

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2024 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

Present

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

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

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

173/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H Bland, Cllr B Hill, Cllr A Stibbard
Not in attendance: Cllr C Ainsworth

174/24 Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

There were no declarations of interest.

175/24 Consider the Minutes of the January 2024 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2024 be approved and signed.

176/24 Consider adoption of January 2024 Planning Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

177/24 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 Josephy and Cllr Phizacklea.

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

178/24 Review of outstanding issues

- a) (10/09/2020) Missing RoW on RAMS34 – The sign has been replaced.
- b) (06/04/2022) Damaged railings by the winterbourne – A contractor has visited the site with a view to providing costs for the repair to Mr Barnes.
- c) (05/04/2023) Whitley field gates – The owner of the last gate has confirmed that works have now finished, and the gate has been secured to prevent it being used.
- d) (13/09/2023) Wall encroachment on Lottage Road – Wiltshire Council highways are passing the issue to the enforcement team.
- e) (10/01/24) Debris at the bottom of Ewins Hill – This has been cleared.
- f) (10/01/24) Oxford Street road surface – The road is on the list to be resurfaced but there is no date on when this will be carried out.

179/24 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Issues in relation to the bus service for Aldbourn were raised, particularly cuts in service and punctuality of the existing service.
- The grips either side of Four Barrows track are full and need to be cleared.
- Concern raised about the foul water drain that runs across Palmer's Field being blocked, which caused property flooding in Farm Lane and that it needs to be considered by ARC in any plans they have for the area.
- The Heritage Centre will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary on 13 July 2024.
- Gretchin Krochmal introduced herself as the new lead of the Aldbourn Community Volunteers.
- Concern raised that the encroaching banks either side of Farm Lane are also reducing the width of the road.

180/24 Clerks Report

- a) The allotment site off Hillwood Road has been registered as an Asset of Community Value.
- b) Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared have officially launched their Emergency Hub scheme. More details to follow once available.
- c) Wiltshire Police are holding a Neighbourhood County Parish Forum on Wednesday 17 April at 7.00 pm via Teams. Councillors to advise the Clerk if they wish to attend.
- d) The wall behind the storage rooms collapsed and some of the debris was lying against the building. The adjoining landowner was contacted, as it is their wall, and they have taken action to remove the worst of debris that was against the building. The area will continue to be monitored until full wall repairs can be actioned.

181/24 Consider further letters to Thames Water and Wiltshire Council in relation to flooding and the existing sewer system in Aldbourn

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk will send the letters drafted by Cllr Josephy to Thames Water and Wiltshire Council to re-iterate the concerns about the impact of flooding on the current sewer system and how any development at Lottage Farm will exacerbate this issue. The letters will be copied to the area MP.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a meeting with the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Wiltshire Council will be arranged to discuss the ongoing issues of flooding across the village. An invite to the area MP will also be extended.

182/24 Review of recent flooding and response from outside agencies

There were several areas and properties that suffered flooding which have never had any issues previously. Sadly, the overall the response from Wiltshire Council was disappointing. Whilst understanding they were under pressure across the county, there was little to no communication forthcoming, and the appearance of a lack of action on issues raised.

However, this week the parish steward has done a sterling job of clearing four of the drains along Lottage Road around Kandahar. Within about 20 minutes of him carrying out this work the bulk of the water had cleared. Wiltshire Council have confirmed the gulley jetting machine is booked to come out the end of February. The road sweeper is also booked, with a date to be advised to allow the Parish Council to attempt to get Lottage Road clear of vehicles prior to the visit.

Several banks along Lottage Road have been severely eroded by the water. This has been raised with Wiltshire Council. The winterbourne around the Goddards Lane section will need to be dug out before next winter by Wiltshire Council.

183/24 Report on play area inspections and update recent repair works

No report on playground inspections was available. The rope on the tower in Goddards has been replaced.

184/24 Update on tree works in Rectory Wood and by the pond

Aborite have admitted that the error was theirs in removing the wrong tree and not carrying out the correct work on the tree by the pond. They will be coming back to carry out both works as specified. The invoices for both jobs will not be paid until the works are complete.

