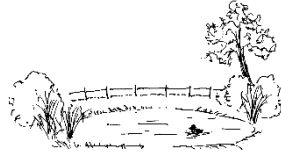


ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2023
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL****Present**

Cllr W Brown (Chairman), Cllr S Muirhead (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr H Bland, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr B Hill, Cllr P Lawler,
Cllr J Rayner, Cllr A Stibbard

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

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

Prior the start of the meeting the Chairman invited PCSO Melissa Camilleri to speak about her role, and that of the other officers, in the Marlborough Rural Neighbourhood Police Team which covers Aldbourne. PCSO Camilleri is very happy to be contacted for help or advice on melissa.camilleri@wiltshire.police.uk Crimes should still be reported either online or via 101. In an emergency 999 should be called.

58/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr C Elms, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr A Phizacklea

59/23 Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

There were no declarations of interest.

60/23 Consider the Minutes of the June 2023 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 June 2023 be approved and signed.

61/23 Consider adoption of the approved June 2023 Planning Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 7 June 2023.

62/23 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 Bland and Cllr Deuchar.
A copy of the financial report is below as Appendix A.

63/23 Review of outstanding issues

- a) (06/03/2020) Red Crossing Strip – Cllr Sheppard asked to chase again.
- b) (05/10/2022) Parish Steward – The steward contacted Cllr Hill after this month's visit and carried out all the jobs requested. The next round of visits will be in the autumn.
- c) (01/02/2023) Missing PRow sign on Sheep Walk – Awaiting inspection by WC.
- d) (07/06/2023) Market Cross damage – Awaiting repair by the stonemason.

- e) (07/06/2023) Football field surface – The area will require rolling later in the year. The Operation Nightingale organiser have been advised.
- f) (07/06/2023) B4192 verge – The areas requested have been cut.
- g) (07/06/2023) Weeds around tennis court – Still to be treated.
- h) (07/06/2023) Cleaning of Claridge Close play equipment – Still be to carried out.
- i) (07/06/2023) Changes to path near Crooked Corner – Investigations into how this path could be changed to make it less steep are ongoing. Ownership has been confirmed as being Wiltshire Council.
- j) (07/06/2023) Farm vehicle speed through village – A message has been passed to all local farmers about this issue.

64/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Comment on resurfacing of the footpath on South Street and how it is unfair that this area is receiving action when just as many walkers in the village are affected by the extremely poor road surface at the edge of Castle Street.
- The new keep clear sign is working to keep the junction clear but now traffic is parking further up the road and causing a pinch point. There has been damage to a gas valve on the road due to this.
- Comments about speeding at the far end of Lottage Road.

The Parish Council has raised the issue of the Castle Street surface and pedestrian safety with Wiltshire Council and speeding on Lottage Road with the police. Cllr Sheppard agreed to chase the issue of the surface at the edge of Castle Street and remind the police about speed enforcement on Lottage Road.

It is the responsibility of everyone to consider if where they are parking is sensible and safe along Marlborough Road (and the wider village). Whilst happy to promote safer parking, the Council has no authority to police it.

65/23 Clerks Report

- Cllr Lee Smitten has sadly resigned from the Council. The vacancy has been advertised and if no election is called by 20 July, the Council will be able to advertise for co-option, which would be considered at the September meeting.
- There was an additional environmental charge of £8.33 for the shredding that had not previously been advised.
- The 1st quarter finance breakdown has been distributed.

66/23 Update on planning application 21/01004/OUT at Lottage Farm

Cllr Sheppard did request a call-in of the application to the Eastern Area Planning Committee, but the head of development management had not been able to accept the request due the application currently being written-up for a delegated approval and because Wiltshire Council Legal are now preparing the S106 agreement. Whilst there has been a lot of information provided by the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council regarding the poor sewer network in the village, it is not a material consideration in terms of planning.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Muirhead and Cllr Josephy, is delegated to write a press release about the failure of Thames Water to supply a sewer system that can cope with the capacity of the village as it currently stands (let alone in the future) and the consequences of this failure, which includes public health. This article will hopefully be the first of several that will be written to highlight the problems suffered across Aldbourn for very many years, and not just the further capacity issues that will be caused by any new housing. The articles will be aimed at raising awareness of the failure of Thames Water to provide an adequate system for Aldbourn with a view to putting further pressure on them to take action.

