

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2022
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL****Present**

Cllr W Brown (Chairman)

Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr C Elms, Cllr B Hill, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr S Muirhead

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: Four members of the public

127/22. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H Bland, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr P Lawler, Cllr A Phizacklea, Cllr J Rayner, Cllr L Smitten, Cllr A Stibbard

128/22. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

No declarations of interest declared.

129/22. Consider the Minutes of the October 2022 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5 October 2022 be approved and signed.

130/22. Consider adoption of the approved October 2022 Planning Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 5 October 2022.

131/22. Review of outstanding issues

- a) (04/05/2020) Virtual Paths – Data to make progress with assessment and design is still being undertaken by LHFIFG. The next LHFIFG meeting is on the 24 November.
- b) (12/01/2021) South Street footpath – Still awaiting work by Wiltshire Council. Mr Cook and Cllr Sheppard continue to push for action.
- c) (06/04/2022) – Damaged Winterbourne railing on Oxford Street – Barnes coaches continue to try and get this fixed. Cllr Sheppard is chasing Ringway on their behalf again.
- d) (04/05/2022) Fence posts encroaching onto Whitley playing field entrance – The works to replace the fence and remove the posts are still in progress.
- e) (07/09/2022) Blocked Winterbourne – ARC has now cleared the blockage
- f) (07/09/2022) Goddards play area fence – The works to replace the fence have been completed. Work is being undertaken to remove the stumps in the bank.
- g) (05/10/2022) Tennis courts – New signs have been put up around the court about misuse and a possible charge being brought in.
- h) (05/10/2022) Southward Memorial – Cllr Smitten has met with the family and a location for a Crab Apple tree has been agreed.
- i) (05/10/2022) Parish Steward Scheme – Cllr McClelland has asked the Head of Local Highways to investigate the issues raised.
- j) White line painting – Mr Cook advised that the painting of white lines at different times is down to many factors, the main one being that each type of lining is dealt with by a different section of the highways departments.

132/22. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Comment made about the dangerous state of the South Street footpath between Turnpike and Glebe Close. People are being forced to walk in the road because it is so uneven.
- The verges outside the village on Lottage Road have at last been cut.

133/22. 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 Josephy and either Cllr Bland or Cllr Lawler (depending on availability to carry this out before the cut-off date).

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

Cllr Ainsworth left the meeting

134/22. Clerks Report

- The annual play inspection has been ordered for Wicksteed to inspect Goddards, Claridge & Whitley. Costs have increased by £54 on last year.
- A nomination to register the Blue Boar an Asset of Community Value has been submitted. It has been acknowledged and comments from the Unitary Member and Community Engagement Manager have been requested for by 21 November 2022.
- The Operations Director at Wadworth responsible for the Blue Boar responded to the letter sent by the Council to the Wadworth Chairman. He confirmed that Wadworth are actively seeking to engage a new tenant and have no plans to sell or delicense the pub. His letter was shared on the village website and the Council Facebook page.
- The Carnival Committee confirmed they were already in the process of seeking quotes for repair works to the outside of the storage rooms to be carried out.
- Mr Wilkinson, Wiltshire PCC, has responded to the request for speed checks to be carried out in Aldbourne and advised that he will ensure that the village receives a visit, and that it will be placed on the hot-spot map. No comment was made about the request to look at parking infringements whilst in the village.
- The second quarter finance has been carried out by Cllr Hill, with no comment or issues raised.
- St Michaels School PTA has been given permission to put up a banner on the pond railings for two weeks before their Christmas Fayre on 10 December. It must be removed by the 12th.

135/22. Update on Neighbourhood Plan

An update on the Regulation 16 process is still awaited from Wiltshire Council.

136/22. Consider expenditure for Rectory Wood & Palmer's Field tree works

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract Aborite Tree Services to carry out the works to Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field at a net cost of £3,300.

137/22. Update on Aldbourne "Heat is on...here"

Standing orders suspended during this item to allow L. Osborne to speak about this new facility. Aldbourne Churches Together in conjunction with Aldbourne Community Junction have set up a warm space in the village, which is called "The Heat is on". From 1 November, the Methodist Hall will be open for anyone to drop-in for warmth, company & sustenance every Tuesday from 10.00 am – 12.00 pm (hot drinks & biscuits) and every second and fourth Thursday from 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm (soup lunch). There is no charge, but donations are welcomed by those attending. The facilities on offer are still evolving and will be adapted as required. The group are also talking to other village businesses about what they can offer and how they can all work together. Although being coordinated by the churches there is no Christian content to the sessions.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that under delegated authority, a donation of £600 from the Vodafone fund will be made to the Aldbourne Heat is On group, co-ordinated by Aldbourne Churches Together, to help towards the costs of running a warm space in Aldbourne. An initial sum of £300 will be donated, with the remainder to be requested by the group as and when required. Any funds not used by 31 March 2023 must be returned to the Council, in order that other organisations and groups in the village can continue to benefit from this funding. The Council reserves the right to request proof of expenditure.

Cllr Ainsworth returned to the meeting

138/22. Consider expenditure for 20mph survey on Castle Street

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to request a 20mph assessment on Castle Street from LHFIG and that the cost of £625 (25%) is approved. Subject to ensuring that the equipment to collect the data is positioned in a location which will ensure that all relevant information required is recorded.

