

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2021
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Cllr W Brown (Chairman)

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

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk/RFO

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

21/120. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Elms, Cllr P Lawler, Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr L Smitten

21/121. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

There were no declarations of interest.

21/122. Consider the Minutes of the October 2021 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 6 October 2021 be approved and signed.

21/123. 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](#).

21/124. Review of outstanding issues

- a) (06/04/2016) Poor surface of South St footpath – Letter written to Cllr McClelland. He has asked that the Head of Local Highways looks at the situation with a view to maintenance works being undertaken. There is no ETA on when the works might be carried out.
- b) (05/02/2021) – Loose manhole cover on West Street – Thames Water has been back out this week and conducted a much more substantial repair around the manhole cover. There was cautious optimism that this will finally stop the cover coming loose.
- c) (02/06/2021) Local Plan Housing Allocation – Cllr Sheppard sent an explanation of the change in the numbers allocated. This issue will be discussed further by the Council.
- d) (08/09/2021) SIDs faulty – Both units returned but one is still not working. Cllr Hill is liaising with the manufacturer about this ongoing issue.
- e) (08/09/2021) Drug dealing in The Square – Letter sent to Mr Philip Wilkinson (PCC) on 12 October 2021. No response received yet. It was noted that two police constables were in the village on Tuesday night (as posted by Marlborough Police on their Facebook page).
- f) (06/10/2021) Toilets – Two doors in green have been ordered.
- g) (06/10/2021) Speeding - Letter sent to Mr Philip Wilkinson (PCC) on 12 October 2021. No response received yet.
- h) (06/10/2021) Purchase of new VAS/SID – Councillors reviewing the details of suggested units. To be discussed further in early 2022.

- i) (06/10/2021) Wiltshire Council Climate Change consultation – A letter of support was submitted.
- j) (06/10/2021) Palmer's Field & hedge on Farm Lane – Both have now been cut.
- k) (06/10/2021) Hedges on South Street – Most of the cuttings were cleared in early October. The remaining area was added to the parish steward job list. Hedges further down were cut by residents and Cllr Josephy also helped trim some others (with residents permission). The footpath is now perfectly serviceable and safe to use again.
- l) (06/10/2021) Street light out on West Street (near Back Lane) – Reported to Wiltshire Council. ETA to be fixed is up to eight weeks, which means should be completed by early December at the latest.

21/125. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Thanks were expressed for the donation from the Vodafone fund for the art display boards. They had been used for the recent school art exhibition and helped raise £1,300.
- Comment was made about the Scouts & Guides fireworks event being held this weekend.

The Chairman reminded ARC that as lease holders it was their responsibility to set the conditions for events they give permission for on Palmer's Field. It was noted that the Scouts & Guides had made a public statement about this years event and that they will be reviewing it for future years.

21/126. Update on Neighbourhood Plan & consider any action/expenditure

The Regulation 14 consultation ends on 15 November 2021. Final reminder posters will be going up in the next week to encourage those who have not yet done so, to give their feedback on the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

21/127. Discuss Platinum Jubilee celebrations

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Butler will be the Parish Council liaison on the Jubilee Committee being set up by the Carnival Committee.

There is a meeting of the Poors Gorse committee on the 15 November and they will be discussing the proposed Queens Green Canopy tree planting. If the proposal is approved it is hoped that donations can be sought and the trees planted in the early 2022.

21/128. Discuss virtual paths and consider logging request with CATG

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to make a request to the Marlborough Community Area Transport Group for virtual paths to be added to Farm Lane, the entire length of Marlborough Road and Castle Street to Whitley Road.

Please note that this is just a request to CATG to consider the proposal. Should CATG agree to take this forward for consideration, the head highways engineer will need to view the areas requested and they will then send their recommendations back to CATG for further consideration.

21/129. Discuss response from Wiltshire Council in relation to verge cutting

Cllr McClelland responded to the Councils follow up letter but offered no real reassurance that the old cutting regime would return. He advised that the Local Highways Teams were in the process of updating the plans with a view to narrow locations being added to an earlier cut. He also advised that visibility splays were cut earlier in the season, but this was not the case for Aldbourne, despite Mr Cook requesting this be carried out. Cllr Sheppard advised that it will be January/February 2022 before a decision on the 2022 cutting is made.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the response received is still wholly unsatisfactory and that the Council will write again in early January to remind Cllr McClelland that the cutting of the Aldbourne Parish needs to be carried out much earlier in the year. A question will also be posed about whether there is any remit that would allow the Parish Council to arrange for verges to be cut.

21/130. Consider expenditure for play area signs

It was **RESOLVED** nine in favour, with two abstentions, to set a budget of up to £100 (net) to purchase signs for the play areas that either state no dogs or ask for them to be kept on a lead/picked up after.

21/131. Consider donation request towards defibrillator maintenance

It was **RESOLVED** ten in favour, with one abstention, to set a donation amount of £300 a year towards the upkeep of the Aldbourne defibrillators. The amount will not be given automatically but must be requested each year by the group responsible for their upkeep. Proof of expenditure from the previous years donation sum must be provided at the time of each request.

21/132. Consider adoption of the October 2021 planning committee minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the planning committee minutes from the meeting held on Monday 4 October 2021.

21/133. Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard had asked Wiltshire Planning if there was any likelihood of pressure to build houses in Swindon being added onto the Wiltshire housing allocation. He had been advised that this would not happen.

Cllr Sheppard advised the Council to consider increasing their precept by a substantial amount this year, and future years, as it is likely more and more functions will be passed down parish and town councils. Some nearby councils are increasing theirs by 17% for 2022/2023.

A question was asked about whether the roads would be repaired if any virtual paths were approved. Cllr Sheppard said he would hope they would but would check this.

21/134. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) The 15-year lease on the private allotments at the top of Marlborough Road ends next year and will not be renewed. Anyone wishing to keep an allotment has been advised to contact the Parish Council.
- b) The school crossing light on West Street is still flashing continuously.
- c) Query about a drain gully between Oxford Street and Lottage Road being blocked.
- d) All the highways drain gully's have been checked and a list of those blocked sent to Wiltshire Council Sewers Crew. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Oliver for carrying out the checks.
- e) The Winterbourne was cleared last weekend. The green waste will be taken by a local farmer shortly. Thanks were expressed once again to Mr Oliver, who also organised this work.
- f) Dirt and debris need clearing from the drains & paths around the edge of the football field on Southward Lane during the next Parish Steward visit.
- g) The Financial Responsibilities group will be meeting on 1 December to discuss the 2022/2023 budget and precept. The details will be forwarded to all councillors for review prior to the January 2022 meeting, when a final decision on both will be required.

21/135. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

No further questions or requests from the public present.

21/136. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

21/137. Discuss ARC's proposed plans for Palmer's Field

Any decision on the proposals has been deferred until after the public consultation that ARC is holding on Monday 29 November 2021.

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 21/138

21/138. Discuss London Bridge document

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the guidance document in relation to Operation London Bridge. A copy of this document will be held by the Clerk and Chairman.

21/139. Consider delegation during the winter recess

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to give delegated powers to the clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, over the winter recess, for all Parish Council functions where delegated powers do not already exist.

21/140. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

DRAFT

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 12 January 2022