need to be carried out by Wiltshire Council, which will unfortunately cause a further delay.

20/66. Discuss clearance of the Winterbourne and highway drains, and update on works by Thames Water to combat future flooding

The approval from the EA to spray the weeds in the Winterbourne has now been received and the work should be carried out during a dry period within the next week or two. It is hoped that it will not be further delayed by the current lockdown.

There is a build up for sand and silt in the Winterbourne by the corner of Lottage Rd/Goddards Lane, which Cllr Josephy has had an extensive conversation with WC about. WC were adamant that it was the riparian owners responsibility to clear this debris. However, the debris has clearly come from the road drains in the area and it would be unfair to ask the riparian owners to clear this. It could be done with volunteer labour but would be very hard work due to its location well below the road. WC are now looking at trying to carry out this work.

Thames Water have carried out the following work over the summer to try and combat water ingress which leads to surcharging - 1 patch liner installed in South Street, 2 patch liners installed in Claridge Close, 7 patch liners installed in Lottage Road and a patch liner installed in The Square. 4 chamber repairs completed in Lottage Road, 4 chamber repairs completed in Goddards Lane, 1 in Southfield, 2 in South Street, 1 in Chandlers Lane and 6 in The Square. Their contractors have also been investigating the sewers from Aldbourne to Whittonditch, and a report on their findings is expected soon.

Cllr Josephy (in his capacity as flood warden) is due to meet Thames Water on 10 November – assuming lockdown doesn't prevent this – to discuss the work that has been carried out and what further works are being proposed. Thames Water will be asked about bringing in the filtration unit earlier this year, in order that it can be put into action faster than in previous years. Water levels are currently quite high for the time of year, and it is anticipated there will be flooding again this year.

The road drains along the B4192 and Lottage Road were cleared by Wiltshire Council after the last meeting. The flood wardens continue to monitor drainage issues and report them to WC. Any residents who spot any issues with road drains should report them to the clerk, as the WC reporting system does not work well for this sort of issue.

20/67. Update on re-installation of the pump

Cllr Bland has requested that Whatley's re-install the pump before the end of November. It is hoped that the latest lockdown will not delay this further.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting during this item.

20/68. Discuss installation of a bicycle parking rack

It had been suggested that it would be preferable to have some bicycle racks in the village centre to encourage more people to cycle and as a place for visiting riders to leave their bikes securely. During the discussions it was noted that there are already some racks in the Community Junction courtyard, but that they are blocked by the large Hills bin. The council will ask if it would be possible for this bin to be moved, and the racks made available to the public to use.

20/69. Discuss improving communications with the parish

Communications with the village have improved greatly in the last few years with the use of Facebook and the updated website. However, with elections for the Parish Council due to take place in May 2021, now is the perfect time to raise a positive profile of what the council does and what being a councillor involves.

The Dabchick articles for the next three issues need to be more focused on what the council is doing, rather than be on general issues as they normally are. Cllr Josephy's article for the next issue is very good and exactly the type required.

Cllr Deuchar had put together a list of suggestions that could be used to improve communications with the village, based on information gained by the clerk following a recent webinar she had attended on improving communications. The communications group will go through the list and put together an action plan for the council to consider following.

20/70. Consider action in relation to boundary in Goddards play area (Taken out of order before item 20/75)**20/71. Receive and adopt the September 2020 planning committee Minutes**

The Minutes from the meetings held on 30 September 2020 were adopted.
A copy is attached to these Minutes.

20/72. Wiltshire Council Report

No report.

20/73. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) The temporary traffic group have had an initial meeting to discuss the current traffic plan. They will continue to work towards bringing a proposal back to the council by February 2021.
- b) Cllr Lawler sought permission to install the nativity scene by the pond again this year. There were no objections to this.
- c) Cllr Edmonds had attended the recent Wiltshire Council webinar on Covid. Whilst numbers continue to rise in Wiltshire, they are still below the national average. Everyone needs to carry on doing their part by following the new rules in place.

20/74. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

20/70. Consider action in relation to boundary in Goddards play area (Taken out of order)

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to proceed with the actions recommended by the clerk, along with the suggested amendments in relation to the integrity of the boundary in the Goddards play area. Delegation to the clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair remains in place.
Cllr Lawler did not take part in this vote.

20/75. Confirm date of next meeting

To be held virtually on Wednesday 2 December 2020 @ 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:23

Signature of the Chair: _____ Date: 2 December 2020