

**ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2023  
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL****Present**

Cllr W Brown (Chairman)  
Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr H Bland, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr B Hill,  
Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr J Rayner, Cllr A Stibbard,  
Cllr A Phizacklea (from 20:25), Cllr P Lawler (from 20:25 – 20:38)

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: Three members of the public

**179/23 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Elms, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr L Smitten

**180/23 Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required**

Cllr Edmonds – Non-pecuniary interest item 192/23, due to location of her property to the proposed site. No dispensations required.

**181/23 Consider the Minutes of the January 2023 Parish Council meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 January 2023 be approved and signed.

**182/23 Consider adoption of the approved January 2023 Planning Committee Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 4 January 2023.

**183/23 Review of outstanding issues**

- a) (06/04/2022) – Damaged Winterbourne railing on Oxford Street – Barnes coaches continue to try and get these fixed with the help of Cllr Sheppard.
- b) (07/09/2022) Goddards play area fence line – The tree stumps are not vigorous and will be monitored.
- c) (05/10/2022) Parish Steward Scheme – Due to the Parish Stewards being tasked with pothole repairs, there has been no visit this month. The next visit should be 22/23 February.
- d) (05/10/2022) Fence on South Street across the Winterbourne from Palmers Field – A contractor to carry out these works is still being sought.
- e) (04/01/2023) Band of Brothers Dig – Permission has been sent to Mr Osgood, and he has confirmed that the dig will take place 2-10 May 2023.
- f) (04/01/2023) Potholes – The best way to get these fixed is to report them via MyWilts. All those raised at the January meeting had already been reported when the Clerk checked.

**184/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider**

- Comment about the Neighbourhood Plan and the number of houses allocated to the Lottage Farm the site allocation.
- Dismay was expressed that Wiltshire Council is attempting to be Carbon Neutral but the planning officers continue to refuse solar panels on properties within the Conservation Area.

### **185/23 Consider proposal for new lighting in the Community Room by Aldbourne Heritage Group**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that there were no objections to Aldbourne Heritage Group replacing the ceiling lights with LED lights in the Community Room (currently used as the Aldbourne Heritage Centre). Subject to them being fitted by a qualified electrician.

### **186/23 Consider financial statement and councillors to approve payments**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the financial statement as presented by the Clerk. All the payments are to be authorised by Cllr Deuchar and Cllr Bland  
A copy of the financial report is attached as [Appendix A](#).

### **187/23 Clerks Report**

- Assets of Community Value applications have been sent off for Aldbourne Stores, Aldbourne Co-Operative, The Crown and The Library/Blacksmiths. The Council will be advised in March whether the applications have been successful or not.
- Permission has been given for a Community Market to be held on The Green on 7 May. However, the organisers have been advised that should any Coronation events be planned to take place in the area on that day, they may have to move their event.
- The overhanging foliage at the end of the raised path by No 2 Lottage Road has been reported via MyWilts and been assigned to Wiltshire Council's contractor for action.
- The Aldbourne Community Volunteers carried out a litter pick on 21 January (thanks were expressed to them on social media).
- A large chunk of the front of one of the bottom stones on the Market cross has fallen off. Ramsbury Stonemason has been asked to inspect this and report back.
- The six car boot sales due to be held by Mrs Sneddon between April and September are no longer going to be held. The Youth Council may wish to take on these dates instead but have not yet contacted the Parish Council to request to do so.
- Levels at Water Acre bore hole continue to rise slowly and the ATAC unit is now in The Square and has been put into action. Thanks were expressed to Mr Oliver for liaising with Thames Water on this ongoing issue.
- The Aldbourne Heat is On organisers have advised that is unlikely they will be taking up the additional £300 agreed by the Council. They have received additional donations which will cover the heating and have not identified additional needs beyond what they are currently providing.
- The third quarter finance breakdown was sent to all councillors on 6 January 2023.

### **188/23 Neighbourhood Plan:**

#### **i) Update on final plan and Referendum**

The final plan documents were sent to Wiltshire Council today for publication. The referendum has been set for Thursday 23 March 2023. The requirement for ID to be shown by voters does not come into force until May 2023, which means ID will not be required for this vote.

#### **ii) Consider publication and associated printing costs for the Referendum**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the poster and Q&A documents drafted would be printed double sided in A5 size at a net cost of £90.00. The documents will be added to the website and social media and Councillors will deliver them to all properties in the parish. That promotion of the Referendum will continue throughout February and March up to and including the date of the Referendum.

Items 189/233 & 190/23 taken together.

