

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Cllr W Brown (Chairman), Cllr L Smitten (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr C Ainsworth, Cllr H Bland Cllr V Butler, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr B Hill,
Cllr N Josephy, Cllr P Lawler, Cllr J Rayner

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 7 members of the public, Cllr J Sheppard (Wiltshire Council)

21/97. Apologies for absence

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

21/98. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

There were no declarations of interest.

21/99. Consider the Minutes of the September 2021 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 be approved and signed.

21/100. 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](#).

21/101. Review of outstanding issues

- a) (06/04/2016) Poor surface of South St path – Money has been allocated for footpath maintenance and this path has been added to the list, though there is no guarantee it will be included. Cllr Sheppard continues to chase this on behalf of the village.
- b) (04/07/2018) Re-instatement of Aldbourne signs at the entrance of the village – Still ongoing, a request may have to go to CATG.
- c) (02/12/2020) Trees on Marlborough Rd & Lottage Rd – Wiltshire Council have identified some trees of concern in both locations and will be working with landowners to resolve these issues. They will also be asking SSEN to add shrouding to electricity lines running through trees. Inspections in regards to tree safety will continue to be conducted by Wiltshire Council.
- d) (18/05/2021) Southward Lane catchpit – The digger that was made available for this type of work was withdrawn. Following complaints by ward councillors and highways engineers, it has been re-instated. However, enough jobs in an area must be collated before it will be assigned to work. Cllr Sheppard continues to chase this up.
- e) (02/06/2021) Local Plan Housing Allocation – Cllr Sheppard had spoken to Mr M Wilmott (Head of Development Management) and he advised there had been no change in the number of houses allocated for Aldbourne. Cllr Sheppard will double check on the exact number allocated.

21/102. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Will Thames Water be taking a proactive stance this year in relation to sewer surcharging?
- Many of the road drain grids are blocked but when reported to Wiltshire Council they will not act to clear them due to them not causing property flooding or road safety issues.
- Carbon Neutral have been speaking to residents in Cook Close about the rewilding trial there and there has been a suggestion that wildflowers could be sown here.

Cllr Josephy confirmed that he was meeting with Thames Water this week to discuss arrangements for this winter. He will be asking for the filtration unit to be installed in December 2021.

The flood wardens will conduct a review of road drains and send the list of those requiring work to Wiltshire Council.

Everyone in attendance of the meeting was urged to lobby Wiltshire Council via Cllr Sheppard to urge them to put more resources in to regular maintenance of road drains.

21/103. Consider request for donation from Vodafone fund

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to donate £300 to the Aldbourn Art Group to purchase special hanging screens which allow pictures to be exhibited during fund raising exhibitions.

21/104. Consider request for regular use of the football field

Item taken out of order after 21/108

21/105. Update on Neighbourhood Plan & consider any action/expenditure

Cllr Deuchar thanked all the councillors for delivering the Regulation 14 letters. Two drop in sessions have been held and were attended by lots of new people (as opposed to ones who have attend previous sessions). The online response form is being well used. The consultation continues until 15 November 2021.

21/106. Discuss refurbishment of the public toilets

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to purchase two steel doors, with portholes and timer access units, from Healthmatic at a cost (including installation) of £6,970 (net).

Cllr Deuchar left the meeting.

21/107. Consider expenditure for works in Rectory Wood & Palmer's Field

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to set a budget up to £7,000 (net) for tree works in Rectory Wood and Palmer's Field. A 3rd quote for the works will continue to be sought. Those who have already quoted will be asked to provide a method statement as requested in the schedule for works.

21/108. Discuss road safety concerns raised and purchase of additional SID or VAS

The issue of speeding in the village and further out was discussed. Lots of suggestions were forthcoming but most have already been discussed previously and for one reason or another have had to be discounted, as noted in the recent safety review. The pedestrian and road safety review document can be viewed [here](#).

Cllr Sheppard advised that virtual pavements had been used in other villages and had been found to help reduce speeding. He confirmed he continues to lobby the police to take the issue of speeding seriously and come out to rural areas to conduct regular speed checks and enforcement.

It was suggested that the Council look at purchasing two further SIDs to be permanently sited on West Street and South Street. Councillors will review the three that Cllr Hill recommended.

