

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

Cllr W Brown (Chairman), Cllr S Muirhead (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr D Esden, Cllr C Elms, Cllr A Edmonds,  
Cllr B Hill, Cllr A Phizacklea Cllr J Rayner, Cllr A Stibbard

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: Five members of the public, Cllr J Sheppard (Wiltshire Council).

**124/23 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H Bland, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr P Lawler.

**125/23 Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required**

There were no declarations of interest.

**126/23 Consider the Minutes of the October 2023 Parish Council meeting**

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

**127/23 Consider adoption of October 2023 Planning Committee Minutes**

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

**128/23 Consider financial statement and councillors to approve payments**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the financial statement as presented by the Clerk. All payments are to be authorised by Cllr Deuchar and Cllr Phizacklea.

A copy of the financial report is attached as Appendix A.

**129/23 Review of outstanding issues**

- a) (05/10/2022) Carnival store repairs – Committee to be chased to check if there is any update on when the repairs will be actioned.
- b) (06/04/2022) Damaged railings by the winterbourne – Mr Barnes and Cllr Sheppard to be chased for an update on when the repairs will be actioned.
- c) (07/06/2023) Damaged stone on the Market Cross – The stonemason will be carrying out the repair as soon as the weather permits.
- d) (07/06/2023) Football field surface – Operation Nightingale have returned and rolled both areas.
- e) (05/08/2023) Catchpit at the top of Southward Lane – The digger is due to the village W/C 6 November.
- f) (13/09/23) Aldbourne sewers - Follow up letters sent, awaiting a response from Thames Water and Wiltshire Council.

- g) (04/10/2023) Poles at the Scout & Guide hut - Committee advised of the problem to allow them to take action to prevent it reoccurring.
- h) (04/10/23) Raised path on Crooked Corner – Weed clearance added to the parish stewards list.
- i) (04/10/2023) Hedge on Castle Street – Council liaising with the owner about cutting it back.
- j) (04/10/23) Village grass cutting - The weather has delayed the final cut. The contractor is trying to get it done as soon as there is a window of dry(ish) weather.

### **130/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider**

- An update on the plans for the Beating of the Bounds 60th anniversary was given.

**131/23 Consider donation towards Beating of the Bounds 2024 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary walk**  
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that £500 will be donated to the 60<sup>th</sup> Beating of the Bounds anniversary walk.

### **132/23 Clerks Report**

- a) A request has been received to hold Carols on The Green on 20 December. There were no objections, subject to conditions.
- b) The new Gigaclear cabinet for the village is now going to be located (subject to agreement with the landowner) in Baydon. There will be sufficient connections available to service both parishes.
- c) The yearly playground inspection will be carried out by Wicksteed in December.
- d) The recent House of Lords amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill to allow meetings to be held remotely was overturned by a majority of 303 to 157. This means there is still no option to run remote or hybrid meetings in England (unlike in Wales). Whilst Aldbourne PC does prefer to meet in person, the ability to hold remote meetings would have meant a more flexible approach to meeting attendance would have been possible.

### **133/23 Consider any response to the Wiltshire Council Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that having reviewed the plan in terms of Legal Compliance, Soundness, and Meeting the Duty of Cooperate in relation to Aldbourne, that there was no comment to be made.

### **134/23 Update on resurfacing of South Street footpath and consider payment**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that following the explanation of the costs breakdown and the reduction already given, that the final invoice for £3,126 (net) will be paid.

### **135/23 Report on play area inspections and update recent repair works**

Cllr Stibbard and Cllr Ainsworth had no new issues to raise from recent inspections. The handholds on the climbing slope have been replaced and the new bee springer installed. The rope for the mammoth tower had to be returned to the supplier as it was too long. The contractor hopes to have rectified and returned soon.

### **136/23 Consider expenditure for tree works at Rectory Wood, Palmer's Field and the pond and consideration of single source contract**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Aborite Tree Services will be contracted to carry out the trees works at Rectory Wood, Palmer's Field and the pond at a net cost of £3,795.00.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that subject to Financial Regulations 11.1 (d), Standing Order 22d will be suspended and that Aborite is approved as a single source contractor for all works at Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field. Other tree works that can be tied in with any of these works may also be considered for action by Aborite if required. Though, quotes from other contractors can be sought for any such works if required. This resolution will be reviewed at least every three years to ensure best value for money is still being obtained.

