

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY 2023
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL****Present**

Cllr W Brown (Chairman)

Cllr H Bland, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr J Rayner, Cllr A Stibbard

Cllr A Phizacklea & Cllr P Lawler (from 20:25)

In attendance: Four members of the public

153/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr C Elms, Cllr B Hill, Cllr L Smitten

154/23 Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr P Lawler – Nonpecuniary interest in item 172/23, due to the location of the property to his own and his sons. No dispensations required.

155/23 Consider the Minutes of the November 2022 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2 November 2022 be approved and signed.

156/23 Consider adoption of the approved November 2022 Planning Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 2 November 2022.

157/23 Review of outstanding issues

- a) (06/04/2022) – Damaged Winterbourne railing on Oxford Street – Barnes coaches continue to try and get these fixed. Cllr Sheppard is chasing Ringway on their behalf again.
- b) (04/05/2022) Fence posts encroaching onto Whitley playing field entrance – All the posts have now been removed.
- c) (07/09/2022) Goddards play area fence line – The tree stumps in the bank have not yet been treated but Cllr Brown and Cllr Lawler will arrange for this to be done.
- d) (07/09/2022) Community Infrastructure Levy – Money from funds held by principal councils other than Wiltshire cannot be requested by Aldbourne.
- e) (05/10/2022) Parish Steward Scheme – The issues have been discussed by the area highways manager (Malcolm Beaven) with Cllr Sheppard and going forward Mr Beaven will make contact with the PC after each month's visits to review the performance. It was noted that the Wiltshire Council road sweeper van had visited the village and cleared the edges of several roads.
- f) (05/10.2022) The Blue Boar – New tenants are now in place and the pub reopened on 2 December 2022.
- g) Fence on South Street across Bourne from Palmers Field – It was agreed that this work could not be performed by volunteers and that a professional contractor is necessary.
- h) (02/11/2022) Dog fouling signs – Signs have been purchased for the football field and Palmer's Field; they just need to be put on some stakes.
- i) (02/11/2022) Lottage Road verge (far end) not cut - Mr Cook was contacted after the November meeting and advised he would log it as a missed cut and endeavour to try and get this cut. It was confirmed that the verge had been cut.

158/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- ARC plan to provide a new rubbish bin and separate dog waste bin on Palmer's Field. Volunteers will empty them.
- A topographical survey has been carried out on Palmer's Field by ARC, and they aim to bring revised plans for discussion with the Council steering group in the near future.
- The Heritage Group will be bringing a proposal to improve the lighting in the Heritage Centre to the Council for consideration at their February meeting.

159/23 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 Josephy and either Cllr Lawler or Cllr Deuchar (depending on availability).

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

160/23 Clerks Report

Items taken out of order and discussed under item 173/23.

Both items taken together

161/23 Consider contractor for grass cutting for three years from April 2023**162/23 Consider expenditure for grounds maintenance on Palmers Field for 2023**

Councillors noted that only the current contractor, D & R Pittams, had responded to the tenders issued for grass cutting and acknowledged that significant increase in cost was inevitable, given inflation in labour and fuel costs. However, concern was expressed at the scale of the increase for the work on Palmers Field.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to ask the Parish Clerk to contact D & R Pittams, state that the Council was minded to accept the proposal to carry out the grass cutting contract from April 2023-March 2026 (3-years) at a net cost of £6,480, but, before concluding a contract, to request an explanation for the proposed net cost of £880 for grounds maintenance on Palmers Field and a recommendation as to how the schedule could be altered to reduce the cost, while maintaining the protection of wildflowers during the flowering season.

163/23 SID: Consider product to purchase and associated expenditure

The Council discussed the merits of the alternative proposals received for an additional SID. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to purchase an Elan City Ultra Mobile at a net cost of £2,200, plus two brackets at a net cost of £50 and sundry items at a net cost of £100.00. Total expenditure £2,350. Expenditure to be taken from available Community Infrastructure Levy.

164/23 Discuss play area inspections reports

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Lawler and Cllr Edmonds will review, in consultation with the Parish Clerk, the recommendations for work on the Goddard's Lane and Claridge Close play areas, resulting from the inspections carried out in December. And to then make recommendations as to what action should be taken.

Cllr Lawler and Cllr Phizacklea joined the meeting during discussions of this item.

165/23 Consider final 2023/2024 budget and precept

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the 2023/2024 budget as presented and set the 2023/2024 precept at £46,000.

A copy of the budget is attached as [Appendix B](#).

The Council discussed the potential need for a substantially higher precept in the future, to reflect inflationary pressures and demand for additional expenditure in new areas and those not being adequately covered by Wiltshire Council. It was agreed that the wider views of the village should be sought over the next few months.

