

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2022
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL****Present**

Cllr W Brown (Chairman), Cllr L Smitten (Vice Chairman)
Cllr H Bland, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr C Elms, Cllr N Josephy,
Cllr P Lawler, Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr J Rayner

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk/RFO
In attendance: Ten members of the public

99/22. Minutes silence

A minute's silence in remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was held.

100/22. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr B Hill, Cllr A Phizacklea,
Cllr A Stibbard

101/22. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

No declarations of interest declared.

102/22. Consider the Minutes of the September 2022 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 September 2022 be approved and signed.

103/22. Consider adoption of the approved September 2022 Planning Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 7 September 2022.

104/22. Review of the Councils objection to 21/01004/OUT – Land at Lottage Farm

It was proposed that the Councils objection to 21/01004/OUT sent on 29 March 2021 still stood but that ongoing discussions about the Neighbourhood Plan may alter some of those objections.
FAILED four in favour and five against

An amendment was proposed to the original proposal, that the Councils objection to 21/01004/OUT sent on 29 March 2021 still stood but that the objections in relation to the AONB and settlement boundary be removed, and that all other objections be re-iterated with increasing strength.
FAILED three in favour and seven against.

A further amendment was proposed to the original proposal, that the Councils objection to 21/01004/OUT sent on 29 March 2021 still stands with no changes.
RESOLVED five in favour and three against.

105/22. Review of outstanding issues

- a) (04/05/2020) Virtual Paths – Data to make progress with assessment and design is still being undertaken by LHFIFG. A work instruction for a SLOW to be painted on Castle Street before the last bend has been submitted but it is likely to be 2023 before painted. The next LHFIFG meeting is on the 24 November.

- b) (04/05/2022) Fence posts encroaching onto Whitley playing field entrance – The resident has started the work to remove the posts and hopes to complete them by the end of the week.
- c) (01/08/2022) Railings on South Street by the bus stop – These have now been replaced.
- d) (07/09/2022) Goddards path repairs – Start date to be advised but will not be until the end of this year/early next due to the contractors other commitments.
- e) (07/09/2022) Goddards fence – The removal of the vegetation and installation of the replacement fence are currently in progress. Unfortunately, there have been additional costs due to an increase for materials and because more of the hedge than expected had to be removed.
- f) (07/09/2022) Springer parts – Awaiting on confirmation of correct bolts/caps to order.
- g) (07/09/2022) Repairs to the pond – The works will be carried out on 17 October. Volunteers cleared the top half of the pond in preparation for this last weekend. Thanks were expressed to everyone who helped carry out the clearance work.
- h) (07/09/2022) Blocked Winterbourne on Palmer's Field – ARC advised of the blockage.

106/22. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Confirmation that ARC is getting a group of volunteers together to clear the Winterbourne blockage.
- Comments about the speed of traffic on Oxford Street, particularly on the hill, and asking the Council to take another look at what could be done to combat this. Cllr Sheppard advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner had recently informed him that there were now three teams of police with enforcement powers who can carry out speed checks.
- Comments about the parking on Lottage Road and how it makes traversing the road difficult and sometimes quite dangerous.
- Observation that all comments made in relation to the Lottage Farm site in the Neighbourhood Plan and planning application should be reviewed.
- Concern raised about blocked drains at the bottom of Castle Street.

The flood wardens do inspect all the gullies once a year and report them to Wiltshire Council. However, everyone is also encouraged to take pictures of any blocked ones they find and to report them to Wiltshire using their MyWilts system.

107/22. Consider monthly financial report and decide councillors to approve payments

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the financial report as presented by the Clerk. All the payments are to be authorised by Cllr Josephy and Cllr Lawler. A copy of the financial report is attached as [Appendix A](#).

108/22. Clerks Report

- a) The Scout & Guide Fireworks event to raise funds for the new hut is being held on Palmer's Field on 5 November. They are trialling low noise fireworks this year.
- b) The second quarter finance has been distributed to all councillors.

109/22. Update on Neighbourhood Plan and consider any action required

A response to the public and Wiltshire Council comments as part of the Regulation 16 process was sent following the last meeting. The report from the independent neighbourhood plan examiner is now awaited.

110/22. Discuss repairs to the railings by the Winterbourne on Oxford Street

Mr Barnes has advised that he is having problems finding contractors who have the necessary permits and skills to carry out the work. He has been trying to liaise with Wiltshire Council's contractor, Ringway, as recommended by the highways engineer, but is getting no help from them. Cllr Sheppard advised he would chase this up with Ringway.

111/22. Discuss parking on West Street/Back Lane and Lottage Road/Oxford Street

A suggestion had been put forward that lines should be painted around the pump at the bottom of Back Lane to denote where cars could safely park. Whilst acknowledging that there can be issues with parking at this location, the Council felt that painting lines would not change the overall issue as it has been shown across the village that lines, even when denoting valid parking areas, are ignored and there it was not a big enough issue to warrant the expenditure.

Parking across the village is becoming more of a problem as households have increasing numbers of cars. Parking lines, or parking restrictions, will not help resolve this. Ultimately, it is down to individuals to ensure they park in a safe, legal and considerate manner.

Whilst acknowledging the dangers of pulling out of Lottage Road into Oxford Street, this issue has been discussed many times before. Sadly, there is currently no viable resolution for the problem. See the pedestrian and road safety review carried out in July 2021 (item 29) for more details. [Link to document](#)

112/22. Discuss speeding on Oxford Street

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to make a request to Philip Wilkinson, Wiltshire PCC, for the new speed enforcement teams to come out to Aldbourne and carry out speed checks on all roads across the village. It will also be requested that whilst in the village they look at parking with a view to taking action where vehicles are parked illegally or dangerously.

