



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025
Memorial Hall, Oxford Street,
Aldbourne
7.30 pm

Members Present:

Councillors: P. Lawler (Chairman), S. Muirhead (Vice Chairman)
M. Adams, J. Aplin, V. Butler, A. Edmonds, C. Elms, R. Oswald,
J. Paterson, J. Rayner, C. Rust, P. Trayes, R. Warren

Officers Present: Mrs K Clay, Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: 7 members of the public

74/25 Apologies

Apologies noted from Councillors: T. Berisha, R. Lester.

75/25 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Elms/Cllr Muirhead

76/25 Minutes of the last meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 9 July 2025 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

77/25 Planning Committee Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 9 July 2025.

78/25 Outstanding Items Review

Update on the following items:

- a) (04/06/2025) Pump plate out of alignment – Cllr Adams organised the re-alignment of the base plate and it is now back in the correct orientation.
- b) (09/07/2025) B4192 verge cut, and football field hedge cut – Both were carried out shortly after the July meeting.
- c) (09/07/2025) Abandoned vehicles - Wiltshire Council and the police could not provide any assistance with the poorly parked vehicle in The Square. The vehicle did move about 2 weeks after the July meeting. The vehicle on Farm Lane was reported to enforcement at Wiltshire Council and the DVLA as it had no tax or MOT. Before any action could be taken it disappeared!
- d) (09/07/2025) Overhanging trees on Goddards footpath - A letter was sent to the owners of the trees, and they have responded to advise that they will take action but to please bear with them whilst they arrange for these works.
- e) (09/07/2025) Invasive trees Oxford St/Lottage Rd triangle – These will be dealt with during the winter maintenance of the fruit trees across the village.
- f) (09/07/2025) Further clearing of the grips on the Four Barrows bridleway - Reported to Wiltshire Council and the neighbouring resident has also confirmed they will provide additional help.

79/25 Accounts

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rust/Cllr Edmonds

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.

80/25 Clerks Report

- a) The first quarter finance check has been completed by Cllr Rayner, with no comment.
- b) Following several complaints from walkers about the deep rut in the middle and overgrown hedges on the section of byway ALD20 between Alma Road and Lottage Road, it was reported to Wiltshire Council. It has been closed with "does not meet intervention level, will close case".
- c) The external audit has been completed by PKF Littlejohn with no comments.
- d) There have been problems with both door locks for the public toilets. An engineer came out today and both have been repaired. There is now a spare lock available should there be problems again in the future.

81/25 Document Review

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Muirhead

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Code of Conduct with no changes and the updates to the Data Protection Policy, Document Retention Policy, Memorial Policy, Pre-planning Application Meetings Guidance and Guidance following the death of a Senior or National Figure, and to revoke the use of the Large Project Procedures.

The documents which are required to be published will be added to the website.

82/25 Public Session

- Request for two new bins in Goddards play area due to existing ones becoming unusable due to wear and tear.
- Update from ARC on the drafting of plans for Palmer's Field.
- Concern raised about the speed of traffic along South Street (after Turnpike). The residents in this location have arranged their own speed survey to be carried out to allow them to present results to the Council, with a view to requesting that consideration is given to some form of speed reduction measures.

It was noted that speeding is a concern of residents on all the roads into/out of the village. The new messaging on the SID in Oxford Street is having a positive effect on speeds at this location, and it is hoped to roll this out to other areas.

83/25 Community Room

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Lawler/Cllr Muirhead

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the installation of a freestanding storage pod in the attic of the Community Room (Heritage Centre) by Aldbourne Heritage Group.

84/25 Trees

The inspection of trees in Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field (including the tree line by the tennis court) has been undertaken. No works are required in Rectory Wood or by the tennis court. There are two Elms needing to be felled by the road at the top of Palmer's Field. However, they are in an area which has no ownership registered. The neighbouring property is going to liaise with SSN to see if they will remove them as they do pose a danger to nearby electricity lines.

Costs for work to remove the branch on the Chestnut tree by the pond and one branch of a Goat Willow near the Winterbourne on Palmer's Field have been agreed under delegation and they will be undertaken on 22 September 2025.

