

**ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019**  
**IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, ALDBOURNE**

**Present**

Cllr. A. Edmonds (Chair), Cllr. C. Williams (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. H. Bland, Cllr. W. Brown, Cllr. J. Gould, Cllr. L. Harris, Cllr. S. Henderson,  
Cllr. S. Muirhead, Cllr. J. Rayner

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

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

**19/81. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. M. Cheney, Cllr. A. Deuchar, Cllr. B. Hill,  
Cllr. N. Josephy, Cllr. P. Lawler, Cllr. J. Moore,

**19/82. Declarations of interests in respect of any item contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required**

None

**19/83. Consider and sign the Minutes of the July 2019 Parish Council meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 July 2019 be approved and signed.

**19/84. (i) Update on matters arising;**

- a) (04/07/18) Fence at top of Lottage Rd – Mr Cook is liaising with the owners.
- b) (19/59a 03/10/18) White Lining – A revisit for the line by the bus stop and changing of the signage on the wider parking bay will be anytime between now and November 2019.
- c) (18/149h 12/09/18) Community Assets – Cllr. Lawler working towards having information on this available for the council soon.
- d) (19/59b 01/05/19) Highway infringements – Mr Cook still to look at both areas.
- e) (19/59d 01/05/19) Post Office – No further updates from Post Office Ltd on what they intend to do about this issue.
- f) (19/59e 05/06/19) Claridge Close Springer – New unit installed and is being well used.
- g) (19/59f 05/06/19) Goal posts – Cllr. Harris has put some turf down and this is establishing well. He is sorting the nets out this weekend.
- h) (19/66) Beech tree replacements – Full costs for replanting should be available for discussion at the October meeting.
- i) (19/67) 30mph limit move on Oxford Street & 20mph review – Next CATG meeting on 19 September. There should be an update on this issue after then.
- j) (19/69) School event signs – Letter about this issue sent to the school.
- k) (19/70) Aldbourne website – Cllr. Deuchar did have someone interested in helping get this up and running, but they seem to have had a change of mind. She continues to try and find people willing to help.

**19/84 ii) Review of long term issues and any actions required**

No issues raised to be reviewed.

**19/85. Clerks report**

- Whatley's have been chased several times re looking at the pump, and despite saying they would come out they still have not.
- The external audit has been completed with no comment.

Cllr. Bland offered to speak to Whatley's about the village pump.

**19/86. Receive monthly financial report and to sign any cheques for payments**

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 to these Minutes as [Appendix A](#).

**Item taken out of order****19/94. Discuss parking issues and noise levels during larger village events**

(Standing orders suspended during this item to allow members of the public to speak on the topic)

Following some of the summers events, the Parish Council were contacted with complaints about the issue of parking during them. Parking was in some case dangerous and in many cases just thoughtless, causing problems for those living and working in and around the village. The Parish Council does not have any responsibility for parking and has no powers with which it could take action, but they would encourage all event organisers to think about what they might do to mitigate the issue in the future. The football field can always be made available if required.

There are 5-6 larger scale events on The Green each year, and some of these involve music. Sadly, some of the events this year were extremely loud, which caused distress and upset to some residents. The Parish Council do not want to stop events taking place on The Green, but do need to continue to find a balance for those living in the immediate area.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to add to the existing permissions for use of The Green, conditions on the end time of events with music, as well as mention about ensuring the volume did not become so loud as to cause a nuisance to the properties surrounding The Green and the wider village. A condition will also be added asking that organisers make efforts to try and ensure there is adequate parking, and look at having plans in place to prevent vehicles parking inconsiderately at the 'pinch points' around the village.

**19/87. Questions and request from the public for councillors to consider**

- Mr Gardner spoke about the request from Aldbourne Scouts for a donation from the Vodafone fund towards new equipment for the group.

**19/88. Update on Palmer's Field Lease with ARC**

The documents have been signed and copies returned to the relevant parties. An official 'press release' signing was carried out on the 15 August, with members of the Parish Council and ARC present

**19/89. Discuss future management of Palmer's Field in conjunction with Lease**

The suggestion is that a small group of councillors form a working group to consider any requests that come in from ARC, and then recommend proposals for the council to consider. This would save lengthy discussions during meetings. It was felt that this was a good idea and that it, and who should be on it, will be discussed further at the October meeting.

**19/90. Neighbourhood Plan update and consider any actions required**

Cllr Williams advised the next stage of the plan was to go through the 'call for sites' process. There will be adverts going up soon that ask for land owners to contact the NP group with any sites they have that they feel have the potential for development. Just because a site is proposed it does not mean it is going to be developed. The process being carried out is the same one that Wiltshire Council go through on a much larger scale for the SHEELA. All sites submitted will be assessed to see if they meet the criteria required to be included in the final plan. It is a process that the group has to go through in order for the plan to meet the requirements required for a neighbourhood plan.

