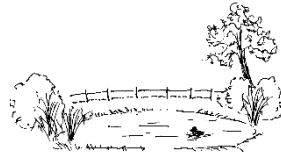


ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2022
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Cllr W Brown (Chairman)

Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr H Bland, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr C Elms, Cllr B Hill, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr P Lawler, Cllr A Stibbard

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: Eleven members of the public (most of whom left after item 203),

Cllr J Sheppard (Wiltshire Council)

22/198. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr A Phizacklea, Cllr J Rayner, Cllr L Smitten

22/199. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Elms once again advised that he felt he had no conflict of interest in Neighbourhood Plan decision (item 22/205) but declared one for the sake of transparency. The Council agreed that the decision made in relation to this item at the 2 March 2022 meeting still applied.

“Cllr Ems is permitted to discuss the NDP item and vote on any motion put forward in relation to it.”

22/200. Consider the Minutes of the March 2022 Parish Council meeting

It was noted that the date of the meeting in item 21/183 should state Saturday 26 February 2022.

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

22/201. Consider monthly financial statement

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the accounts and cheques for payment as presented by the clerk.

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

22/202. Review of outstanding issues

- a) (08/09/2021) SIDs faulty – Mr N Payne is attempting to repair both units.
- b) (06/10/2021) Street light on West Street (near Back Lane) – Chased with Wiltshire Council and updated to show it had been passed to SSE. Cllr Sheppard has also chased this up, but a repair has still not been forthcoming. The Council and Cllr Sheppard will continue to chase this up.
- c) (06/10/2021) Verge cutting – No official notification but on the notes from the recent StreetScene meetings, the timetable is shown as ‘Highways grass, narrow lanes/visibility – May/June’ and ‘Highway grass safety – August’. It is not clear from this is Aldbourne is changing back to earlier in the year. Cllr Sheppard also tried to find out but could not obtain clear information. Chased with Cllr McClelland and he replied to say cuts are still being carried out in September. However, he asked head of highways, Chris Clark, to update the PC on the exact arrangements for Aldbourne. No response received yet.
- d) (12/01/2022) South Street path – There is still confusion at Wiltshire Council about which path it is that is need of repair. The Council will send all the details again.

- e) (02/03/2022) Verge rewilding - Carbon Neutral group advised of the Councils decision and have been liaising with the Councils contractor about where the agreed areas will be and how often they are to be cut. The group have agreed to take on maintenance of the wildflower area set up in 2011 on South Street next to the Winterbourne.
- f) (02/03/2022) Ash Tree survey – Certhia have confirmed receipt of the order for the survey and will advise as soon as they have a date for the inspection.
- g) (02/03/2022) Operation Nightingale Dig - Arrangements being discussed/agreed with J. Hutchings. The dig will be further over this year and there will be some members of Operation Nightingale camping on the field again. JoH is liaising with ARC on the areas they are responsible for. Anyone who currently uses the sports field has been advised of the dates it will be unavailable for use.
- h) (02/03/2022) Verge at the end of Lottage Rd – This has now been added to the Wiltshire Council verge cutting schedule.

22/203. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- A letter in relation to the Lottage Farm site from residents living nearby was read out.
- Further questions on the vote for the site allocation in the neighbourhood plan.
- Question about the AECOM report.

22/204. Consider Vodafone Request

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to donate £500 to Aldbourn Sports and Social Club to use towards two new air conditioning units.

22/205. Consider updates to Neighbourhood Plan and decision on submission the final plat to Wiltshire Council as part of Regulation 16

There have been a small number of minor updates and wording changes to the Submission Plan. The Safety Policy has been removed because Wiltshire Council do not consider it a planning policy issue. All mentions of the Windley Ridge site have been removed (due to withdrawal of the site by the owner). The text about the Lottage Farm site has been changed to include details requested at the March meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** nine in favour and one against, that once the final updates are completed, to submit the final Aldbourn Neighbourhood Plan to Wiltshire Council in order that the inspection by them as part of Regulation 16 can commence.

22/206. Update on refurbishment of the toilets

The toilets are now open again. The cleaning jobs have been discussed and agreed with the contractor, and the cleaning regime is being monitored. The costs for expanding the cupboard are still being investigated.

22/207. Discuss Platinum Jubilee celebrations and consider any requests for funding

The Carnival Committee is going to fund the mugs for children of St Michael's School. On 2 June beacons will be lit across the country and it is planned to have one on The Green in Aldbourn.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that £200 of the previously agreed £3,000 can be used to purchase a beacon and that this money is considered a donation from the Vodafone fund and thus will not have to be paid back. The beacon will become the property of the Parish Council but will be available for use by anyone in the village. Storage location to be confirmed.

22/208. Further discuss parking problems by the Post Office junction.