There have been further complaints about the temporary bike jumps in Rectory Wood, particularly in relation to the uneven surface and debris/rubbish left behind. Cllr Rayner will arrange a working party to clear and tidy the area. It is anticipated that now the schools have returned, and with the change in the weather, that the use of the area for this activity will cease. The area will continue to be monitored, and further action taken if required.

85/25 SIDs

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Warren/Cllr Butler

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to spend up to £6,215 on two Evolis ElanCity Solar Speed Indicator Devices, with the funding for both units to be taken from the available Community Infrastructure Levy. The two older obsolete and malfunctioning SID Signs units will be removed from Council assets and disposed of.

86/25 Football field

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Trayes/Cllr Aplin

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow Ramsbury Football Club U15 & U16 teams to use the football field for practice sessions only on a Saturday morning. This will be subject to conditions for use of the area, which will include pitch inspections prior to use of the field.

The purchase of the unit mentioned in the meeting supporting papers had fallen through.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Trayes/Cllr Paterson

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Trayes, Cllr Paterson and Cllr Lawler, is delegated to consider any unit brought forward for consideration to be installed on the football field by Aldbourn Royals FC. If time permits, all councillors will be emailed the details for comment. Consideration of the unit's size in relation to whether planning would be required should be given by ARFC when considering the purchase of any unit.

ARFC have advised they had been told that Operation Nightingale wish to dig on the field again in 2026. The Parish Council confirmed that it had not been contacted by the organisation about this.

87/25 Playing/Sports Inspections

All inspections were carried out manually because the playground inspection software failed this month. At least one of the flat benches in Goddards has rotted away (the seat has been removed) and others are not fairing much better. The costs for some replacement benches will be investigated, along with some new bins.

88/25 Councillor Reports

- a) Request for some social media promotion of dog fouling, which is increasing again.
- b) Some clearance up to the bench at Southward Triangle has been carried out. The hedges will need some pruning soon to stop the views being blocked. Sadly, Mr Henderson will no longer be able to carry out the maintenance of this area after this season. Either another volunteer will have to be found, or the Council will need to look at adding it to the grounds maintenance contract.

- c) There has been some damage to the village green following recent events. This will be looked at with a view to whether repair works will be required, or whether it is likely to return to its original state naturally.
- d) The verge wilding areas have not been cut yet.
- e) Hare coursing is a problem in the area. If anyone sees anything suspicious, it should be reported to the police. Suspicious vehicles which are seen can be checked on the DVLA website to see if they have current tax/MOT and reported to the police if not.
- f) There will be a clearance of the Winterbourne on Saturday 8 November. This will be undertaken by hand, and volunteers to help will be very welcome. A response from the Environment Agency about whether they will be able to help is awaited.
- g) A report provided by Cllr Warren on SIDs (including stats), parish steward, flood wardens, and the village centre is attached to these minutes.
- h) Request for white gates at the entrance to the village on Lottage Road. Enquiries will be made to see if this would be viable.
- i) There is some Japanese Knot Weed growing on footpath BAYD21 off the B4192 opposite Ford Farm. This will be reported to Wiltshire Council via MyWilts.
- j) Complaint received about the hedge opposite Whitley Road growing out into the road. Councillors will view the hedge with a decision on any action to be taken at the October meeting.

89/25 Wiltshire Council

Owing to a serious accident on the A4 causing gridlocked roads, Cllr Sheppard had sent his apologies because he was unable to get to Aldbourne.

90/25 Public Session

- Question about water running from a property in Lottage Road into the road, which has been occurring for some time.

It was noted that Thames Water had been out but would not take action as the leak is on private property. The resident is actively seeking to engage a contractor to undertake repair work.

91/25 Next Meeting

Confirmed as Wednesday 1 October 2025 @ 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.57 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 1 October 2025



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Account Balances as at 04/09/2025

	£
Current account	4,080.90
Deposit account	<u>79,508.37</u>
Total	<u>83,589.27</u>

Receipts	£
Category	Amount
VAT Refund	3,641.78
Feast Tolls	120.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	3,895.54
	<u>7,657.32</u>

Payments	£	£
Category	Net Total	VAT
Audit fee (external)	315.00	63.00
Bank services fee	8.50	0.00
Mowing/Football field maint	130.00	50.00
Office costs	25.36	2.90
Pond	60.19	6.67
Staff/contract costs (inc payments to HMRC)	1849.17	0.00
Toilets/community room	407.62	40.89
Tree inspection	208.33	41.67
Venue hire	26.25	0.00
	<u>3,030.42</u>	<u>205.13</u>

Mrs K Clay – Responsible Financial Officer
10.09.25

Cllr. Rob Warren - Monthly Report – July - August 2025

Flood Warden

Many gullies and gulley grids are currently blocked or restricted with straw strewn from farm vehicles during the harvest, and efforts are underway to clear them before the Autumn leaf drop causes further blockages.