139/22. Consider expenditure for cupboard refurbishment in the toilets

Specifications for quotes to be requested are still being gathered.

140/22. Discuss draft 2023/2024 budget and precept

The draft details provided by the finance group were discussed. A final decision on the budget and precept will be made at the January 2023 meeting.

141/22. Discuss increase in staff sickness cover within the Council insurance

It was **RESOLVED** four in favour that the key person cover on the Gallagher insurance will be increased to £400 a week, up to a maximum of £10,000. The current premium is £93.00, but payment will be pro rata for this year.

142/22. Discuss purchase of a further SID

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Parish Council will purchase a further SID which can be moved around all the main roads into the village. Any new SID to be considered must be robust enough to be moved on a regular basis, easy to maintain, have an interface which allows for remote download of records and have low running costs. Consideration of which SID will be purchased, and associated costs, to be made at the January 2023 meeting. Funding to come from the precept and Community Infrastructure Levy.

143/22. Discuss grass cutting contract from April 2023

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Edmonds, Cllr Brown and Cllr Hill, reviews the current contract and makes any changes required. Tenders to then be sent out to at least three contractors, including the current one, to enable consideration of a new contract at the January 2023 meeting.

144/22. Discuss Carbon Neutral tree planting proposal

Standing orders suspended during this item to allow R. Osborne to speak about this proposal.

The Councils Carbon Neutral liaison group will discuss with Carbon Neutral the planting scheme they have put forward. Consideration of the type of trees, where trees will be planted and the cost for planting and ongoing maintenance is required. The liaison group will come back to the Council with further proposals for consideration in 2023.

145/22. Discuss verge wilding grass cutting schedule for 2023

It was **RESOLVED** four in favour that the verge rewilding areas on the football field banks and on B3, B8, B10, B15, B20 & C1 will continue and will be cut twice in March and September of each year. The two areas at either end of Whitley Field (C3) will also continue and are to be cut once in March of each year, and cut material is to be removed so that the soil becomes more suitable for wild flowers. Agreement for these cuts to be carried out is from March 2023 to September 2026. During each year, a clear boundary is to be cut around the planting to highlight that there is a wild area at each location. Area B19 is to be removed from the project and will return to the Councils usual grass cutting schedule.

146/22. Consider request to hold car boot sales on the football field during 2023

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that to allow Mrs K Sneddon to hold six car boot sales between 30 April 2023 & 24 September 2023 on the football field, subject to conditions. Cllr Edmonds will be the Councils liaison with Mrs Sneddon.

147/22. Discuss dog fouling on the football field and Palmer's Field

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that up to £50 (net) is approved for Cllr Ainsworth to purchase some dog fouling signs to put up on the football pitch and Palmer's Field. ARC will be asked whether they have any objections to the signs being put on Palmer's Field.

148/22. Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard had tendered his apologies for the meeting.

149/22. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) The pond has been repaired. The initial signs are good that the works have been successful.
- b) Wiltshire Council septic tank team has been in the village this week clearing the list of blocked roadside gullies sent to them by the flood wardens. They have advised that about half the gullies asked to be cleared are so heavily blocked that they could not clear them. These gullies have been notified to the highways engineer, as a larger machine will be required to clear them. The B4192 roadside gullies are due to be cleared during the winter, a date for these works is awaited.
- c) The state of pavements across the village is extremely poor, and it is now one of the most commented on issues that councillors receive.

The Council will raise the long running issues with the South Street pavement and the roadside edge of Castle Street with Wiltshire Council once again. It will be stressed how dangerous they both are, and that urgent repairs are necessary now.

- d) The verges at the end of Lottage Road nearest the village (up to Windley Ridge) were not cut when the remainder of the road was. This section was added by Wiltshire Council in 2021 and was cut last year.

Mr Cook will be advised and asked to get this section cut ASAP.

- e) The pharmacy at the Ramsbury Surgery will be closed on November 17 & 18. There will be no dispensing of drugs available on either of these two days.
- f) Mr & Mrs Berisha would like to donate a Christmas Tree to be put on The Green. They will be making contact with the Clerk to request permission to do this.
- g) It was asked whether there is any news from ARC on their plans for Palmer's Field?

It is believed that the plans have been looked at again and that ARC are still putting together the amended details to bring back to the Council/village.

- h) Rev S Rodd has asked to use The Green for the Aldbourn Churches Together Carol Concert on 21 December at 6.30 pm – As per standing order 29, agreement was given for this event.
- i) On 26 November volunteers will be clearing the Winterbourne of growth to ensure that it is clear for when the water rises.
- j) Within the next couple of weeks, there is a chance that Wiltshire Council will clear the silt in the section of Winterbourne at the corner of Goddards Lane/Lottage Road. If this is not done, volunteers will be needed, and a skip will have to be hired to remove the silt. The costs for skip hire can be approved under delegated authority if required.

150/22. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Thames Water recently came out to do some work on Lottage Road and left several cones behind. These have all now been damaged and need removing.

151/22. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

152/22. 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 delegated authority does not already exist.

153/22. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 4 January 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.03 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 4 January 2023