

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2022
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

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

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: Twenty members of the public, Cllr J Sheppard (Wiltshire Council),
Mr J Bishop (Place Studio)

21/141. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Hill

21/142. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

There were no declarations of interest.

21/143. Consider the Minutes of the November 2021 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 November 2021 be approved and signed.

21/144. Consider monthly financial statement

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the accounts and cheques for payment as presented by the clerk.

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

Cllr Stibbard arrived during discussions of this item

21/145. Consider 2022/2023 budget & precept

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the budget for 2022/2023 as presented and set the precept amount at £40,788 for 2022/2023.

The precept amount has increased by 13.28%. This equates to a 50p rise a month for a Band D property. The total precept amount for a Band D property will be £50.83, which is £4.24 per month. Compared to other large villages in Wiltshire and nearby Berkshire, Aldbourne's precept rates are considerably lower.

A copy of the budget and precept is attached as [Appendix B](#).

21/146. Review of outstanding issues

- a) (08/09/2021) SIDs faulty – Cllr Hill has found a local company who can look at the electrics and hopefully fix the ongoing issues with the units.
- b) (08/09/2021) Drug dealing in The Square – Letter sent to Mr Philip Wilkinson (PCC) on 12 October 2021. Due to the volume of correspondence received on this issue there will be no reply. However, Cllr Sheppard confirmed that 'county lines' drug issues were a priority for Mr Wilkinson and he is providing more resources to help tackle it.

- c) (06/10/2021) Speeding - Letter sent to Mr Philip Wilkinson (PCC) on 12 October 2021. Due to the volume of correspondence received on this issue there will be no reply. However, Cllr Sheppard confirmed that speeding was a priority for Mr Wilkinson, and he is providing more resources to help tackle it.
- d) (06/10/2021) Purchase of new VAS/SID – Cllr Hill no longer feels purchasing another SID is the correct course of action currently. He is looking into other options, such as trying to re-establish the Community Speed Watch.
- e) (06/10/2021) Street light out on West Street (near Back Lane) – Now repaired.
- f) (06/01/2021) Verge cutting - Letter to be sent to Cllr McClelland this month reminding him about the PC's request for the verges in the parish to be cut earlier.
- g) (03/11/2021) Signs for play areas - The dog signs were ordered after the last meeting and have been installed in all the play areas.
- h) (03/11/2021) School crossing light – Wiltshire Council advise the unit has been repaired.
- i) (03/11/2021) ARC proposed plans for Palmer's Field - Further consultation being held by ARC in February. The Parish Council will discuss the plans as soon as they are asked to by ARC.

21/147. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Query about traffic calming by the Post Office junction. There have been rumours that it is being considered.

The Council confirmed that there are no plans to install traffic calming by the Post Office. Should this change in the future there would be a consultation with the village before any decision was made.

- Parking around the Post Office area was raised as an issue for the school coaches. School children have been late several times recently due to inconsiderately parked cars opposite Castle Street.

The issue of parking by the Post Office has been discussed many times over the years. It was agreed to add an item to the February agenda to allow for further discussions.

- Questions about housing allocation numbers.
- Question about school places in relation to further housing.

21/148. Discuss the indicative housing needs allocation for Aldbourn within Wiltshire Council's Local Plan Review

It was **RESOLVED** six in favour, five against, with three abstentions, that Aldbourn Parish Council will not challenge the allocation of forty (40) new homes by 2036 for Aldbourn in the Wiltshire Council Local Plan Review.

The vote on this item was taken out of order following discussions under item 21/149.

21/149. Consider updates, including decision on site allocations, to the draft Neighbourhood Plan following Regulation 14

Cllr Deuchar thanked Place Studio for the work they have carried out to get the Neighbourhood Plan to the current stage. Without their help the plan would never have got as far as it has. Cllr Deuchar also expressed thanks to the other steering committee members, Miss C Wallin and Mr C Williams. The Chairman added the Council's thanks to everyone who has been involved in producing the neighbourhood plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is for the whole community of Aldbourn but does have to follow the processes laid down in law. The current plan has almost entirely been funded by grants, with little precept being used.

