



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025
Memorial Hall, Oxford Street,
Aldbourn
7.30 pm

Members Present:

Councillors: P. Lawler (Chairman)
M. Adams, T. Berisha, A. Edmonds, R. Lester, R. Oswald,
J. Paterson, J. Rayner, C. Rust, P. Trayes, R. Warren

Officers Present: Mrs K Clay, Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: 4 members of public, Cllr James Sheppard (Aldbourn & Ramsbury Ward)

92/25 Apologies

Apologies noted from Councillors: J. Aplin, V. Butler, C. Elms, S. Muirhead

93/25 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

94/25 Minutes of the last meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 10 September 2025 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

95/25 Planning Committee Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 10 September 2025.

96/25 Outstanding Items Review

Update on the following items:

- a) (04/06/2025) Affordable rural housing – As it currently stands, there is not much further that the Council can take this project. There is a need for a strong group of interested councillors and community to drive the project forward. The Rural Housing Enablers from the independent Wiltshire Community Led Housing Group will be invited to a future meeting to provide a presentation on what they do, how they could help, and what is required from Aldbourn.
- b) (10/10/2025) Goddards Play Area – Investigations into new bins and benches are ongoing.
- c) (10/10/2025) Dog fouling – A social media post was put out reminding owners to pick up after their dogs.
- d) (10/10/2025) Village green - The grass is in a state as would be expected following a very dry summer. There are a few dents from where vehicles have parked for events, but it is anticipated these will recover over the winter. The area will continue to be monitored.
- e) (10/09/2025) Verge wilding – All areas have been cut and the cuttings removed.
- f) (10/09/2025) White gates on Lottage Road – Suggestions from the highways engineer to be discussed at the November meeting.

97/25 Accounts

a) Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Trayes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the financial statement as presented by the Clerk.

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

b) Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rust/Cllr Edmonds

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that Councillors Rayner, Trayes and Lester will be added as new signatories to the Lloyds bank account.

98/25 Clerks Report

- a) The finance for quarter two has been checked by Cllr Oswald, with no comment.
- b) The finance breakdown for quarter two was sent to all councillors today.
- c) The twinning group has been renamed Aldbourne-Creully Friendship Association (ACFA). Whilst wishing to have a link with Creully, it was agreed that twinning was a much too formal process and did not reflect the views of Aldbourne residents. 53 children and 9 adults from École Primaire Cecil Newton are staying in the area in April 2026 and will be visiting Aldbourne for a day. The steering committee is arranging activities for them to undertake during their visit to the village. The committee is also working on arranging a trip for residents to Creully in September 2026. Plans are being put together for an event in November to promote this trip. Keep an eye out for posters and social media posts for updates on this event.
- d) The Planning Inspectors have confirmed that the Wiltshire Council Local Plan Review 2020-2038 can move to the next stage. More information can be viewed here <https://www.localplanservices.co.uk/wiltshirelpexamination>

99/25 Public Session

- Comments in relation to the 20-mph project.
- Comments about the licence application at Time at the Forge.

100/25 Trees

Cllr Rayner confirmed that the works to the tree on Palmer's Field and the tree by the pond have been completed. He has asked Mr G Watson to inspect the works to the Chestnut by the pond before the payment is made.

Rectory Woods has been cleared of all the rubbish. The bench which is at the bottom of the woods is very badly covered in bird mess. The Council will contact the owner to discuss ways this issue could be mitigated.

101/25 Hedges

No action required to the hedge on Castle Street.

The long-standing issue of an overhanging hedge on Southward Lane was noted. This will be raised with Wiltshire Council highways again.

102/25 SIDs

The two new solar SIDs were delivered on 18 September. The final total cost was £5,677.92 (£4,731.60 net) which included two additional mounts. This was £538.00 less than the original quote due to a further discount being requested and applied.

a) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to set all three Elan SIDs in stern mode and place them on Oxford Street, South Street and West Street (the latter with a school mode during drop off and pick up times), and that the older SID Signs SIDs will be placed on Castle Street and Marlborough Road. All the Elan SIDs can be moved to any area which has a pole as and when required.

b) Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Berisha/Cllr Adams

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to purchase two Bluetooth battery monitors at a cost of £50.