Cllr Smitten left the meeting

21/104 Consider request for regular use of the football field (item taken out of order)

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow Sarah Scade to hold boot camp exercise training sessions on the football field on Friday mornings from 8 October 2021. There will currently be no charge for use of the area, but a review will be made of this arrangement in six months and a charge may be applied at that time. Exclusive use of the field is not given. Any damage to the surface must be repaired. The organiser must have public liability insurance.

21/109. Discuss Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The Jubilee celebrations run from Thursday 2 June 2022 to Sunday 5 June 2022

Thursday 2 – Jubilee Beacons will be lit across the country

Sunday 5 – Big Jubilee Lunch

A possible location on the Poors Gorse common was suggested for some trees to be planted as part of the Queens Canopy. Councillors were urged to look at this location as well as consider whether to have a beacon, and any village celebrations during the weekend.

Groups and organisations from the village are very welcome to come forward with ideas too.

21/110. Discuss response from Wiltshire Council in relation to verge cutting

A very detailed letter raising the Council's concerns about late verge cutting had been sent to Cllr McClelland at Wiltshire Council. However, the response received did not really address the safety concerns raised or offer any reassurance that the very late cut would not occur again in 2022. Cllr Sheppard confirmed he had also chased the issue and backed up the concerns raised by the Parish Council.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to write again to Cllr McClelland to reinforce the Council's views of such late verge cutting and to express disappointment that the concerns raised had not been dealt with seriously.

21/111. Discuss how Council can help/support with climate issues in Aldbourne and consider response to Wiltshire Council draft climate strategy

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to support Wiltshire Council's draft climate strategy and that Cllr Josephy and Cllr Elms will draft a response to be sent by the clerk.

21/112. Discuss banners on the railing by the pond

There has been an increase in banners appearing on the railings either side of the pond area. It is starting to make the areas look untidy, especially when those putting them up do not remove them promptly after the event has ended. It has always been accepted that banners for local events can be displayed for two weeks but that commercial banners are not supported and will be discouraged.

21/113. Consider expenditure for cutting Palmer's Field and hedge on Southward Lane

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract Mr B Mildenhall to cut Palmer's Field a cost of £225 (net) and the hedge on Southward Lane at a cost of £40 (net).

21/114. Consider adoption of the September 2021 planning committee minutes

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the planning committee minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 8 September 2021.

21/115. Wiltshire Council report

Cllr Sheppard advised that the next Marlborough Area Board is being held on 12 October at 7.00 pm via Microsoft Teams.

Wiltshire Council has just approved plans to build Silverwood School at its Rowde campus at a cost of 35 million. This new purpose built school for SEND pupils replaces three that were no longer fit for purpose and will provide schooling for children from across Wiltshire by September 2023.

21/116. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) Cllr Josephy spoke to the owners of Ford Farm about cutting back their hedge which was overhanging the footpath on South Street. They cut it back very shortly afterwards. There are some hedge cuttings that need clearing from the path. Cllr Josephy will also speak to two other owners about hedges overhanging the path further towards Farm Lane
- b) The manhole cover is once again loose on West Street following the latest "repair".
- c) Thanks were expressed to everyone who cleared the pond and surrounding area, and to Katie Thorp for once again organising this work.
- d) Subject to the verges having been cut, there is a litter pick on Saturday 16 October. Everyone is welcome to come along to help. Meet by the pond at 9.00 am.
- e) The next CATG meeting is on 9 December at 10.00 am via Microsoft Teams. It is important that someone from the Council attends to progress outstanding issues.
- f) There is a light out on West Street by the pump.

21/117. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Residents of Cook Rd have been disappointed with the verge rewilding in this road. There was one Pyramid Orchid early in the season and since then there has just been a tangled mass of unsightly long grass. If there are any efforts to continue with the project in this area, it will require careful management to ensure it is kept tidy and not allowed to become an eyesore.
- Thanks were expressed to the Council for agreeing to donate some of the Vodafone money to the purchase of the art hanging screens.
- The large hedge on Castle Street has been cut back to allow walkers to walk closer to the edge. However, the road edge is badly eroded and the surface is very uneven with large stones within it, making it extremely unsafe to walk on. Which means pedestrians are still forced to walk further out into the road.

Cllr Sheppard confirmed he would raise this with highways.

21/118. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

21/119. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.28 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 3 November 2021