



**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025**  
**Memorial Hall, Oxford Street,**  
**Aldbourne**  
**7.30 pm**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** P. Lawler (Chairman), S. Muirhead (Vice Chairman)  
M. Adams, J. Aplin, T. Berisha, V. Butler, A. Edmonds, R. Lester,  
J. Paterson, J. Rayner, C. Rust, R. Warren

**In attendance:**

**Parish Clerk/RFO:** Mrs K Clay

**Members of the public:** 3

A signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received prior to the meeting from Cllr Aplin.

**53/25 Apologies**

Apologies noted from Councillors: C. Elms, R. Oswald, P. Trayes

**54/25 Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**55/25 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2025 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

**56/25 Planning Committee Minutes**

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2025.

**57/25 Outstanding Items Review**

Update on the following items:

- a) (02/04/2025) Catchpit at the top of Southward Lane – Cleared by Wiltshire Council.
- b) (04/06/2025) Molehills by the pond – These have been flattened but the grass will take a while to regrow in the current dry weather.
- c) (04/06/2025) Lack of SID Pole – SIDs must be sited at least 70mtrs from the speed limit terminus signs and the edge of the sign must be at least 450mm from the edge of the carriageway. They should be sited facing vehicles on the same side as they are driving on. There is no pole at the end of Lottage Road because there are no suitable highway verges available which meet the criteria stipulated.

**58/25 Accounts**

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Muirhead & Cllr Rayner

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the financial statement as presented by the Clerk.

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

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rust & Cllr Berisha

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to set up a direct debit for all payments to HMRC.

**59/25 Appointments**

The final list of responsibilities and appointments was confirmed, and an updated list will be added to the noticeboard and website.

**60/25 Clerks Report**

- a) The Locality neighbourhood plan grant funding has been withdrawn. Whilst not an issue at the present time, consideration of precept funding will be required for any future updates to the Aldbourn NDP.
- b) A cut of the B4192 and the football field hedge have been requested.
- c) The first quarter financial report was sent to all councillors on 4 July.
- d) The Planning Inspectorate has confirmed that the Wiltshire Local Plan Review 2020-2038 will now move to the next stage of the examination process. This next stage will consider the soundness and remaining matters of legal compliance of the plan. The hearing for this next stage is anticipated to take place in the autumn.
- e) There will be a new assertion in relation to digital compliance on the 2025/2026 Section 2 – Accounting Statements for the external audit. This will include the use of Council controlled email accounts. Further details will be provided later in the year for the Council to consider.

**61/25 Public Session**

- Comments about trying to combat the thoughtless parking which occurs in The Square.
- Update on the refurbishment works at the Post Office.

**62/25 Pump (by the bus stop)**

Efforts to try and resolve this issue are ongoing.

**63/25 Football field**

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Edmonds & Cllr Butler

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate the renewal of the of the 2025/2026 conditions for use of the football field by ARFC to the Clerk, in consultation with Cllrs Traves, Paterson and Lawler.

**64/25 Allotments**

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Lester & Cllr Edmonds

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to spend £420 (net) to clear the unused plots and surrounding area of the allotments off Hillwood Road in the autumn.

**65/25 Parish Allowances**

There was no proposal for councillors to take a parish allowance.

**66/25 Events**

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Edmonds & Cllr Paterson

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that permission is given for the 1<sup>st</sup> Aldbourn Dabchick Scout Group to hold their Big Breakfast event (including a fire pit) on the village green on Saturday 27 September, subject to conditions for use of the stated area.

**67/25 Parking**

The Council discussed dangerous parking across the village and how some residents do not give any consideration to how their parking affects the safety of other road users and pedestrians. Vehicles parked long term in various areas was also discussed.

Only Wiltshire Council can enforce parking restrictions (where they exist). This issue has been discussed many times in the past and it was again, reluctantly, conceded that it is an unsolvable problem due to many factors. Actions will be taken regarding the vehicles which have been potentially abandoned.

#### **68/25 PM2.5 Sensor**

Due to the operating requirements required, it is not viable for the Council to participate in this project.

#### **69/25 Playing/Sports Inspections**

All inspections were carried out using the new playground inspection software this month. There are some bushes and bird mess to clear in Claridge and the weeds around the tennis court will need to be sprayed/cleared.

