

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL****Present**

Cllr W Brown (Chairman), Cllr S Muirhead (Vice Chairman)
Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr C Elms, Cllr D Esden, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr P Lawler,
Cllr A Phizacklea, Cllr J Rayner, Cllr H Bland, Cllr B Hill, Cllr A Stibbard (from 19:53)

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: Seven members of the public

195/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr V Butler, Cllr N Josephy

196/24 To note declarations of interest related to the business on this agenda and to consider any dispensations requested in relation to declarations given

There were no declarations of interest.

197/24 Consider the Minutes of the February 2024 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 be approved and signed.

198/24 Consider adoption of February 2024 Planning Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2024.

199/24 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 Phizacklea.

A copy of the financial report is attached as Appendix A.

200/24 Review of outstanding issues

- a) (05/10/2022) Carnival store building – The committee has engaged a contractor, and the works will commence once there has been a sustained dry period.
- b) (01/11/2023) Carbon Neutral tree planting – The trees have been ordered and are being planted on Friday 22 March. Everyone is welcome to come along and help.
- c) (07/02/2024) Blocked grips on Four Barrows track – Reported to Wiltshire Council.
- d) (07/02/2024) Encroaching banks on Farm Lane – Advise on the best course of action sought from Wiltshire Council.
- e) (07/02/2024) South Street fence – The fence replacement has been completed.
- f) (07/02/2024) Storm drain on Palmer's Field - ARC reminded that it would need to be considered during any future works.

(Item taken out of order)

203/24 Sewers/flooding: Update on further letters sent to Thames Water & Wiltshire Council, and arrangement for all parties meeting to discuss ongoing issues

Letters were sent to Thames Water and Wiltshire Council on 9 February. No response has been received from either so far. An invitation was extended to Thames Water, Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency on 27 February, and all have confirmed they would like to attend a joint meeting. A date will be set later in the spring when the issues surrounding flooding have eased for all parties. The area MP will be contacted later if/when required. They have been sent copies of all letters to date.

201/24 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Requests to either join or provide questions to the all-party meeting about flooding across the village.
- Comments against installing 20-mph speed limits on roads in the village.
- Comment that further SIDs would be more effective than a 20-mph limit.

There may be public meetings about the flooding later in the process, but initially they will follow the same pattern of those held in 2014 when only Council representatives and third parties were present. Anyone that wishes to raise issues is very welcome to send them to the Clerk or speak to any councillor. These will then be collated to take to the meeting.

202/24 Clerks Report

- a) Wiltshire Council is replacing the four bins around the pond with three larger ones.
- b) The Clerk will be meeting with representatives from Wiltshire and Swindon Prepared, along with representatives from the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 12 March to discuss the emergency hub scheme.
- c) Gigaclear will be holding an online community engagement meeting on Tuesday 2 April at 7.00 pm to discuss the FTTP install. Residents are being asked to register an interest in signing up for their services via this link <https://www.gigaclear.com/home-broadband> to receive an invitation.
- d) The Churches Together have confirmed this year's fete will be held on Saturday 29 June. There were no objections to the Memorial Hall Committee using The Green for the annual Easter Eggstravaganza on 31 March.
- e) The fourth quarter finance check has been carried out by Cllr Rayner, with no comment.

203/24 Sewers/flooding: Update on further letters sent to Thames Water & Wiltshire Council, and arrangement for all parties meeting to discuss ongoing issues

Item moved and taken before 201/24

204/24 Report on play area inspections and update recent repair works

The inspections have been carried out this week and there were no new issues to note.

205/24 Consider new Scout & Guide Hut lease

Item moved and taken before 208/24

206/24 Update on Whitley Road playing field refurbishment

The Council had considered the request to look at play equipment for this area, and after getting three schemes drawn up a grant from Award4All was applied for. Sadly, the bid for funding was unsuccessful, and there were no other grant funds that could be applied for. With the total project costs being more than £30,000 there is no possibility that works can currently be funded from the precept. Regrettably it means the project will not be able to proceed at the present time.

(Cllr Stibbard arrived)

207/24 Consider proposal to implement 20-mph speed limit on roads to the south of the B4192 and monetary contribution towards the project

The total cost of the works is £20,000, with the Council asked to pay at least a 25% contribution (£5,000). The roads surveyed and proposed by Wiltshire Council are Farm Lane (to South Street), Southward Lane, The Butts, Marlborough Road (to Valley View) and Castle Street (to the start of the current 30mph limit).