I am due to attend a Flood Warden seminar in Marlborough on Sept 16.

Nick Josephy is organising clearing the bourne along South St of weeds before the bourne runs again. I have contacted the Environment Agency with a request for help in clearing the bourne, and have been notified that I should receive a response by the end of this month. The groundwater level at Water Acre is still falling, despite the recent rains, and is now lower than four of the past five years.

SID Traffic Speed Signs

Following concerns of excess speeds in the section of South St to the south of Farm lane, the two older SIDs' locations were swapped in order to produce reliable data for South St. Results below are from July 22 thru August 31 from the SID located at the junction of South St and Farm Lane monitoring traffic inbound to the village.

Total vehicles, 86,301 - Average vehicles daily, 2,054 - Average Speed, 31 mph - 85th Percentile Speed, 32.5 mph. See snapshot table below.

Following concerns of traffic speeds from a resident of Oxford St, the Elan SID was moved from Castle St to the Oxford St location on July 25th. This was first operated in Spy Mode, which collects data but with no display visible to drivers, then in three configurations with varying degrees of aggression: Polite Mode, Stern Mode, and then Angry Mode. These modes were designed and configured by myself and can be easily modified. The results of the data collection can be seen below, which suggests that the most aggressive modes are the most effective at slowing traffic in that location.

On July 31st I attended an on-line meeting of the Marlborough area Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG), substituting for the Clerk who was unable to attend. Funding for the 20 mph limit area scheme was apparently approved, and the work appears to have been scheduled for some time this year, although there was much confusion and uncertainty throughout the meeting.

After stating that Aldbourne PC had voted to adopt the scheme and approved funding up to £5,125, I voiced my opinion that a 20 mph speed limit area did not satisfy the original request for virtual pathways on Marlborough Rd and Castle St, and that the implementation of such a speed limit would have minimal if any effect on the speed of traffic in those locations, already assessed at being below 20 mph. I stated that pedestrians' anxiety and concerns for their safety and wellbeing in those locations was not due to the speed of traffic, but rather the size and proximity of motor vehicles to foot traffic, especially considering the surge in ownership of wide-bodied SUV's in the UK. On this point I welcomed the support of Cllr. Shepard. I requested that if this scheme were to go ahead, just one repeater sign be installed after each limit sign at entry points to the 20 mph area, as per Department for Transport Circular 01/2013, and, in accordance to that Circular, that these signs be roundels on the road rather than post signs in order to lessen the negative visual impact on the village. The Highways Officer stated that he was unaware of this DfT document and these provision, and that he would have to look into the matter.

I have submitted a detailed Agenda Request to the Clerk, along with supporting documents, for the PC to re-visit and debate the issue of the 20 mph area in light of information that may not have been known or available to those making the earlier decision to adopt the scheme. Also, as the majority of the Councillors of the current session of the PC were not party to the original decision, it is felt that the opinions of the current Councillors should be considered. The Clerk confirmed an item will be included in the October Agenda.

Parish Steward

The Parish Steward visited July 2 and Sept 2 and carried out those tasks I'd requested, while also attending to Find and Fix issues. This arrangement is working well and producing good results, with the Steward and I having a good working relationship.

