

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2023 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

In attendance

32 people from the village and Parish Council.

1. Welcome – Cllr William Brown

Cllr Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of it. He thanked Aldbourne Youth Council for providing the refreshments and urged everyone in attendance to look at their display if they had not already done so.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held Wednesday 27 April 2022

The Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 27 April 2022 were unanimously accepted as correct.

3. Presentations

Mr Richard Osgood gave a presentation on the Operation Nightingale - Band of Brothers archaeological dig being carried out on the football field and around Aldbourne in May.

4. Wiltshire Council report

No report provided.

5. Reports, questions, or general discussions

Aldbourne Defib Group – Mrs Diana Yeoell & Mr Brian Barnes

There are four units in Aldbourne, located by The Crown, and in Farm Lane, Lottage Road and Whitley Road. They are all inspected monthly and pads/batteries replaced as required. The Parish Council and the Carnival Committee were thanked for their donations which help with the expenditure for the ongoing maintenance of all four units. If a defib is taken from a location during an emergency, the Defib Group are advised in order that they can check the unit has been returned, and to replace any consumables as required.

If you believe someone is having a heart attack, you should call 999 immediately. The ambulance service will direct you to the nearest defib and give you the code to unlock the box. The unit will speak aloud to instruct you on how to use it and what you need to do. Formal training is not required but the Aldbourne Defib Group will be arranging some sessions that will be designed to reassure people about how simple the units are to use.

Aldbourne Scout & Guide Hut – Mr Graham Edmonds

The works have started with the groundworks being carried out last year. This year the walls will be built up and the roof added. The works are not without some logistical challenges in terms of getting materials to the site. £85,000 has been raised so far via fundraising and gifts from the public. The Hut Group is endeavouring to keep the costs down by using volunteer help as much as possible. So far £8,000 has been spent on the design phase and foundations. Thanks were expressed to everyone that has helped get the hut to this point.

St Michael's School - Nigel Payne Chair of the Governors

Mr Payne spoke about the ethos of the school and its commitments to the children and the community, as well as the education approach. It has many connections with the village with Aldbourne Band, tennis club, Church, Nursing Home, Heritage Group, farming community, nature group, PTA and AYC.

The school is 88th in the country and the best in Wiltshire. 66 per cent of the children come from Aldbourne. The remainder from the surrounding villages, particularly Lambourne.

The biggest challenges being faced are a declining roll and thus funding. Last year the school was underfunded by £65,000. The village continues to have an ageing demographic and needs more young people and children to live here to ensure the school continues to be able to provide education.

Aldbourne Sports and Social Club – Mr Chris McGowan

The club is located behind the Memorial Hall and recently has been decorated and had new heating installed, meaning it is no longer either hot or cold but a nice stable temperature. Mr S Gilligan has kindly donated a lot of equipment, which allowed more income to be raised. The club now has good relations with the Wiltshire Licensing department, following issues in the past.

There are lots of members but more are needed join and to come in and spend money on a regular basis. Grants following Covid have helped but the money continues to dwindle and there are rising costs. There are several big maintenance works that are going to need to be carried out soon. The Club is functioning on a lot of good will currently and sadly with funds continuing to dwindle there will come a time when it will no longer be viable for the Club to continue.

Thanks were expressed to Mr McGowan for all that he has done to keep the Club running for the last few years.

Dabchick and Aldbourne Heritage Group – Mr Terry Gilligan

A copy of both reports read out at the meeting are attached.

[Click here to view the Dabchick report.](#)

[Click here to view the Heritage Group report.](#)

Aldbourne Youth Council – Keira & Laura

Two members of the Youth Council spoke about some of the things that the Youth Council do. There is a weekly cook on Wednesday evenings and Fridays are free session nights. Louise Whatley (Youth Leader) sets up games on carers and what would be required for various jobs.

There have been lots of trips out this year, with the one to Devon for 2 nights and 3 days being the most enjoyed. Everyone stayed in cabins and took part in water activities. It was a *lot* of fun. The youngsters hope to go back to Devon again this year and are currently fundraising for this trip.

Aldbourn Recreation Centre (ARC) - Alistair Greening

An update at what stage the project is at was given. All feedback from recent public consultations has been collated and the most recent plans have been presented to a working group from the Parish Council for comment. It is hoped to have updated plans ready to present to the village in the next few months.

Memorial Hall - Alan Phizacklea

The hall was 100 years old in July of 2022. A bench was commissioned and installed opposite the Co-Op in commemoration of this event. The hall committee was extremely grateful for the grants it was able to receive during Covid. The costs for the ongoing maintenance of the hall remain high. Repairs are need to the front roof tiles and at the rear of the building. In recent years double glazing and a screen and projector have been installed. The hall was redecorated last year and a new stage is in the process of being purchased.

Cllr Brown asked if anyone knew to whom the staging in the village store belongs. If anyone knows whose it is, please get in touch.

The Council was thanked for all that it does for the village.

Cllr Brown thanked all the volunteers who do so much for the village. He thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signature of Chairman: _____

24 April 2024