Jeff Bishop from Place Studio spoke about the recent Regulation 14 process and the outcome of this in terms of the feedback received. Particularly what the consequences were of leaving in or removing the Lottage Road site allocation.

A full and frank discussion was held by the Council in relation to site allocations, housing supply and sewer flooding.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that due to the huge amount of information needing to be processed, to defer further discussion/decisions on an update to the Aldbourn Neighbourhood Plan until the February 2022 meeting.

21/150. Update on refurbishment of the public toilets

The toilet doors should be with the supplier by mid/late January, and they aim to fit them in early February.

There has sadly been further vandalism in the form of offensive graffiti which has meant that both toilets have had to be closed. Someone from the village has offered to try and help remove it, and a contractor will also be coming out to try the same and also a deep clean the toilets.

21/151. Update on works in Rectory Wood & Palmer's Field

The contractors were in the village last week and Monday this week and have completed all the works agreed.

Certhia Consulting will be asked for the costs of conducting a further inspection of the Ash trees in Rectory Wood this year.

21/152. Update on virtual paths following December CATG meeting and consider any further action required

Cllr Ainsworth reported back on the discussion of the request for virtual paths on Marlborough Rd, Farm Lane and Castle Street at the December CATG meeting. It was agreed by CATG to prioritise the request for virtual paths at their March meeting. However, they asked that the Council prioritise only one road at first, as each one needs significant research and investigation by Wiltshire Council. This seemed counter intuitive to the Council as they felt it would surely be more cost effective to carry this out for all at the same time.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Parish Council's preference is that all three roads are considered. However, Marlborough Rd will be put forward as the priority, with Farm Lane in addition, should it not be possible for all three roads to be approved.

Cllr Sheppard advised that as Chairman of CATG, he will be pushing for all three roads to be added to the priority list.

21/153. Consider adoption of the November & December 2021 planning committee minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the planning committee minutes from the meetings held on Wednesday 3 November 2021 & Wednesday 8 December 2021.

The minutes of the 8 December 2021 meeting were signed.

21/154. Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard had attended a recent Environment Select Committee meeting where the head of highways had discussed verge cutting. Cllr Sheppard raised the issue of lack of communication with the parishes and how he is trying to get the highways department to listen to what the parishes want to have carried out. He impressed upon the head of highways that it is not that parishes dislike long grass and are complaining because they think the parish look untidy, but that they are concerned about highway safety. At the same meeting, he also raised the issues of maintenance of drains and gullies. He and three other councillors with rural parishes were pushing for more resources to put into this service. Currently the gully clearing schedule means they are only cleared once every three years!

There are 150,000 Ash trees bordering highways in Wiltshire and 7,700 of those need immediate work. This is an expense which was not expected or budget for by Wiltshire Council, and inevitably means there will be cutbacks in other areas.

21/155. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

a) The issue of the path surface along South Street was raised again, with a request that the Parish Council considers paying for repairs.

More details would be needed if the Council is to consider actioning this. However, Wiltshire Council advised in November that this repair would be a priority. Cllr Sheppard confirmed he would enquire on whether there was a date for the repair works.

b) The Jubilee Committee led by Mr S Goddard, are due to meet soon in order that proposals can be brought to the Council for consideration at their February 2022 meeting.

c) It is frustrating that the Parish Steward cannot undertake many jobs due to them being considered 'unsafe' for the operative to carry out.

Cllr Sheppard asked that a list of jobs which the Council have been advised cannot be carried out to be sent to him.

d) The Green Canopy to be planted on Poors Gorse received a good response to the Dabchick article, with offers of funding, trees, and help forthcoming. The trustees of the land were happy for trees to be planted there. The interested parties will make arrangements to begin the planting within the next month. This project is being co-ordinated independently from the Parish Council.

e) Thanks were expressed to Mr Hale for once again removing all the green waste taken from the Winterbourne when volunteers recently cleared it.

21/156. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Question about the toilets and how much they cost to maintain.
- Further comment on site allocations and neighbourhood plan.
- Further comment about any new building and sewer flooding.
- Comment about including, or not including the Lottage Road site in the neighbourhood plan.

21/157. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

21/158. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 2 February 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.48 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 2 February 2022