Village Centre

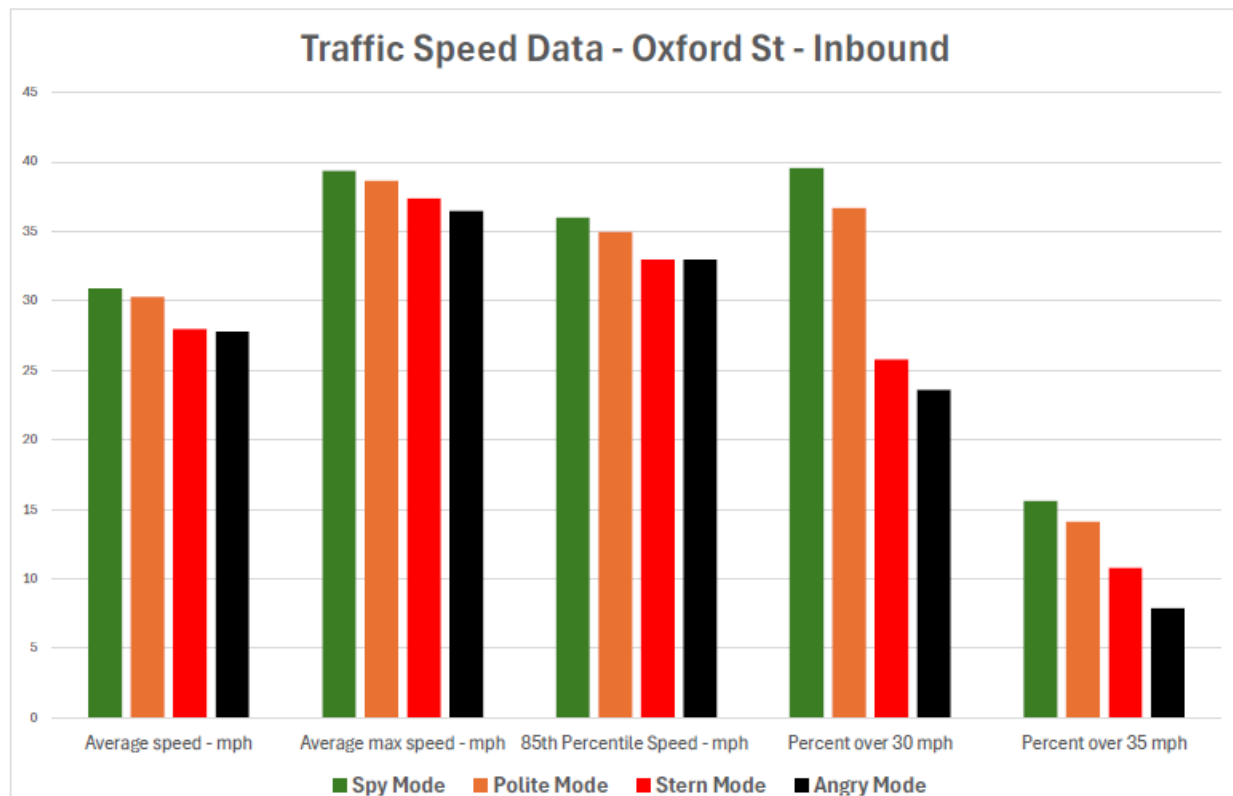
The water level in the pond was very low for a time but was closely monitored. 10 cu m (10,000 litres) was added just before the hosepipe ban, and subsequently another 12.7 cu m (12,700 litres) was added in mid August following consultation with the Clerk due to concerns for the health and well-being of the aquatic life and ducklings. This move was applauded by many residents who visit the pond often and who had voiced concerns.

A replacement length of hose and fittings have been purchased in order to add water to the pond or elsewhere when needed, as the original items have been found to be inadequate and unserviceable.