Concern has been raised about trees in Rectory Wood overhanging neighbouring property gardens. The contractor will be asked to provide advice in relation to these trees and neighbouring properties during the next tree inspection.

185/24 Consider new Scout & Guide Hut Lease

A solicitor is reviewing the lease; no further update is currently available.

186/24 Consider expenditure for fence replacement on South Street

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract Allbuild Building & Landscape Services to replace the fence which borders Palmer's Field on South Street with a metal key clamp fence. A budget of up to £2,500 is approved for the works. The Clerk is delegated to take action on any issues that may arise during the works, in consultation with the Chairman. Wiltshire Council will be asked whether they are willing to match fund the costs.

187/24 Ratify decision for placement of memorial to the soldiers based in Aldbourne during WWII and consider ongoing responsibility and maintenance

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Parish Council approves the installation of a sarsen stone memorial on the bank above the football field by the Aldbourne WWII Memorial Fund Group.

The Aldbourne WWII Memorial Fund Group will remain responsible for the memorial and its ongoing maintenance in perpetuity.

Further, the Parish Council reserves the right to remove the memorial should at any point in the future it falls into disrepair and pose a danger to the public. This will be a last resort measure following attempts to work with those responsible for its upkeep.

188/24 Consider expenditure delegation for cutting the B4192 from New Barn to the village

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that delegation is given to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to request up to two cuts a year of the B4192 verge from the entrance to PRoW ALDB30 to Manor Farm yard entrance (just before the 30-mph limit), including the bend on the north side of the road and both visibility splays at ALDB30. The total budget agreed is up to £200 each year. This delegation will be reviewed at least every 3-years.

189/24 Consider expenditure delegation for cutting the football field hedge next to Farm Lane

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that delegation is given to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman or lead of the football field responsibility group, to request up to two cuts a year of the hedge on the edge of the football field nearest Farm Lane. The total budget agreed is up to £200 each year. This delegation will be reviewed at least every 3-years.

190/24 Consider request for Operation Nightingale to carry out an archaeological dig on the football field in May 2024

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Operation Nightingale are given permission to carry out an archaeological dig on the football field from 6 to 18 May 2024, subject to the conditions, which will include the rolling of the area dug directly after the turf is re-instated and further rolling as required. A ground penetrating radar survey in advance of the dig can be carried out. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman is given delegated authority to deal with any further requests that are received for this event.

191/24 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) Issues with the Aldbourn bus service have already been raised with Wiltshire Council. It is recommended that residents also raise them with Cllr J Sheppard.
- b) The RoW officer will be contacted about the blocked grips on Four Barrows.
- c) ARC will be reminded about the storm drain on Palmer's Field. The Council is also making enquires with the current owners of the original building firm about ongoing liabilities for maintenance within the easement agreement.
- d) Encroaching banks on Farm Lane will be raised with Wiltshire Council.
- e) Thanks were expressed to Katie Thorp for leading the Aldbourn Community Volunteers so well for the last 12 years.

192/24 Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard advised that ten million is being invested in highways, which is more than had been expected. This will be used for resurfacing works, rather than pothole filling. Seven hundred thousand will also be available for gully clearing. Wiltshire Council continues to be financially sound and will have a balanced budget again this year.

193/24 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Comment made that a better turf cutter is being used during the archaeological dig this year, which will cut longer turfs. This should help with the grass restoration.
- Disappointment expressed about the length of time it is taking to complete the renewal of the Scout and Guide hut lease.

194/24 Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 6 March 2024

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Bank balance as at 01/02/2024

	£
Current account	6,577.09
Deposit account	51,218.13
Total	<u>57,795.22</u>

Income

Date	Payee	Reason	£ Net Total
	None		
			0.00

Expenditure

Date	Paid via	Payee	£ Net Total	£ VAT	Reason
30/01*	SO	Mrs L Keen	247.00	0.00	Toilet cleaning
07/02	BP	ABA Constructions	240.00	48.00	Replacement tower rope in Goddards
07/02	BP	Mrs K Clay	51.46	2.23	Expenses reimbursement
07/02	BP	Mr B Hill	56.00	0.00	SID battery charging Dec-Jan
			594.46	50.23	£644.69 Total plus VAT

Mrs K Clay
07.02.24

* 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)