The owners of No. 12 The Square do not wish to have a sign affixed to their house. All other options, such as lines, etc have been discounted for one reason or another.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to put up a sign in front of the hedge, subject to no objections being raised by highways.

22/209. Update on virtual paths following March CATG meeting and consider further action required

At the March CATG meeting all three roads, Marlborough Road, Castle Street, and Farm Lane were added to the priority list. Mr S Hind will be coming out before the May CATG meeting to assess all roads to advise whether they are suitable to virtual paths.

22/210. Consider any repairs required in Goddards play area and Whitley Field

There are some plastic caps that need to be put over the screws on springers in Goddards. Once it is known what type they are, the Clerk will arrange to order some. The swing seat, although cracked, remains stable and usable. The seat will continue to be monitored and a replacement ordered if required.

The fence around the gate from Westfield to the Whitley field is damaged due to a missing post. Cllr Brown will see if he has a post that can be used to reattach the fence to.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that expenditure of up to £100 is approved for the purchase of replacement nets and sundry items to refurbish the goal posts in Whitley Field.

22/211. Consider expenditure for B4192 verge cutting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, is delegated ongoing authority to arrange for the highway verge from the edge of the village to New Barn, plus the visibility splay to the east of the entrance to byway ALDB30, to be cut once a year by Mr Mildenhall, up to a value of £100. Cutting only to be requested if the grass has become too long to allow walkers to safely use the verge.

22/212. Consider response to ARC's proposed plans for Palmer's Field

A motion to amend the wording of the proposal to provide clear and far more specific direction, in order to allow ARC to develop their plan and to minimise any ambiguity, was put forward but failed to be carried as the original motion obtained a majority vote.

It was **RESOLVED** eight in favour and two against that the response from Aldbourn Parish Council to the proposed plans by ARC for Palmer's Field is as per the attached document – [Appendix B](#).

22/213. Consider request for Palmer's Field maintenance and associated expenditure

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that as per clause 23.2 of the Lease, the Council will pay for two cuts of Palmers Field at a cost of £230+VAT per cut. One in early July and one towards the end of the season. The Council will also pay £130+VAT for the grass around the nut trees near the Winterbourne to be cut once in the spring. Works agreed to be reviewed at the end of the 2022/2023 cutting season.

ARC also asked for the car park area to be cut, the path around the field to continue to be cut, for the cricket nets bikini line to be cut, and for the hedge on the southern boundary to be trimmed. The car park and path are already being cut by the Councils contractor as part of the football field cuts. The contractor agreed to add the cricket net cuts at no extra charge. The Council will investigate other options for managing the hedge on the southern boundary and liaise with ARC on these.

22/214. Consider request for Memorial Bench

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the request for a memorial bench is refused, due to there being sufficient benches across the village already. Other options were suggested to the applicant at the time of their request, but they did not wish to consider these.

22/215. Consider expenditure for tennis court tidy

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that expenditure of £209 is approved for the lines to be repainted on the tennis courts on Southward Lane.

All other work in and around the courts will be carried out by volunteers on Sunday 10 April 2022.

22/216. Consider setting up online banking access

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to set up online banking for the Clerk and at least five of the existing signatories to allow all future payments to be made via online banking where possible. The Clerk to set payments up, with two councillors then approving them.

22/217. Consider adoption of the March 2022 planning committee minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the planning committee minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 2 March 2022.

22/218. Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard advised the 5-year land supply has been recalculated and there is currently only a 4.72-year supply. The housing supply will be recalculated again, and it is hoped this will take the Wiltshire supply to over 5-year. Wiltshire Council are lobbying central government to update the rules around the need for a 5-year housing supply.

22/219. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) There has been a request for steps to be put into the bank in the Goddards play area. It was suggested that a path with a railing may work better than steps. Councillors will review the suggestions, and this will be discussed further at the May meeting.
- b) Two of the fixings on the net in Claridge Close broke off and these have now been replaced.
- c) Several of the metal RoW signs are rotten and in need of replacement.
- d) The Carbon Neutral liaison group will be looking at EV charging points again in light of the recent communication from Wiltshire Council about funding which is currently available.
- e) It was noted that there is a great deal of emotion around the site allocation in the neighbourhood plan and it was suggested that the Council should make efforts to address this and the confusion around the whole topic.

It was agreed the Council will look at doing this.

- f) Aldbourne Band have recently won the West of England Championships for the first time in 41 years.

It was agreed a letter of congratulations will be sent.

22/220. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Questions again about the figures in relation to feedback on the site allocation.
- Thanks were expressed to the Council from ARC for their response to the proposed plans.

22/221. Review of correspondence

The correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

22/222. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall - Annual Assembly

Wednesday 4 May 2022 @ 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall – Annual Council Meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.32 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 4 May 2022