SID Data Snapshot

Location	May '25	June '25	July '25	Aug '25	Aug '25	Sept '25	
West St							
July 1st thru 20th							
Total volume	29,952	31,245	31,243	Unreliable Data	Unreliable Data	Unreliable Data	
Daily average volume	953	1,042	1,488				
Average speed	33 mph	32 mph	32 mph				
85th Percentile	34 mph	33 mph	33.5 mph				
South St							
July 21st thru 31st			Aug 1 thru Aug 15	Aug 16 thru Aug 31			
Total volume	Unreliable Data	Unreliable Data	22,715	29,900	33,686		
Daily average volume			2,065	1,993			
Average speed			31 mph	30.7 mph			
85th Percentile			33 mph	32.5 mph			
Castle St - Inbound							
July 1st thru 23rd							
Total volume	7,367	8,818	7,698	No SID	No SID	No SID	
Daily average volume	390	406	430				
Average speed	28.0 mph	28.5 mph	30.8 mph				
Average max speed	36 mph	36.6 mph	36.9 mph				
85th Percentile	33.0 mph	33.5 mph	35.0 mph				
Castle St - Outbound							
July 1st thru 23rd							
Total volume	8,537	10,190	8,316	No SID	No SID	No SID	
Daily average volume	452	469	464				
Average speed	30.0 mph	29.8 mph	30.6 mph				
Average max speed	37 mph	36.9 mph	36.9 mph				
85th Percentile	34.0 mph	34.0 mph	34.0 mph				
Castle St - Combined							
July 1st thru 23rd							
Total volume	15,904	19,008	16,014	No SID	No SID	No SID	
Daily average volume	842	875	894				
Average speed	31.1 mph	31.3 mph	31.3 mph				
Average max speed	36.5 mph	36.8 mph	36.9 mph				
85th Percentile	34.3 mph	34.8 mph	34.8 mph				
Oxford St - Inbound							
Range = 180m	July 25th thru Aug 7		Aug 8 thru Aug 21		Aug 22 thru Sept 5		
Total volume	No SID	No SID	6,405	6,049	9,150		
Daily average volume			SPY 557	POLITE 544	STERN 610	ANGRY	
Average speed			MODE 30.9 mph	MODE 30.3 mph	MODE 28.0 mph	MODE	
Average max speed			39.4 mph	38.67 mph	37.4 mph		
85th Percentile			36.0 mph	35 mph	33 mph		
Percent over 30 mph			39.6%	36.7%	25.80%		
Percent over 35 mph			15.6%	14.1%	10.80%		
Oxford St - Outbound							
July 25th thru Aug 7							
Aug 8 thru Aug 21			Aug 22 thru Sept 5		Sept 6 thru Sept 18		
Total volume	No SID	No SID	7,715	7,546	9,539		
Daily average volume			SPY 655	POLITE 666	STERN 636	ANGRY	
Average speed			MODE 32.1 mph	MODE 32.08 mph	MODE 30.4 mph	MODE	
Average max speed			41.8 mph	41.35 mph	41.1 mph		
85th Percentile			37.0 mph	37 mph	36.0 mph		
Percent over 30 mph			52.6%	52.9%	44.28%		
Percent over 35 mph			21.9%	21.6%	18%		
Oxford St - Combined							
July 25th thru Aug 7							
Aug 8 thru Aug 21			Aug 22 thru Sept 5		Sept 6 thru Sept 18		
Total volume	No SID	No SID	14,120	13,595	18,689		
Daily average volume			SPY 1,212	POLITE 1,210	STERN 1,246	ANGRY	
Average speed			MODE 31.5 mph	MODE 31.19 mph	MODE 29.2 mph	MODE	
Average max speed			40.6 mph	40.0 mph	39.3 mph		
85th Percentile			36.5 mph	36 mph	34.5 mph		
Percent over 30 mph			46.1%	44.8%	35.04%		
Percent over 35 mph			18.7%	17.8%	14.40%		
MODES:							
SPY MODE	No display shown to drivers, but data being collected from both inbound and outbound directions.						
POLITE MODE	"Welcome" display below 30 mph, yellow digits 31-33 mph, and red flashing digits at 34 mph and above. Data collected.						
STERN MODE	Same "Welcome" message as Polite Mode but flashing digits and warnings above 30 mph. Data collected.						
ANGRY MODE	Aggressive messaging above 30 mph with flashing red digits, warning triangle, strobes, etc. Data collected.						
Modes activated for approx 14 days each. ANGRY mode not activated until Sept 6							

Angry Mode Data for Inbound Traffic on Oxford Street from 6 September



MODES:

SPY MODE No display shown to drivers, but data being collected from both inbound and outbound directions.

POLITE MODE "Welcome" display below 30 mph, yellow digits 31-33 mph, and red flashing digits at 34 mph and above. Data collected.

STERN MODE Same "Welcome" message as Polite Mode but flashing digits and warnings above 30 mph. Data collected.

ANGRY MODE Aggressive messaging above 30 mph with flashing red digits, warning triangle, strobes, etc. Data collected.

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