103/25 Football field

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Paterson/Cllr Lester

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the conditions advised will remain as previously agreed, but that the fee for use of the area will be reduced to £250.

104/25 20-mph Project

A robust discussion was held about this project and the reasoning behind the decisions previously made. The main issue has always been about the proximity of vehicles to pedestrians. Concern was raised that this project had been ongoing for over 5 years (in one form or another) and that stopping it now could push the issue of pedestrian safety back another 5 years.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Warren

The Council **RESOLVED** eight in favour and two against, with one abstention, to pause the 20-mph request for roads south of the B4192 whilst investigations are made into other measures which could be implemented to increase the safety of pedestrians in Aldbourne.

105/25 Digital Compliance

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Adams/Cllr Berisha

The Council **RESOLVED** ten in favour with one abstention to ensure the Council is fully digitally compliant by moving the current website to aldbourne-pc.gov.uk and that all councillors will be provided with an aldbourne-pc.gov.uk email account to be used for all Parish Council communications. A decision on which company to use and approval of the final costs, as well as adoption of an IT and Email policy, is to be made at the November meeting.

106/25 Oaks at 80

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that, subject to the Oak species being one which will grow in chalk soil, an application for an Oak at 80 will be made. The exact location to be agreed, but it will most likely be in Palmer's Field. Should it not be possible to obtain a suitable Oak via this project, the Council will consider funding the purchase of one.

107/25 Toilet/Community Room Roof

Cost for any roof repairs and the addition of a tile guard are still awaited.

108/25 Playing/Sports Inspections

All inspections were carried out with the playground inspection software this month. The fence post on the gate into Claridge Close is coming loose and will need some action to resolve this soon. Some of the weeds have been cleared around the tennis court and the overgrowth in Claridge Close has also been cut back.

109/25 Councillor Reports

- a) Various issues in relation to highways were raised. These will all be added to the list for the next Parish Steward visit or reported via MyWilts to Wiltshire Council.
- b) The bike jumps were built in Rectory Wood by some children because the BMX track on Palmer's Field is unsafe to use. It has been suggested that the children put together a plan for refurbishment of the BMX track and present this to ARC for consideration.
- c) There is a pond clearance taking place next month.
- d) Preparation for possible winter flooding is starting.
- e) The bus shelter was recently tidied but needs cleaning again.
- f) The allotments will be cleared w/c 13 October.
- g) Concern was raised about the number of loose stones on the road side of the winterbourne on South Street. These will be looked at during the clearance of that stretch next month, with a view to either repositioning the rocks or reporting them to Wiltshire Council.
- h) There has been some antisocial behaviour in the public toilets recently, with graffiti having to be removed. Efforts are ongoing to find out who the perpetrators are.
- i) There has been a report of children digging into the bank on the football field. The Council will investigate and speak to parents as required.

Cllr Berisha left the meeting.

110/25 Wiltshire Council

Cllr Sheppard gave an update on the report of a new gate on land at Preston.

111/25 Public Session

- Further comments on road safety and the decisions made in the past, as well as support for the Council looking at other options to increase pedestrian safety across the village.

112/25 Next Meeting

Confirmed as Wednesday 5 November 2025 @ 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.18 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 5 November 2025



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Account Balances as at 25/09/2025

	£
Current account	13,930.79
Deposit account	<u>96,552.37</u>
Total	<u>110,483.16</u>

Receipts	£
Category	Amount
Precept	28,090.00
	28,090.00

Payments	£	£
Category	Net Total	VAT
Bank services fee	4.25	0.00
Library	2,700.00	0.00
Office costs	78.00	0.00
Pond	21.27	0.00
SIDs	4,731.60	946.32
Staff/contract costs (inc payments to HMRC)	917.16	0.00
Toilets/community room	530.99	81.49
	8,983.27	1,027.81

Mrs K Clay – Responsible Financial Officer
01.10.25