There are poles where SIDs can be mounted on all the roads into the village, except the far end of Lottage Road, where there is no suitable location to put one. All the locations were assessed and approved by Wiltshire Council highways. The existing SIDs have proved not robust enough to be moved around which is why they are now permanently sited on West Street and South Street. The Council agreed they would investigate the possibility of purchasing another unit that could be moved around the other locations in the village.

113/22. Review the re-establishment of the football field surface and consider any further action required

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council are now satisfied with the re-establishment of the football field. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Osgood for his efforts to restore the area following the dig.

114/22. Update on toilet refurbishment and consider any expenditure required

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Lawler, will send out formal requests to obtain quotes to replace the cupboard in the toilets.

115/22. Update on Assets of Community Value

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council will continue with registering the 13 properties previously agreed and that expenditure of up to £100 is approved for the Clerk to apply for title documents and plans for each property.

116/22. Discuss further works to trees in Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to carry out the works listed in the tree inspection report provided by Certhia Consulting on 23 August 2022 in Rectory Wood and on Palmer's Field and that at least three quotes for the work will be sought.

Some of the trees listed in the report for Palmers Field are within neighbouring properties land. Cllr Rayner confirmed he had advised them of the report to allow them to take action.

There will be more works required in the future due to the continued loss of trees due to Ash die back. The Council will consider a scheme of replanting once all works are completed.

The ivy on trees in Rectory wood needs cutting back again. A working party will be arranged to tackle this work.

117/22. Discuss Warm Spaces

Wiltshire Council have reactivated and updated their Wellbeing Hub. The Aldbourne Churches Together are discussing what actions might be taken in the village. The Council will discuss how it might help once more details are known.

118/22. Discuss tennis courts

Due to misuse of the tennis court it has been suggested that they be locked and that a system of paying for a key to access them be reintroduced.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to renew the signage at the tennis court. The signs will state that if abuse of the courts continues, that the Council will have to consider locking them and that users will have to pay to access them.

119/22. Update on works and expenditure for the interpretive board

Once Cllr Phizacklea took the board apart, he found the weather damage was far greater than expected.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a budget of up to £300 is allocated for the repairs to the interpretive board.

120/22. Discuss Emergency Plan Group

Standing orders were suspended during this item to allow the members of the public to speak on this item.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Josephy, Cllr Smitten and Cllr Ainsworth are delegated to speak to the current emergency plan group to discuss how the plan could be taken forward.

Councillors to report back to the Council and make any recommendations.

121/22. Discuss request for Memorial Tree at Southward Triangle

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the request for a memorial apple tree to be planted at Southward Triangle is approved. The requested plaque inscription is also approved. Cllr Smitten will be the family's liaison to agree the final details, including the tree type and location within Southward Triangle.

122/22. Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard was asked about the recent announcement that further investment in the successful Parish Steward scheme was being considered at the Cabinet meeting being held on 11 October. Aldbourne Parish Council refutes that the scheme is successful. Where the system under which he is required to operate allows, the Parish Steward does a good job in carrying out tasks in the village, but it is highly restrictive and therefore many of the tasks which we would like him to do cannot be performed because the regime does not allow it.

Cllr Sheppard suggested that the Parish Council write to Cllr Dr Mark McClelland to express their dissatisfaction with the scheme.

123/22. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) The wire fence near the top end of Palmer's Field by South Street is in need of replacement.
- b) The Winterbourne will need to be cleared around November time. It is hoped to also clear the silt from near the corner of Lottage Road/Goddards Lane, though disposal of the silt can prove a problem and it may be that this will have to be paid for. A working party to carry out the work will be arranged.
- c) The verge rewilding areas were cut far too late again this year, leaving the village looking untidy again. The Councils liaison group will discuss this with the Carbon Neutral group.
- d) Concern was raised about quad bikes using the byway between Cook Road and Lottage Road. They were overloaded and riders were not wearing protective gear.

All instances of dangerous driving, in or on any vehicle should be reported to the police. Vehicles have a legal right to use byways, though highway rules still apply when they are being used.

- e) There is concern that with no tenants in place following the recent closure of the Blue Boar that there is the potential for the loss of a vital amenity in the village.

The Parish Council will write to the brewery to express the concerns of the village and to ask what the long-term future of the property is.

- f) A suggestion has been made that the village considers planting a tree by the pond to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.
- g) White lining has been carried out outside the village but many roads within the village remain untouched. There seems to be no joined up thinking on these works.

The Clerk will contact Mr Cook about this issue.

- h) The edge of the road in Castle Street between Whitley and the entrance the tennis court has got even worse. It is now so uneven that it makes it exceedingly difficult to walk on, let alone push anything with wheels along it. Pedestrians are being forced to walk even further out into the road, at a point where the road is most dangerous with vehicles traversing at higher speeds.

This will be reported to Wiltshire Council again. Residents were also urged to keep reporting this issue to Wiltshire Council via their MyWilts system.

- i) The outside of the storage rooms requires maintenance work.

The Carnival Committee will be contacted about this as it is within the lease that maintenance of the outside of the building is their responsibility.

124/22. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Comment was made in relation to the recent success of Aldbourne Band, who are now ranked 9th in world. Their next competition is the National Finals being held on 15 October in the Royal Albert Hall.
- The Lottage Road verges outside the village have still not been cut.

This issue was raised with Wiltshire Council in October 2021 and an update was finally received in June 2022. See item 32/22(b) in the 1 June minutes for the response received. [Link to minutes page](#). Residents were urged to keep reporting this issue to Wiltshire Council via their MyWilts system.

- There was a suggestion of crowd funding or sharing the costs with a nearby village to fund another SID.

125/22. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

126/22. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 2 November 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.31 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 2 November 2022

DRAFT