

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL****Present**

Cllr W Brown (Chairman), Cllr S Muirhead (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr H Bland, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr C Elms, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr P Lawler,
Cllr J Rayner, Cllr V Butler (left at 8.00 pm), Cllr A Edmonds (from 7.45 pm due to attending Police liaison meeting on behalf of the Council.)

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

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

34/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Hill, Cllr A Phizacklea, Cllr L Smitten, Cllr A Stibbard.

35/23 Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

There were no declarations of interest.

36/23 Consider the Minutes of the May 2023 Annual Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2023 be approved and signed.

37/23 Consider adoption of the approved May 2023 Planning Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2023.

38/23 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 Deuchar and Cllr Lawler.

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

39/23 Review of outstanding issues

- a) (01/02/2023) Missing PRow sign on Sheep Walk – Reported to Wiltshire Council again.
- b) (01/03/2023) Tree planting proposal – The liaison group are meeting with Carbon Neutral to discuss their latest plans. It is anticipated that following this meeting, landowners will need to be contacted to ask if they agree with plans to plant trees on their land.
- c) (05/04/2023) Whitley Field access gates – One gate has been removed, but the other remains in use. The Council will discuss further action at the July meeting if the gate remains in situ beyond the end of June (the date removal was requested by).

Cllr Edmonds arrived during this item

40/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Concern about the volume of outside music as the Blue Boar was raised. Discussions about it have been held with the landlord by residents but it is felt the volume is still quite loud on occasions.

It was confirmed that noise complaints can only be dealt with by the Environmental Health Department at Wiltshire Council. However, the Council was pleased to hear that efforts were being made to try and resolve the problem directly between individuals in the first instance.

- Anger was expressed at the loss of the weekend bus service to Hungerford with no prior notification by Wiltshire Council. Concern was raised that removing a service with no consultation was a dangerous precedent to set by Wiltshire Council.

The Council had raised the loss of this service with Cllr Sheppard.

- The WWII Memorial Project mentioned at the last meeting is progressing well, with a small committee formed and a constitution in place. A bank account is being opened and ways for donations to be made/received are in process. It is anticipated that full funding will come from donations, meaning no funding will be required from the Parish Council. The preferred location for the memorial to be installed is on the bank above the football field and enquires are underway to find out if planning permission will be required to install it here.

Cllr Butler left the meeting during this item.

41/23 Clerks Report

- The Coronation coins for St Michael's school used the remaining £115.92 from the £6,000 set aside within the Vodafone reserve for community use. The remaining £552.43 came from the Filming donations reserve. This donation will be assigned to the Local Government Act 1972 s137 allocation for 2023/2024. £4,000 remains in the Vodafone reserve for an 'all village' event.
- The stone which was frost damaged on the Market Cross this winter has fallen out. The stonemason will be replacing it. The school has been asked to send a note out in their next newsletter asking parents to ensure their children do not try to dig out the grouting from around the stones. The Market Cross is a Scheduled Ancient Monument with Grade II listing.

42/23 Neighbourhood Plan update and confirm disbandment of steering group

There were no challenges received to the Aldbourn Neighbourhood Plan being 'made' following the referendum and thus the plan is now in force.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Neighbourhood Plan temporary steering committee will be disbanded. A new committee will be set up when the plan is ready for review in 5-years' time.

Cllr Deuchar expressed her thanks to her fellow steering committee members, Ms C Wallin, and Mr C Williams, as well as Cllr Josephy and Place Studio, for all their help and input with the plan. The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr A Deuchar for all her efforts in putting the plan together and enabling it to be adopted.

43/23 Update on application 21/01004/OUT – Lottage Farm and consider representation at the Eastern Area Planning Committee if required

The updated comment was sent on 12 May to Wiltshire Council. Cllr Sheppard confirmed that he will call the application in to the Eastern Area Planning Committee on the grounds that the current sewer network does not have the capacity for a further 32 homes to be added to it.

The Council will start putting together robust and clear evidence for submission to the Eastern Area Planning Committee. A decision on what evidence will be sent and who will represent the Council will be made at the July meeting.

44/23 Consider Wallgate servicing expenditure and update on new hand washer/dryer unit and cupboard rebuild in the public toilets

The cost to service the older unit was deemed not to be value for money due to the age of the unit and that it is showing no signs of any problems. Following receipt of some samples, the colours for the new unit are being decided tomorrow and the order will be placed before the end of the week.

45/23 Update on South Street footpath resurfacing

Cllr Brown has met with Mr Brennan and agreed where the path will be resurfaced as well as reprofiling it in order that it does not tip users towards the road. He will also carry out some small repairs on the first section within the price. The works will commence in late July 2023 and will be carried out under stop-and-go boards.

