

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

Cllr W Brown (Chairman)
Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr H Bland, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr C Elms, Cllr B Hill,
Cllr N Josephy, Cllr P Lawler, Cllr A Phizacklea

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

203/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr V Butler, Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr J Rayner,
Cllr L Smitten
Not in attendance: Cllr A Stibbard

204/23 Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

There were no declarations of interest.

205/23 Consider the Minutes of the February 2023 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 February 2023 be approved and signed.

206/23 Consider adoption of the approved February 2023 Planning Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

207/23 Review of outstanding issues

- a) (06/04/2016) South Street pavement surface - Wiltshire Council still have this on their priority repair list but cannot say when/if works will be carried out. Quotes for carrying out the repairs are being sought, and consideration will then be given as to whether the Council pays for the works or not at the April meeting.
- b) (06/04/2022) Damaged Winterbourne railing on Oxford Street – Barnes coaches continue to try and get these fixed with the help of Cllr Sheppard.
- c) (07/09/2022) Repairs to Goddards footpath – The repairs have now been completed.
- d) (05/10/2022) Speeding across the village – A new SID has been purchased to be moved around the village. Cllr Sheppard confirmed that the police have been out to the village twice already and will continue to visit regularly. They will be reminded that all roads need to be monitored, not just the B4192.
- e) (02/11/2022) Poor surface on Castle Street – Still awaiting repairs from Wiltshire Council but they cannot give a timescale on when works will be actioned.
- f) (02/11/2022) Dog fouling clear-up signs – These have now been installed on the football field and Palmers Field.
- g) (04/01/2023) Potholes – These are being reported to Wiltshire Council via their MyWilts system, but comment was made about the poor standard of the repairs. Cllr Sheppard advised he would raise this with highways.

208/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

There were no questions or requests made by the public present.

209/23 Consider request for funding towards the Aldbourne defibrillators upkeep

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that in accordance with the resolution made on 6 November 2021, the Council will re-imburse the Aldbourne Defib Group £265.00 for the expenditure incurred to purchase one defibrillator battery.

210/23 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 Lawler and Cllr Phizacklea. Should either have any problems, Cllr Bland or Cllr Deuchar will action the authorisation.

A copy of the financial report is attached as [Appendix A](#).

211/23 Confirm appointment of internal auditor

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint Mr C McGowan as the internal auditor for 2022/2023.

212/23 Clerks Report

- The Memorial Hall committee has requested use of The Green on Saturday 8 April 2023 for their Easter Eggstravaganza.

There were no objections, subject to the usual conditions for use of this area.

213/23 Update on Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

Everyone already on the electoral role can vote and they will receive a polling card or postal vote in the usual way. The deadline dates, which includes those for anyone wishing to register to vote, apply for postal or proxy voting, have been posted on the website, Facebook and the noticeboard.

Changes are soon to be made by the government, which will mean the plan will be in place for 5-years, rather than the previously expected 2-years.

214/23 Update new SID and consider expenditure for battery charging

The SID is still on Castle Street and whilst vehicles are speeding they are slowing when the sign displays. There are still issues with communicating with the unit that Cllr Hill is liaising with the manufacturers on to try and resolve. The cost for battery charging is still to be confirmed.

215/23 Play area and football field inspection reports and consider any expenditure for repair work

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to spend up to £50 to purchase pegs and other items required to tidy the football goal nets.

Cllr Edmonds advised that she had stepped down from the group and would no longer be inspecting Claridge Close (which includes clearing debris and emptying the bins). Cllr Lawler asked that his concerns about the swing chain not being replaced and aggregate being put down by the swings to fill the holes be recorded in the minutes.

The members of the play area responsibility group will arrange to meet in Goddards Lane to discuss the issues raised in the most recent inspections with a view to agreeing a proposal to bring to the Council at the April meeting. They will also discuss regular inspections of all the play areas and football field.

216/23 Update on virtual paths and 20-mph survey requests to LHFIG

Mr S Hind has made a site visit and remains positive about installing a virtual path along Marlborough Road from The Butts to Castle Street. There are some concerns about how the path would work towards the bottom of the road due to cars parking there, but it may be possible to bring the path across to the other side of the road. He advised that trees/bushes on the blind corner by The Butts would need to be cut back to improve visibility.

His confirmed that he does not feel Farm Lane is suitable for a virtual path but will look at signage and getting hedges cut back further to increase the width along this road.