67/23 Update on the refurbishment of the public toilets

The handwasher dryer unit has been ordered and is due for delivery on 25 July. An installation date is to be set. The new cupboard has been built.

A compliment was recently received praising how clean and well stocked the toilets are and that they are provided for free.

68/23 Update on virtual paths and 20-mph survey requests to LHFIG and consider addition of further roads for a 20-mph survey

Update from Mr S Hind in relation to the request for a virtual path on Marlborough Road.

“We have considered the virtual footway along Marlborough Road in detail. It is not a safe solution, and we will not be able to implement this.

Consideration of 20mph limits would be worthwhile in trying to increase safety. The assessment of all the roads mentioned i.e. Castle St, Marlborough Rd, The Butts, Farm Lane and part of Southwards Lane can be included under one cost and the PC will be expected to contribute 25%.”

It was **RESOLVED** five in favour and four against that due to this issue continuing to be raised frequently since last considered in 2019, and following the advice of the Highways Officer Mr Hind, to add the roads listed below to the existing 20-mph survey already requested for Castle Street. There will be no additional cost for adding these roads to the already approved 25%. Consideration of whether to proceed with implementing a speed change on these roads will be considered once it is known whether the roads meet the required criteria. The Council will be guided by Mr Hind as to whether the full length of the roads listed will be surveyed or just parts of them.

Marlborough Rd, The Butts, Southward Lane, Farm Lane, The Green, Back Lane, Crooked Corner, The Square, Lottage Rd, Old South Street.

69/23 Update on South Street footpath resurfacing

There were no further updates at present.

70/23 Report on play area inspections and update on repairs to swings

The latest inspections have been carried out and there was nothing to report.

The new swing seats and chains for Goddards are due to be installed W/C 10 July.

71/23 Consider expenditure for repairs to/replacement equipment in Goddards and Claridge Close play areas

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract ARD to replace the loose handholds on the climbing wall in at a net cost of £105.00 and replace the elephant springer with a Fahr Betty Bee springer at a net cost of £997.00 (installation and removal of old unit). Both pieces of equipment are in the Goddards play area.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the cost of £700 (net) to replace the bearings in the Spiroette was not a cost-effective repair. The unit is not dangerous and consideration of its replacement with another piece of equipment will be considered at a future date.

72/23 Consider expenditure for Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field tree survey

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve £150 expenditure to obtain a tree survey in Rectory Wood and on Palmers Field. The Council further agrees that the Clerk is delegated to spend up to £170 each year on obtaining this tree survey. If the costs rise above this, it will be brought back to the Council for consideration.

73/23 Consider tree planting proposal and funding

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that due to the costs provided not matching the trees shown for planting it was difficult for the Parish Council to make an informed decision on this proposed project. Carbon Neutral will be asked to provide exact costs for the number of trees they are proposing to plant, which should include the costs for different sizes of trees. The Council will contact Wiltshire Council highways to ask if the proposed locations under their control would be approved (in principle) for tree planting and whether they would take on responsibility for future maintenance of the trees.

74/23 SID Update

The police are now ready to accept data from all SIDs to allow them to carry out targeted speed enforcement. The first step will be to register all the SID locations in Aldbourn. Cllr Deuchar volunteered to be responsible for processing the data.

The Clerk is investigating how the SID group can be updated to allow more members of the public to be involved, whilst continuing to ensure that all insurance liabilities and ownership are covered. Anyone that would be interested in helping with the SID maintenance should contact the Parish Clerk.

77/23 Wiltshire Council report (taken out of order)

Cllr Sheppard advised that the Wiltshire Council Local Plan is currently under review. Details can be found on the Wiltshire Council website. [Click here to access website.](#) The housing allocation requirement (set by Wiltshire Council) for Aldbourn is 42 between 2020-2038. With 35 already committed, that leaves a residual requirement of seven to 2038.