### **189/23 Consider contractor for grass cutting for three years from April 2023**

### **190/23 Consider expenditure for grounds maintenance on Palmers Field for 2023**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract D & R Pittams, to carry out the grass cutting contract from April 2023-March 2026 (3-years) at a net cost of £6,480, and to contract them to carry out the required work on Palmers Field at a net cost of £880 from March 2023 until November 2023.

**191/23 Update on purchase of new SID and discuss battery charging costs**

The new SID has arrived and has been installed on Castle Street. The unit will remain here whilst Cllr Hill familiarises himself with the software, and then be moved to other locations. Thanks were expressed to Mr Payne for his help with unpacking the box, setting the unit up and putting it up.

The Council will discuss reimbursement for charging the batteries once it is known how often they need to be charged and how much it costs each time.

**192/23 Play area and football field inspection reports and consider any expenditure for repair work**

It was confirmed that inspections had been carried out in Goddards, Claridge and Whitley and there were no further issues to note to those raised in the recent inspection report.

All issues raised in the latest report have been reviewed. The bolts on the springy elephant in Goddards have been replaced and the swing chains will be monitored every month, with a view to them being changed within 12 months. The catch has been removed from the gate in Claridge and some of the overhanging plants have been cut back. The remaining items are either to be monitored or actioned when the weather improves.

Cllr Lawler advised he would no longer be inspecting the Goddards play area.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Ainsworth and Cllr Stibbard will be the joint lead on play areas and will carry out regular inspections, initially in Goddards, but elsewhere if required. They will also be a point of contact in the village for any issues raised, which can be sorted quickly and at no cost. All problems still to also be reported to the Clerk in order that they can be recorded, and if required the Clerk can arrange for signage and order replacement parts.

**193/23 Update on virtual paths and 20-mph survey requests to LHFIG**

The request is still being assessed and a site visit will be required. There is no date for when this visit will be, though Cllr Ainsworth continues to regularly chase. Now that there is no virtual option for meetings, it is very difficult for Aldbourne to be represented at any meetings, which can impact on how quickly reports are dealt with. The next meeting is 2 March @ 10.00 am  
The 20-mph survey request is still waiting to be added to the priority list.

**194/23 Discuss further action in relation to the substandard path and road surface on South Street and Castle Street**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk will investigate the cost of carrying out the repairs and that these will be discussed by the Council once they are available.

**195/23 Discuss police action in relation to speeding & parking across Aldbourne**

The police were in the village on the 24 January but only carried out checks on the B4192. An enforcement officer has been in touch with the Clerk and they have been advised of Cllr Hills contact details, in order that they can make contact to discuss the problems in the village.

Cllr Lawler & Cllr Phizacklea arrived.

**196/23 Consider public toilet cleaning contractor and payment**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that efforts will continue to find a cleaner before 6 February 2023. Cllr Lawler offered to clean the toilets for a month if no one is forthcoming. A deep clean of the toilets will be carried out before the regular cleaning starts again.

**197/23 Consider signing the Civility & Respect Pledge**

It was **RESOLVED** eight in favour that Aldbourne Parish Council will sign the Civility and Respect Pledge, and that the Clerk will also write to Danny Kruger MP, to ask him to support the Early Day Motion - Intimidation at community, parish and town councils.

Cllr Lawler left the meeting.

**198/23 Wiltshire Council report**

Cllr Sheppard had sent his apologies for this meeting.

**199/23 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues**

- a) The signs asking people to pick up after their dogs for the football field and Palmers Field, are ready to be put up as soon as the weather & time allows.
- b) An offer was made to replace the tennis court signs. It was agreed to monitor them with a view to changing them if required at a future date.
- c) The sign on byway ALDB19 (Sheep Walk) has been reported to Wiltshire Council as it has fallen over.
- d) There is graffiti on the bus stop which needs to be cleared.
- e) There are large ruts in the Peaks Track from 4x4 and farm vehicle use. It was noted that all vehicles using this byway have a legal right to do so. Problems with Public Rights of Way should be reported to Wiltshire Council via the MyWilts system.
- f) Thanks were expressed to the Aldbourn Community Volunteers for clearing all the rubbish on the roads around the village.
- g) Cllr Brown gave an update on the recent WALC meeting that he had attended.
- h) Discussions are being undertaken about events to celebrate the Coronation. However, all ideas, and willing volunteers are welcomed.

**200/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider**

- Question about whether the verge rewilding project would continue.

It was confirmed that the project was approved for continuation in November 2022 (item 145/22). It will be reviewed again as part of the 3-year grass cutting contract.

**201/23 Review of correspondence**

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

**202/23 Confirm date of next meeting**

Wednesday 1 March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.01 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1 March 2023