166/23 Update on Neighbourhood Plan

The examiner's report has been completed and their recommendation is that the Aldbourne NDP can proceed to a referendum.

The current proposed dates by Wiltshire Council are:

16 January 2023 - Decision Statement published by Wiltshire Council

25 January 2023 – Final plan sent to Wiltshire Council by APC for publication

30 January 2023 – Plan is published by Wiltshire Council

9 March 2023 – Referendum

These dates are subject to change as they are dependent on when Wiltshire Council issue the Decision Statement.

167/23 Update on virtual paths and 20-mph survey requests to LHFIFG

Due to the meetings now being in person in the morning, it makes it difficult for the Council to be represented at them. Frustration at there being no remote attendance available for councils has been expressed. The update on the virtual path is that the speed data suggested continuation of design and assessment is appropriate. The scheme has been agreed as a 2023/2024 priority and that providing a satisfactory solution can be developed, implementation could be in 2023. There was no update on the 20-mph survey on Castle Street. Cllr Ainsworth continues to push for a resolution of these issues and the virtual path request for Farm Lane.

Councillors agreed that there was merit in pressing Wiltshire Council to resurface the crossing of the B4192 near the Post Office at the same time as the implementation of the virtual path if the surface materials to be used were the same.

168/23 Discuss further action in relation to the substandard path and road surface on South Street and Castle Street

A letter was sent to Cllr McClelland on 15 November 2022 and chased on 15 December 2022.

There has been no response to either letter.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to request Councillor Sheppard to press Cllr McClelland for a prompt response on this topic.

169/23 Discuss police action in relation to speeding & parking across Aldbourne

Councillors discussed recent police action in Aldbourne. While a police car had been present in the village on at least two occasions in recent weeks, councillors are not aware of any speed checks having been carried out

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to request Councillor Sheppard to follow up with the Police and Crime Commissioner and ask him what has been or will be done regarding speed checks in the village.

170/23 Consider permission for Operation nightingale “Digging Band of Brothers” to use the Football Field in 2023.

The Council noted the acknowledgement by Mr Osgood that efforts would be made to reinstate the field more effectively after the planned work, by using a turf cutter at the start of digging.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow Operation Nightingale to carry out a further “Band of Brothers Dig” on the Football Field in 2023, subject to the same conditions as last year.

171/23 Consider adoption of Dignity at Work Policy

It was **RESOLVED** seven in favour and one against to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy. A copy of the policy will be added to the website.

172/23 Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard had tendered his apologies for the meeting.

173/23 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) The Blue Boar has been listed as an Asset of Community Value. The listing lasts for 5-years and then must be renewed. Applications for The Crown, the Co-Op, Aldbourn Stores and the Forge/library are being processed currently. (Clerks report)
- b) Ramsbury FC under 15 team have been given permission to use the football field for their practice sessions on Saturday mornings until 28 February. (Clerks report)
- c) The Council noted that No 4 The Paddocks is currently for sale. Councillors agreed that the Council's position on the dispute about an unauthorised access from this property to Goddards Lane Play Area remains unaltered and that no such access is permitted. (Cllr Lawler took no part in this discussion).
- d) The significant potholes on the B4192, towards New Barns and past Crowood Farm, and the potentially dangerous holes in the road next to the pavement on Southward Lane were discussed. It was agreed that, as a first step, these faults should be reported to Wiltshire Highways through the Wiltshire App.

174/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Thanks were expressed for the decision in relation to the Operation Nightingale dig on the Football Field.
- The omission of the Heritage Centre from the list of Assets of Community Value, was questioned. It was explained that this building is owned by the Parish Council and therefore falls outside the criteria for inclusion in this list.

175/23 Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in item 176/23 & 177/23.

176/23 Consider Clerks hourly rate for 2023-2024

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to increase the Clerks current hourly rate of pay by 6% from 1 April 2023.

177/23 Discuss toilet cleaning contract and expenditure

The unsatisfactory performance of the current contractor was discussed.

The alternatives of:

- (i) giving another final warning to the current contractor, or
- (ii) giving them notice and tendering for a new contractor

were considered. It was reluctantly concluded that enough warnings had been given. Councillors were keen to handle the matter sensitively.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that one month's notice should be given and that a tender for a new contractor should be issued. It was further agreed that the Clerk would be asked to draw up a suitable termination letter, giving one month's notice (two weeks more than required), and that Cllr Lawler and Cllr Phizacklea would then speak to the current contractor and deliver it. Only then would a tender for a new contractor be issued, the details of which are to be discussed between the Clerk and Cllr Lawler.

178/23 Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 1 February 2023

Minutes taken by Cllr N Josephy, due to the Parish Clerk being unable to attend the meeting.