The Parish Council queried the overall allocation (as two more have been added since 2021) and the residual requirement of seven, as there has been recent new houses approved that should have reduced this number.

[Click here to view a factsheet from Wiltshire Council on large village housing allocations and how they are calculated.](#)

75/23 Consider request to use The Green as part of Dr Who Day at Devils End Event on 8 June 2024

The organisers have now asked to use the area on 1 June 2024 instead of 8 June 2024. It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to conditions (which will include a request to consider parking arrangements for those attending), there are no objections to two vehicles being displayed on The Green as part of the Dr Who Event on Saturday 1 June 2024, 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.

76/23 Update on removal of access gates into Whitley Field and consider any further action required

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Brown will speak to the owner of the one gate that looks like it is still in use. Further consideration of steps to be taken if the gate is still not removed following this action will be made at the September meeting.

77/23 Wiltshire Council report

Taken out of order before item 75/23.

78/23 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

a) The hedge from Ford Farm is once again blocking the South Street footpath.

The Council will contact the owners about this and ask them to ensure that all cuttings are cleared from the path afterwards. This has also been reported to Wiltshire Council by a member of the public.

b) The rewilding area on the verge on West Street has been cut, but the cuttings have not been removed.

It is not known who cut this area, but it was not the Councils' contractor.

c) There are many trees, plants, bushes overhanging footpaths across the village.

The Council will contact any properties where this is an issue.

d) There will be a family fun day on 12 August on Palmer's Field/football field to help raise funds for the Aldbourn WWII Memorial Project.

e) The nettles in the winterbourne are particularly bad this year.

The area only receives two cuts a year, but the Council will discuss with the contractor about cutting everything flush to the bank.

f) The area where the wildflowers were growing on South Street is to be cleared and will now be strimmed as part of the normal cutting in that area.

79/23 Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

80/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- The Council was urged to reconsider whether the verge rewilding project should continue. It was suggested that the areas add nothing to the village or biodiversity and just make it look untidy.

The Council did agree in February 2023 to continue the trial until the end of the current cutting contract, which is 2026.

81/23 Consider delegation during the summer recess

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

82/23 Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.32 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 13 September 2023

Appendix A**Financial Statement****Bank Account Balances – includes bank interest**

Bank balance as at 29/06/2022

	£
Current account	8,651.43
Deposit account	59,827.81
Total	68,479.24

Income

Date	Payee	Reason	£ Net Total
27/06*	SSE	Wayleave	11.58
05/07	ARC	2023-2024 Palmers Field rent	1.00
			12.58

Expenditure

Date	Paid via	Payee	£ Net Total	£ VAT	Reason
13/06*	DD	Octopus	97.50	4.88	Electricity for toilets & community room
25/06*	SO	Mrs K Clay	78.00	0.00	Q1 quarterly costs
30/06	SO	Mrs L Keen	247.00	0.00	Toilet cleaning
05/07	BP	Mr B Hill	30.00	0.00	SID battery charging June
05/07	BP	Mrs K Clay	68.33	11.67	Printer & Shred-it costs
05/07	BP	Mr B Mildenhall	70.00	14.00	Cut B4192 verges.
05/07	BP	Parish Online	60.00	12.00	Yearly mapping subscription
05/07	BP	Wallgate	3,445.61	689.12	Handwasher/dryer (£431.78 net still to pay)
05/07	BP	Bowak	21.14	4.23	Toilet rolls
05/07	BP	Pittams	2,160.00	432.00	Grounds maintenance (2 of 3)
05/07	BP	Pittams	440.00	88.00	Palmers Field mow
11/07	BP	Octopus Energy	84.28	4.21	Electricity for toilets & community room
			6,801.86	1260.11	£8,061.97 Total plus VAT

* Transaction has cleared

Items in blue to be paid via online banking following the meeting.

(The date for pending payments is the date of approval not the date that the transaction was carried out)