After considering all the proposed roads it was felt it would be better to focus on those that were through routes, rather than side roads where speeds tend to already be lower. Other through roads may be considered in the future, subject to the outcome of this initial scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by nine in favour to support the 20-mph project but to work with Wiltshire Council to have the limit installed only on Castle Street and Marlborough Road.

(Item taken out of order)

205/24 Consider new Scout & Guide Hut lease

Having considered the draft lease presented for this meeting, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously by twelve in favour to sign the lease for the land where the Scout and Guide hut is, subject to the Scouts & Guides being happy to proceed. The lease will be signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and witnessed by the Parish Clerk once ready (as per Standing Order 26b).

208/24 Consider request to submit a works to trees in a conservation area application for Yew tree on land south of Ivy House

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council submits a works to trees in a conservation area application for the Yew tree on the area lying immediately south of Ivy House to be crown lifted. By submitting this application no ongoing liability is implied or accepted for maintenance of this area by the Parish Council. The tree works will be paid for by Cllr Josephy in his capacity as a resident.

209/24 Consider support of proposal to cut ivy from trees around the village

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to give support to Mr Luck in his efforts to carry out the cutting back of ivy on trees in the parish, subject to ownership being checked and relevant risk assessments undertaken before any works are carried out.

210/24 Confirm appointment of internal auditor

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Mr C McGowan is contracted to carry out the 2023/2024 internal audit at a cost of £50, and to continue to carry out the internal audits until at least the 2025/2026 audit, subject to his agreement and consideration of costs within the budget.

211/24 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) The Community Junction has been tidied and redecorated. The new youth worker will start in about two weeks.
- b) Everyone was urged to download and use a free app - called Asian Hornet Watch - to quickly and easily report possible sightings of this invasive species and send pictures of suspect insects to experts at the National Bee Unit. More details can be found on the Bee Keepers Association website <https://www.bbka.org.uk/identify-report-asian-hornet>

212/24 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Question about whether there was anything the village could do to tackle issues with poor road maintenance, block drains and fallen trees.

The parish steward can undertake some tasks, provided they are on public highways and not private land. Issues should be raised with any councillor, or the Parish Clerk to be added to the job list each month. A range of issues can also be reported directly to Wiltshire Council via their MyWilts system. Residents could take action if they wished to, though they should not undertake any task which puts them at risk of injury.

213/24 Consider request to replace the loft ladder in the Community room

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that in principle there were no objections to the loft ladder being replaced. Subject to agreement on the type of ladder and installer.

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 214/24 (i) & (ii)

214/24 Carnival Store:**(i) Discuss maintenance of land surrounding building**

Following consideration of the current lease, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a party of Council and Carnival Committee members will work to clear the overgrown area within the next month. The area will be added to the Councils ongoing grounds maintenance contract.

(ii) Consider request for reimbursement of expenditure in relation to adjoining boundary wall

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the wall was already in disrepair at the time the works were undertaken at the carnival store and thus the Council denies any liability for the cost of repairs.

215/24 Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 3 April 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 24 April in the Memorial Hall. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are part of a village group or organisations that would like to give a presentation at this meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 3 April 2024

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Bank balance as at 29/02/2024

	£
Current account	2,314.45
Deposit account	51,276.68
Total	<u>53,591.13</u>

Income

Date	Payee	Reason	£ Net Total
21/02*	Heritage Group	Electricity re-imburement	207.44
			207.44

Expenditure

Date	Paid via	Payee	£ Net Total	£ VAT	Reason
13/02*	DD	Octopus Energy	93.21	4.66	Toilets/community room electricity
16/02*	DD	Castle Water	96.07	11.51	Toilets/community room water/waste
16/02*	DD	Castle Water	29.54	0.00	Pond standpipe
07/03	BP	Wiltshire Council	725.00	0.00	LHFIG 25% contribution – 20mph survey
07/03	BP	Mr B Mildenhall	70.00	14.00	Cut of football field hedge (both sides)
07/03	BP	Mrs K Clay	38.80	0.00	Expenses re-imburement
07/03	BP	Allbuild	2,031.05	406.21	Palmer's Field boundary fence on South St
07/03	BP	Memorial Hall	42.50	0.00	Jan & Feb hall hire
13/03	DD	Octopus Energy	92.64	4.63	Toilets/community room electricity
16/03	DD	Castle Water	92.93	11.07	Toilets/community room waste/water
25/03	SO	Mrs K Clay	78.00	0.00	Quarterly costs (Q4)
			3,389.74	452.08	£3,841.82 Total plus VAT

Mrs K Clay

06.03.24

* 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 and may not be the date that the transaction was carried out)