### **137/23 Consider tree planting proposal from Carbon Neutral group**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that subject to consideration of smaller trees or whips being planted (to reduce the costs of purchase and ongoing maintenance), all previous comments in relation to the sites made by the PC and WC as well as those made below being taken into account, and agreement of neighbouring properties at each of the locations, that the Parish Council agrees to the following trees being planted at the locations listed by the Aldbourn Carbon Neutral group.

1 x Silver Birch – Lottage Road near the defibrillator [Check will not interfere with culvert].

2 x Crab Apple – Cook Road at the top on the triangles.

1 x White Poplar – Farm Lane near the carnival store.

3 x Scots Pine – Football field near the tennis court [Check on height v overhead cables].

1 x English Oak – Southward Triangle [Must not block views].

3 x Beech - Whitley Road playing field [On the western boundary only, not blocking views].

A motion to donate £1,000 towards the costs required was put forward but failed to be carried as the amendment to the motion obtained a majority vote.

It was **RESOLVED** seven in favour and four against to donate up to £500 towards the costs of planting 11 trees at various locations across the village by Aldbourn Carbon Neutral.

### **138/23 Discuss refurbishment of Whitley Playing Field**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Parish Council agrees, subject to funding being available, to install a small, fenced play space in the Whitley Road playing field. The Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Edmonds, is delegated to investigate what funding is available to pay for the works, which can include the application for grants if required to meet deadlines prior to the January 2024 meeting.

Additionally the Finance Group is tasked to consider whether any existing funds are available towards the works, and/or to give consideration of adding funds to the 2024/2025 budget.

### **139/23 Consider request to use the football field by Ramsbury FC for football training**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree that Ramsbury FC can use the Farm Lane football pitch for youth football practice on Saturday mornings between 1 November 2023 and 29 February 2024, subject to conditions. Any requests for additional days/times to be considered by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman

### **140/23 Consider expenditure for fence replacement on South Street**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to continue to seek quotes for a metal fence. The Clerk was delegated to contract works during the winter recess if required, within a budget of up to £2,000.

### **141/23 Consider adoption of Aldbourn Resilience Plan**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adapt the resilience plan into a more basic "What to do in an emergency document", which will still ensure that everyone knows who to contact in an emergency and what equipment is available within the village.

A copy of the full document will be added to the website and an abridged copy will be placed on the noticeboard and in the Dabchick.

**142/23 Consider adoption of Biodiversity Statement**

It was **RESOLVED** eight in favour and two against, that as required by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, to adopt the Biodiversity Statement as amended.

A copy of the statement will be added to the website.

**143/23 Discuss renewal of Scout & Guide hut lease**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a working group of Cllr Stibbard, Cllr Brown and the Clerk will look at the proposed new lease and report back to the Council with their recommendations at the January 2024 meeting.

**144/23 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues**

- a) The byway sign on Stock Lane by the old brewery has been knocked down.
- b) The SID data is now being downloaded and sent to the police. They will use this data to carry out targeted enforcement. Traffic is leaving the village at considerably higher speeds than it is entering at. On the last download, three vehicles were recorded at 80 mph, two of which were during daylight hours.
- c) There have been complaints about signs and other street furniture across the village centre which are blocking footpath/vehicle access.

The Council will liaise with the owners about this and if there is no sign of improvement following this, the issues will be reported to Wiltshire Council.

- d) The BMX track has suffered from vandalism recently with holes having been dug into it. This could potentially have caused a serious accident. The holes have been filled in and a note about the vandalism will be added to social media.
- e) LHFIC should be carrying out the 20-mph survey on the roads to the south of the B4192 by January 2024. However, it is likely to be June 2025 before any which receive approval are installed.

**145/23 Wiltshire Council report**

Cllr Sheppard advised that Grasshills still features highly on his list of the many outstanding issues in Aldbourn. Discussions are ongoing as what can be done to help improve both the byway section and the road section of this road.

Asked if Wiltshire Council would have a balanced budget at the end of the 2023/2024 year, Cllr Sheppard confirmed that it would.

**146/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider**

There were no questions from the public in attendance.

**147/23 Consider delegation during the winter recess**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to give delegated authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, over the winter recess for all Parish Council functions where delegation does not already exist

**148/23 Confirm date of next meeting**

Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10 January 2024