

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2022
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

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

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk/RFO

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

21/176. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr P Lawler
Not in attendance: Cllr A Stibbard

21/177. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Elms advised that he felt he had no conflict of interest in item 21/183 but understood how it could be perceived that he did.

It was **RESOLVED** five in favour and two against, that Cllr Elms is permitted to discuss item 21/183 and vote on any motion put forward in relation to it.

21/178. Consider the Minutes of the February 2022 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2 February 2022 be approved and signed.

21/179. 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](#).

21/180. Review of outstanding issues

- a) (08/09/2021) SIDs faulty – Cllr Hill is still attempting to find someone to repair both units.
- b) (06/10/2021) Street light on West Street (near Back Lane) – Awaiting repair by WC.
- c) (06/10/2021) Verge cutting – Awaiting feedback from Wiltshire Council on when this year's cuts will be carried out.
- d) (03/11/2021) Virtual paths – Proposal for all three roads to be assessed, Marlborough Rd, Castle St & Farm Lane, being put to CATG on 3 March. If assessment of all three cannot be carried out, Marlborough Rd will be the priority.
- e) (03/11/2021) ARC proposed plans for Palmer's Field – Meeting to discuss the proposals being organised, with a view to a motion being put forward for consideration at the April meeting.
- f) (03/11/2021) South Street path – Cllr Sheppard to update in May on when the repairs agreed by Wiltshire Council will be carried out. If necessary, the Council will then consider paying for the repairs.

- g) (12/01/2021) Parish Steward – Cllr Sheppard advised that Wiltshire Council will not pay the Parish Council the costs of the steward as that operative would still need to be employed, which means that they would be paying twice. He further advised that there does seem to be a breakdown in communication between what the highways engineer agrees can be carried out and what Wiltshire Council's contractor state can be carried out. Copies of the job lists will be sent to Cllr Sheppard in order that this issue can be investigated further.
- h) (02/02/22) Parking by the Post Office – The Council agreed in February to put up a sign. Cllr Sheppard advised that whatever wording the Council felt was suitable could be used. The highways engineer has offered to put down a white line at this location. The Council is not opposed to a white line but will pursue the sign option agreed as it will be quicker to action.
- i) (02/02/22) Goddards play area & Whitley Field - Review of comments from Wicksteed inspections to be made and any action required to be advised to the Clerk.

21/181. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Questions and comments in relation to the neighbourhood plan.
- Questions and comments about water ingress, springs, and sewer surcharging

21/182. Discuss Platinum Jubilee celebrations and consider any requests for funding

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to provide £3,000 from the part of the Vodaphone fund that was set aside for an all-village event to underwrite the Jubilee celebrations in Aldbourne. A decision on whether some of this money will be allocated to mugs and a beacon, and thus form part of a donation, will be taken once the costs for these items is known.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that The Green can be used for some of the events. Subject to full details being provided once available.

21/183. Consider updates, including decision on site allocations, to the draft Neighbourhood Plan following Regulation 14

The consultation meeting held by the Council on Saturday 26 March 2022 was well attended. The feedback received in connection with this meeting showed an overwhelming support for the inclusion of the Lottage Farm site. Though that is not to say there are not still those against its inclusion. The results from the Parish Council consultation showed that approximately 70% were in favour and 30% against/undecided.

It was **RESOLVED** ten in favour and one against, to include the Lottage Farm site allocation in the Aldbourne Neighbourhood Plan, along with the addition of stronger wording around sewage issues across the village and other minor updates, and once updated to submit the Plan to Wiltshire Council for inspection.

21/184. Consider expenditure for future work to the Neighbourhood Plan

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that £800 will be allocated from the Neighbourhood Plan budget for further work to be carried out to the plan from April 2022.

21/185. Update on refurbishment of the toilets

The two new doors have been installed. Cllr Phizacklea has painted over the graffiti and carried out some other refresh/cleaning works of the toilets. A problem has been discovered with the sluice drains, which will need resolving before the toilets can be reopened. The cost of works to extend the cupboard and changes to the lighting are being investigated.

Thanks were expressed to Mr G Browning for his help with the repainting of the toilets.

21/186. Discuss and consider continuation of the verge rewilding project

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the following areas will continue to be maintained as rewilding/wildflower areas:

- B1 – Verge to the left of Glebe Close
 - B2/B3 – The Green/Crooked Corner (church side only)
 - B8 – Lottage Road/Oxford Street verge
 - B15 – Both Kandahar Verges
 - B19 – Large verge on West Street (in front of Nos 10-16)
 - B20 – West Street (under the tree)
 - C1 - Goddards Play area (side nearest No 17 The Green boundary)
 - C3 – Left side of Whitley Field
- Banks surrounding the football field
(All the above areas to be cut twice a year in March and October)
- C3 – Both far sides against the boundaries of Whitley Field
(Area above to be cut once a year in March)

All areas to have a mown border around them to delineate where the wildflower/rewilding area is and to maintain tidiness. No blue hearts are permitted on any of the areas. Carbon Neutral are authorised to liaise directly with the Councils contractors on cutting schedules, but Cllr Elms or the Clerk must be advised if there are any cost implications to the work requested, in order that the Council can consider and approve this if required. The Council also asks that Carbon Neutral group take on responsibility for the wildflower area set up with the Parish Councils support in 2011 on South Street.

21/187. Consider Ash Tree survey

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that £125 is approved for a further Ash tree survey of Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field by Certhia Consulting Ltd.

The survey will be carried out later in the year when the trees are in leaf.

21/188. Consider request from Operation Nightingale for archaeological dig on the football field

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that permission for an archaeological dig on the football field by Operation Nightingale in May 2022 is given and that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, is given delegated authority to consider and approve the final details of the event.

21/189. Consider adoption of the February 2022 planning committee minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the planning committee minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2022.

21/190. Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard advised that he continues to put pressure on Thames Water regarding sewer surcharging across the village. He urged everyone in the village to also put pressure on Thames Water about this issue.

Cllr Butler left the meeting

21/191. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) There is a section of verge between Alma Cottage and Windley Ridge that is never cut by Wiltshire Council. This will be checked with the highways engineer.
- b) Councillors were asked if there was any support for entering the Best Kept Village competition. There was no support forthcoming. However, if anyone from the village would like to co-ordinate this, please contact the Clerk.

21/192. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

No further questions or requests.

21/193. Review of correspondence

The correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

21/194. Consider adoption of; i) Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures; ii) Equality & Diversity Policy; iii) Expenses Policy

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve and adopt the Discipline and Grievance Procedures, Equality and Diversity Policy, and Expense Policy as presented.

A copy of all the documents will be added to the website.

21/195. Consider changes to the Clerks employment and salary grade from April 2022

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve that from 1 April 2022 Mrs K Clay will be employed by Aldbourn Parish Council as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, at Spinal Column Point 25 (plus 4.2%). The signing of the Clerks Contract of Employment on behalf of Aldbourn Parish Council to be delegated to Cllr W Brown (Chairman of the Council).

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in item 22/196

21/196. Discuss toilet cleaning

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a full list of each job required as part of the toilet cleaning will be provided to the contractor.

21/197. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 6 April 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.11 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 6 April 2022