

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2023
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL****Present**

Cllr W Brown (Chairman)

Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr H Bland, Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr B Hill, Cllr N Josephy,
Cllr P Lawler, Cllr A Phizacklea Cllr J Rayner

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

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

Prior to the start of the meeting PCSO Melissa Camilleri gave a police update.

83/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr C Elms, Cllr S Muirhead,
Cllr A Stibbard

**84/23 Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda &
granting of any dispensations required**

There were no declarations of interest.

85/23 Consider the Minutes of the July 2023 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 5 July 2023 be approved and signed.

86/23 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 Josephy and Cllr Phizacklea.
A copy of the financial report is attached as Appendix A.

87/23 To note External Audit Report

It was noted that there were no comments or exceptions raised by PKF Littlejohn LLP in
relation to the external audit. A general comment was raised in their letter that JPAG from
the 2023/2024 period will require all councils to have an email that belongs to the Council
and for which they have access. It is recommended that this is connected to a .org, .gov or
website domain. The Chairman does have the password for the current Council email
should it be required.

88/23 Review of outstanding issues

- a) (07/06/2023) Football field surface – Operation Nightingale are returning late to roll the
area. They will also be asked to re-roll last year's area at the same time.
- b) (05/07/2023) Ford Farm Hedge – This has been cut and the debris on the path cleared.
- c) (05/07/2023) Nettles along the winterbourne – This has been chased three times by the
Clerk. The contractor has promised to carry it out this week.
- d) (05/07/2023) Tree planting by Carbon Neutral – More details should be available for
further consideration of this project at the October meeting.

89/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Thanks were expressed to Cllr Josephy and DIG in relation to the Thames Water meeting and their ongoing efforts in relation to surcharging across the village.
- Exasperation expressed at the nettles being allowed to grow so out of control along the winterbourne banks and that a solution for upcoming years is urgently required.

Item taken out of order

99/23 Consider response to planning applications

PL/2023/06423 2 Chalkwell, Southward Lane – Proposed first floor extension and ground floor conversion of existing car port to provide study and ensuite.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously, no comment, no objection.

PL/2023/06519 1 Windmill Close – Addition of external wall insulation and render, replacement roof.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously, no comment, no objection.

90/23 Consider any action required following the meeting with Thames Water in relation to the Aldbourne sewer system

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Josephy will draft letters to Wiltshire Council planning and Thames Water re-iterating the ongoing problems of surcharging and the concern about the additional pressure of further properties being added to the network. The letters will be sent to all councillors for review before the Clerk submits them on behalf of the Council. It is also agreed that the next step in terms of liaising with Thames Water is for DIG to meet with them to continue to press them for the works promised at tonight's meeting. It was further agreed to rescind the decision made at item 66/23 on 5 July 2023, due to new information received. Re-consideration of this action will be made if required at a future meeting.

91/23 Clerks Report

- a) The first quarterly finance check (March-May 2023) has been carried out by Cllr Hill with no comment or issues to raise.
- b) The remaining gate backing onto Whitley Field is currently only being used for the ongoing building works at the property. The Council will keep in contact with the owner to ensure that the gate is permanently closed off once the works are completed.
- c) Georgina Clampitt-Dix (Head of Spatial Planning) confirmed that the Local Plan does recognise that the 'residual housing requirement' will change over the plan period and enables fresh calculations to be carried out when needed. The total housing allocation changed from 40 to 42 due to a revised methodology for calculating this. [Click on this link](#) to view the full explanation. Aldbourne is at page 172-174.
- d) Mr Cook is investigating whether there has been a breach of Section 143 of the Highways Act in relation to the wall at Foundry Cottage in Lottage Road.
- e) The Clerk is having an initial online discussion with Gigaclear next week in relation to their plans to bring FTTP to Aldbourne.

92/23 Update on resurfacing of South Street footpath and consider any further action required

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that whilst there has been a considerably improvement to the path surface, not all works within the contractors works specifications were carried out, and that due to this payment will be temporarily withheld. Cllr Brown is delegated to liaise with the contractor to discuss the issues raised and report back to the Council at the October meeting for consideration of further action.

93/23 Update on refurbishment of the public toilets

The new handwasher dryer unit has been installed. This completes the latest phase of refurbishment works. There have been lots of positive feedback about the refurbishments.

94/23 Update on virtual paths and 20-mph survey requests to LHF1G and consider addition of further roads for a 20-mph survey

It was **RESOLVED** that following advice from the lead highways engineer, Mr S Hind, that the decision made at item 68/23 5 July 2023 will be amended due to new information. The request for a 20-mph survey for roads south of the B4192 (Marlborough Road, Castle Street, The Butts, Southward Lane and Farm Lane) will continue and that the Council approves expenditure of £725 towards the costs (25% of £2,900).

The 20-mph survey request for the roads north of the B4192 will be rescinded.

Reconsideration of a 20-mph survey on the Green, Back Lane, Crooked Corner, The Square Lottage Road & Old South Street, can be made if required once the project for the roads to the south is completed.

95/23 Report on play area inspections and update recent repair works

The latest inspections have been carried out and comments logged on the shared spreadsheet. The new swing seats and chains for Goddards were installed in July. The replacement handholds and springer are still awaited, shutdown of the factories over the summer has delayed these works.