46/23 Update on virtual paths and 20-mph survey requests to LHFIFG

Due to concerns about whether the path will make the road safer or not Mr Hind has requested an independent safety check for the virtual path and awaits the results of this. He suggested that a 20-mph survey should also be carried out on this road. The cost for this would be covered within the existing 20-mph survey request for Castle Street. It was agreed to add a request for a 20-mph survey on Marlborough Road to the existing one, but that this request did not mean the Council no longer supported the virtual path request.

The 20-mph survey for Castle Street has now been added to the priority list for 2023/2024.

47/23 Update on restoration of the football field following archaeological dig and consider any further action required

Whilst the grass has established well, the ground surface is very lumpy. The area will be monitored, with a view to rolling of the area being requested in the autumn.

48/23 Report on play area inspections

The latest inspections have been carried out by Cllr Ainsworth & Cllr Lawler, with the following observations.

Whitley Field – A report was received today that one of the goal posts had been tipped over and the top bar had come off one side. This was due to the ground peg having been removed. Cllr Ainsworth has fixed the top bar and repegged the goal to the ground with a bigger peg.

Claridge Close – The Spiroette is no longer spinning due to worn bearings. All the equipment in this area requires cleaning. The play area responsibility group will investigate whether they can clean the equipment between them, or if a contractor will be required.

Goddards – Some of the foot/hand holds on the climbing wall have come loose and will not retighten. The screws on the springer have been retightened but still require end caps. The path nearest Crooked Corner gets very slippery as children (usually on bikes) tend to skid down the slope and drag the surface from the hoggin path over the smooth slabs at the bottom. The play area responsibility group will investigate ways to reprofile the slope to make it safer and less inviting to skid down.

Tennis Court – The weeds around the edge need treating. Cllr Ainsworth will arrange this with Cllr Lawler.

49/23 Update on repairs to swings in Goddards play area and consider additional expenditure for alternative bearings

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract ARD to replace the swing bearings, chains and seats on the 2 cradle and 2 flat seat swings in the Goddards Play Area at the new total net cost of £1,534.00. Expenditure to come from the maintenance & replacement reserve. Delegation is given to the play area responsibility group, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to deal with any further issues should they arise during the absence of the Clerk.

50/23 Consider expenditure for secure destruction of documents

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to expend £50 (net) on the secure destruction of Parish Council documents. Documents to be disposed of in line with the Councils current Document Retention Policy.

51/23 Discuss Emergency Plan Review

Wiltshire Council are currently setting up a Community Contacts system, which will be part of a wider plan to increase their community resilience and build on any processes parish/town councils may already have in place. Cllr Josephy will liaise with the current lead of the Emergency Plan to discuss how this new initiative from Wiltshire Council could fit with a review of the Aldbourn plan.

52/23 Consider expenditure for cutting verge along B4192

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract Mr B Mildenhall to cut the verge from New Barn to the edge of the village (including the bend on the north side of the road and both visibility splays by New Barn) for a cost of £70 (net).

53/23 Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard confirmed he had contacted the Cabinet Member responsible for buses about the loss of the weekend service to Hungerford. There is a large shortfall of funding due to central government cuts and the decision to cut services came down to the numbers using it versus the costs to run it. He has raised the issue of the lack of consultation and how rural services, whilst less costs effective, are more vital than town and city services.

The five-year housing land supply position has been reviewed and the current position is 4.60 years supply. The shortfall is considered modest but where a five-year housing land supply cannot be demonstrated, the presumption in favour of sustainable development, as set out in Paragraph 11d of the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) applies. In areas with neighbourhood plans, paragraph 14 of the NPPF provides additional policy where the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies.

54/23 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

a) Complaints about the speed of farm vehicles travelling through the village have been received, particularly along Castle Street.

The Council will liaise with local farms about this.

b) Cllr Edmonds reported on the Police Engagement meeting she had attended this evening. Chief Inspector James Brian had apologised to all those present for over promising and underdelivering police services. Disappointment at the lack of response to reports via 101 in relation to drug issues in the village was raised. A greater police presence was requested, though it was acknowledged that the Community PCSO has been in touch recently.

c) The mowing around the village was praised.

- d) The Keep Clear requested for opposite the Post Office was originally painted in the wrong place, it has now been painted in the correct location. It is unlikely the one in the wrong location will be removed.
- e) A report on the Coronation Toast held on 6 May 2023 is attached as [Appendix B](#).

55/23 Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

56/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

There were no further questions from the member of public still in attendance.

57/23 Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 5 July 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.08 pm.

DRAFT

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 5 July 2023