#### **70/25 Councillor Reports**

- a) Trees overhanging the top end of the Goddards footpath make that section very dark, and there is the potential for someone to trip on an unseen hazard.
- b) There are some invasive tree seedlings growing on the triangle at the junction of Lottage Road and Oxford Street.
- c) The grips on the Four Barrows bridleway are in need of further clearance.
- d) Comments about PRow becoming overgrown and inaccessible. It was confirmed that some have already been reported to Wiltshire Council. Anyone that comes across a problem can report it via MyWilts.
- e) The Creully Friendship/Twinning coffee morning held in June was very successful, and a £50 surplus was made.
- f) A report provided by Cllr Warren on SIDs (including stats), parish steward, flood wardens, and the village centre is attached to these minutes.
- g) The five priority drains have been updated ready for the next tanker visit.
- h) There has been a lot of discussion in the village about signs to warn drivers of ducks crossing the B4192. Whilst the Council had every sympathy with the issue there was no support for official signage. It was strongly felt it is the villages responsibility to warn vehicles of ducks crossing if/when required.
- i) There have been complaints about bike jumps in Rectory Wood. The youngster involved have been spoken to, and a pragmatic solution has been agreed.

#### **71/25 Public Session**

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

#### **72/25 Delegation**

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that delegated authority is given to the Parish Clerk over the summer recess, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, for all Parish Council functions where delegation does not already exist.

#### **73/25 Next Meeting**

Confirmed as Wednesday 10 September 2025 @ 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.13 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10 September 2025



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Bank Account Balances as at 03/07/2025

	£
Current account	8,568.80
Deposit account	<u>74,416.33</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>82,985.13</u></b>

<b>Receipts</b>	£
<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Wayleave	11.58
Palmer's Field Rent	1.00
	<b>12.58</b>

<b>Payments</b>	£	£
<b>Category</b>	<b>Net Total</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Bank services fee	4.25	0.00
Hall hire	47.25	0.00
Mowing (village and football field)	2,160.00	432.00
Office Costs	201.32	16.63
Palmer's Field	440.00	88.00
Pond	31.63	0.00
Staff/contract costs (inc payments to HMRC)	1,569.56	0.00
Toilets/community room	220.05	19.57
Training	110.00	22.00
	<b>4,784.06</b>	<b>578.20</b>

Mrs K Clay – Responsible Financial Officer  
09.07.25

# Cllr. Rob Warren - Monthly Report – June 2025

## Flood Warden

There were no exceptional rainfall events in June, and no reported issues of blocked or surcharging gullies other than those on or associated with Oxford St. There has been an ongoing issue of straw and farmyard and/or stable waste being blown off open-top and flat-bed trailers being driven up and down the hill, where it collects in the gutters. This then gets washed into gullies and consolidates, causing blockages of the gully grids and culverts, requiring constant vigilance and maintenance during rain events. As a result of this debris entering the road drains, the culvert that takes all the Oxford St flow under Lottage Rd to the bourne is now blocked and the road floods during rainstorms. There has been an informal approach made to one of the operators known to frequent Oxford St asking that efforts be made to mitigate the amount of detritus blowing off the trailers and onto the road, and the situation will be monitored closely going forward for signs of improvement.



*Blocked gully at 27 Oxford St*

## SID Traffic Speed Signs

Working together with Cllr. Lester, and with the assistance of Nigel Payne, June has been a month of discovery and increasing familiarity with these devices. After effecting a repair on the South St unit, all three are now displaying speeds, warnings, etc., but only the West St and Castle St devices yield useable data. Full results for June from these two SIDs have been sent to the Clerk, with a brief synopsis below for the PC's interest.

West St: Vehicles In – 32,287 Avg Speed In – 32.1 mph

Castle St: Vehicles in – 8,818 Vehicles Out – 10,190 Average Speed In – 31.0 mph Average Speed Out – 31.5mph

Cllr. Lester and I are waiting for news of when we take the SID certification course, while the Road Safety Course planned for July 4<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled, with plans to re-schedule after the summer period.

One item of note is that the newer Elan unit can be configured for an addition time slot, e.g. for a school zone. If the now-obsolete West St SID were replaced with a new Elan unit, this could be configured to give additional warnings and traffic calming in that section of West St during school pick-up and drop-off times.

## Parish Steward

A meeting with the Steward on June 3 was both beneficial and informative, leading to a better understanding of the role and of the limitations in the scope of work permitted to be undertaken. A list of suggested items for consideration was sent to the Steward on June 26 in advance of his next visit scheduled July 2.

## Village Centre

The water level in the pond was topped up mid-June and again on July 1, where the hose was run for 5 hours to raise the water level by max. 5cm. The ducklings seemed pleased to be having more paddling depth.

Cllr. Rayner has advised that the issue of the unbalanced and overstressed limb on the chestnut tree by the pond will be raised with the arborist when he visits to inspect the Rectory Wood area in July. This issue has taken on enhanced relevance in light of the recent tragedy involving the death of child from a collapsing tree limb that was insufficiently or improperly supported.