The rope on the slope of the multiplay unit in Goddards had frayed and there were exposed metal strands. ARD have removed the rope and a new one should be installed within a couple of weeks. Expenditure of £240 +VAT approved under emergency expenditure.

96/23 Update on Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field tree survey and consider any works required

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to carry out the works in Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field as recommended in the Certhia survey dated 5 September 2023 and the Horse Chestnut by the pond as recommended in the Certhia survey dated 21 April 2023 and that the relevant permissions and quotes for the work will be sought.

97/23 Consider expenditure for further pond repairs

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve expenditure of up to £200 (net) for further minor works to rectify the problem leaks within the concrete of the pond. If more expansive works are required a new proposal will be brought back to the Council for consideration.

98/23 Consider response to latest ARC plans for Palmer's Field

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that, the Parish Council supports the application by ARC to Wiltshire Council for planning permission for the development of sports and recreation facilities on Palmers Field, as set out in the outline plans submitted to the Parish Council in May 2023. Such support is given without prejudice to the terms of the Lease and Management Agreement, dated 19 July 2019, and subject to the Parish Council being given the opportunity to review the detailed plans prior to submission.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Parish Council will submit the plans on behalf of ARC but at ARC's expense, to reduce the cost of the planning application

99/23 Consider response to planning applications

Item taken out of order after item 89/23.

100/23 Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard advised that the police have been out to the village to carry out speed enforcement checks. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Sheppard on further checks.

101/23 Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) An American crayfish has been seen in the pond and is being dealt with.
- b) Received a request to move the SID on South Street further out of the village. It is not possible to move this unit, but the police will be asked to carry out speed checks here.
- c) The Elan SID data is now being downloaded by Cllr Deuchar and will be sent to the police by the Clerk. In the last month on Oxford Street, 91 vehicles approached the unit at 50 mph or above, with most slowing to an average of 30-34 mph by the time they reached the SID.
- d) Question about when the roadside verges will be cut. These are due to be cut by Wiltshire Council anytime between now and November. If sightlines are compromised these should be reported via the MyWilts system.
- e) There will be a clearance of the pond and surrounding area on 4 November 2023 @ 9.30 am, and a winterbourne clearance on 11 November 2023. Both are subject to the weather but anyone who would like to help would be most welcome.
- f) The poor surface of the Grasshills byway was raised again. Cllr Sheppard confirmed that the PRow department are acutely aware of this problem but their biggest barrier for action is the lack of funding. He confirmed that he will continue to chase this regularly but unfortunately had no expectation of a quick fix.
- g) The blocked catchpit at the top of Ewins Hill was raised again. During recent heavy rain flood barriers had to be installed at properties in The Garlings to prevent them from flooding. Cllr Sheppard confirmed that he and Mr Cook continue to push for the catchpit to be cleared.
- h) Thanks were expressed to Cllr Phizacklea for re-bagging the waste left after the carnival. The Carnival committee has apologised that they did not get collected in a timely manner.

102/23 Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

103/23 Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- ARC thanked the Council for its support of the plans for Palmer's Field. Funding will be sought once the planning has been approved. If funding cannot be secured, then the project will not proceed.

104/23 Consider co-option of one (1) councillor

One candidate had stood for co-option and was present at the meeting.

Following a signed paper ballot it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to co-opt Mr Darren Esden to Aldbourn Parish Council.

Mr Esden signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office following the meeting.

105/23 Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 4 October 2023

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



Financial Statement

Bank Account Balances – includes bank interest

Bank balance as at 06/09/2022

	£
Current account	6,377.92
Deposit account	47,910.10
Total	54,288.02

Income

Date	Payee	Reason	£ Net Total
23/08*	Scarrott & Sons	Feast Tolls	120.00
			120.00

Expenditure

Date	Paid via	Payee	£ Net Total	£ VAT	Reason
25/07*	BP	ABA (Construction) Ltd	1,534.00	306.80	Seats and chains for Goddards swings
30/07*	SO	Mrs L Keen	247.00	0.00	Toilet cleaning
04/08*	BP	Aldbourn Memorial Hall	71.25	0.00	April-June hall hire
04/08*	BP	PKF Littlejohn LLP	315.00	63.00	External audit fee
10/08*	DD	Octopus Energy	97.66	4.88	Electricity for toilets & community room
21/08	BP	Wallgate	431.78	86.36	Hand washer/dryer final payment
30/08*	SO	Mrs L Keen	247.00	0.00	Toilet cleaning
13/09	DD	Octopus Energy	95.71	4.79	Electricity for toilets & community room
13/09	BP	Aldbourn Youth Council	11.25	0.00	Room hire for ARC update meeting
13/09	BP	Mr B Hill	90.90	0.00	Sid battery charging July/August
13/09	BP	Mrs K Clay	86.05	0.00	Expenses re-imburement
13/09	BP	Aldbourn Memorial Hall	21.25	0.00	July hall hire
13/09	BP	Certhia Consulting Ltd	150.00	0.00	Rectory Wood and PF tree survey.
			3,398.85	465.83	£3,864.68 Total plus VAT

Mrs K Clay

07.09.23

* 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)