Mr Hind was asked about the red crossing strip being renewed. He advised that Wiltshire Council is moving away from this type of surface as it wears off and looks messy. He will liaise with Martin Cook on this issue.

There has been no further progress on the 20-mph survey. The next LHFIFG meeting is on 2 March.

Caroline Thomas, Cabinet member for transport, street scene and flooding, has been contacted asking if she can help raise the priority on the Aldbourne issues, and to express the frustration that there is no longer a virtual attendance option for LHFIFG meetings. Cllr Sheppard confirmed that virtual options are being actively investigated.

217/23 Consider public toilet cleaning contractor and payment

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Mrs L Keen will be contracted to clean the public toilets in The Square, Aldbourne at a monthly amount of £247, which will be paid upon receipt of an invoice. The Parish Council will also re-imburse any cleaning products that need to be purchased for the toilets.

Cllr Lawler was thanked for carrying out a deep clean of the toilets prior to Mrs Keen starting.

218/23 Discuss expenditure for cleaning graffiti from the bus shelter

The graffiti has been cleaned off the bus shelter using cleaner that the Council had previously purchased. No further expenditure is required.

Cllr Phizacklea was thanked for carrying out this job.

219/23 Consider any proposal or requests for funding or use of Council land for King Charles III Coronation in May 2023

Discussions are underway to hold a celebration in the village. Full details are to follow.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that there were no objections to The Green being used on Monday 8 May 2023 for Coronation Celebrations.

220/23 Consider extension to use of the football field by Ramsbury U15 football team and any payment for use

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that permission is given to allow Ramsbury U15 football team to use the football field for practice sessions on Saturday mornings until 1 July 2023, subject to the conditions already advised. A donation towards upkeep of the area would be welcomed.

221/23 Consider request for use of the football field for the 2023 Doggy Day event parking

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that, subject to conditions, the Doggy Day and Classic Car Event on 2 July 2023 can use the football field for parking.

222/23 Consider request for use of The Green for Dr Who event on 17 June 2023

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that, subject to conditions, there are no objections to two vehicles being displayed on The Green as part of the Dr Who Event on 17 June 2023, organised by Mr M Parsons. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, is delegated to consider and make a decision on any further requests that are made for this event.

223/23 Discuss tree planning proposal from Carbon Neutral

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council's Carbon Neutral liaison group will review the proposal put forward, taking into account such issues as land ownership, locations, neighbours, costs for purchase and ongoing maintenance. They will discuss their review with the Aldbourne Carbon Neutral group before bringing a proposal back to the Council for consideration.

224/23 Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard advised that the budget of £446 million had been approved. The budget is once again balanced and there has been no requirement to use reserves, despite a reduction of £25 million worth of funding from central government. At a recent Police & Crime Panel meeting, Cllr Sheppard was disappointed to discover that Wiltshire is the third-lowest funded police area in the country.

225/23 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) Danny Kruger MP recently visited the village and was shown the state of the South Street footpath and how dangerous it was for anyone trying to use it. A discussion about speeding was also held, particularly 20-mph zones. Sadly, Mr Kruger did not appear to fully recognise or appreciate the problems which are being caused by these issues.
- b) The wildflower area on South Street is going to be removed. There has been no interest in anyone taking it on and Cllr Edmonds can sadly no longer give it the time required.
- c) The surface of the B4192 between the village and the Upper Upham turning continues to deteriorate. As does the top of Marlborough Road.
- d) The ATAC unit has now been switched off as ground water levels have fallen below where they start to cause surcharging. The unit will remain in place for about another month in case there is a further period of heavy rainfall.

226/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Comments made in relation to the tree proposal in item 223/23. As well as the Councils lack of action following the resolution made in October 2019, which acknowledge there was a 'Climate Emergency' and how the Council would work to address this in Aldbourne.

227/23 Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

228/23 Consider request to change the September 2023 meeting venue/date and possible change of the July 2023 meeting date

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the September 2023 meeting will be moved to Wednesday 13th in the Memorial Hall.

229/23 Confirm date of next Full Council meeting and Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall – Full Council meeting

Wednesday 26 April 2023 @ 7.10 pm in the Memorial Hall – Annual Parish Assembly

If anyone from the village would like to give a presentation or a report at the Annual Assembly, please contact the Clerk by Monday 3 April 2023. The Parish Council is happy to accept reports from anyone not able to attend. Reports should be sent to the Clerk by Tuesday 25 April at the latest. Any reports received will be included with the minutes once they are published.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 5 April 2023