**19/91. Update on re-instatement of boundary in Goddards play area**

Another fence has been put back up to secure the boundary. A letter was sent to the properties that border this section of the boundary about why it was important the boundary remained secure. It also advised that should this fence be removed or damaged in the future, it would be considered criminal damage and would be reported to the appropriate authority.

**19/92. Update on SIDs and consider any action required**

A copy of the recent statistics from the SIDs whilst they were located on Oxford St, Castle Street and Marlborough Rd can be found at [Appendix B](#).

**19/93. Discuss parking & grass state on The Green & consider any action required**

Cllr. Lawler has had a sample of the soil analysed and it does show that the Ph is high and Potash is low. The areas of grass affected by low growth have recovered to some extent. Cllr. Lawler has suggested looking at maybe taking some plugs from better growth areas to put into the lower growth ones. A high Potash fertiliser could also be considered in the spring. There was no objection to Cllr. Lawler carrying out this work.

The placement of more Sarsen stones has been looked at, but it was felt that any further stones would impede residents living in the area. Parking on the grass will continue to be monitored.

**19/94. Discuss parking issues and noise levels during larger village events**

Item taken out of order after 19/86.

**19/95. Update on Library funding**

Cllrs. Edmonds, Hill, Williams & Josephy had met with Rebecca Bolton from WC to discuss the future of the library. They were pleased to find that the owners of the building are still willing to continue you with the lease, and that the library continues to be well used, with numbers visiting up on last year. A recent customer care survey rated Aldbourn library at 100%, compared to 98.1 across the county. In view of all the positives, the recommendation from the councillors who met with Ms Bolton, was that the Parish Council continue to fund a part time professional librarian at the current level. There was no objection to continuing to support the library, subject to approval of the funding in future precepts.

**19/96. Discuss Rectory Wood Maintenance**

There had been some complaints about overhanging and potentially dangerous branches in Rectory Wood. Cllr. Rayner & Cllr. Edmonds had walked around the woods, and found no branches that they felt were of concern. After speaking to residents about overhanging vegetation, it was suggested that a note be sent to all properties that border the woods, advising that they have a right to cut back overhanging vegetation. There were no objections to this being done.

SSE want to run a 'stay' across a small section of the woods behind No.20 Farm Lane, as part of moving the pole from that property. Cllr. Rayner has arranged to meet with SSE next week to discuss exactly where the 'stay' will be. He will report back exactly what is being proposed to the council in October.

**19/97. Discuss 2020 Medieval Fayre**

In May 2020 there will be a two day Medieval Fayre organised by the Heritage Group, instead of a week long festival. They are working closely with the Chippenham History Centre, local museums and groups in the village to organise events. The Chippenham History Centre are also advising the group on how to apply to the National Heritage Lottery fund.

**19/98. Consider request for donation from the Vodafone fund by Aldbourn Scout Group**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to donate £400 from the Vodafone fund to the Aldbourn Scout Group, towards the cost of a new event shelter.

**19/99. Receive & adopt the July planning committee minutes**

The Minutes from the meetings held on 8 July 2019 were approved, signed and adopted, and are attached to these minutes.

**19/100. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues**

- Cllr. Edmonds advised she had had a long discussion with the Parish Steward about what he can and cannot do. She reassured him that the council understood this.

- The lights in the toilets are flashing. These will be looked at with a view to either replacing them or getting an electrician out.
- There is now a carbon neutral group in the village. It was suggested that the Parish Council may like to give their support to the group, and also look at ways they could reduce their carbon footprint.
- The padlock and pole the gate attaches to on Whitley Field have been removed by persons unknown. The council are organising a replacement ASAP.
- The road sign for Hillwood has been enclosed within the fence of a nearby property. It was agreed to report this to WC via the MyWiltshire system.
- There are nettles growing at the side of Castle Street that need clearing. The Parish Steward has been asked to do this on his next visit, though there is no reason anyone cannot pull them out before then if they wish to, and it is safe to do so.
- One of the hedges on Castle Street has grown out into the road. Cllrs. have tried to speak to the resident about it but could not get a reply. A letter will be sent.

#### **19/101. Wiltshire Council report**

Cllr. Sheppard advised that within the next couple of months, road scalping's will be put down on the Ewins Hill byway and further over down on Hilldrop too. Cllr. Sheppard was thanked for organising scalping's to be available for the Carnival Committee to fill some of the bigger holes on Grasshills in time for the carnival parade.

#### **19/102. Correspondence**

Correspondence received and sent during the last month was noted.

#### **19/103. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider**

- Comment was made about making small areas around the village available for parking.
- It was asked if the part of Farm Lane that leads to the bungalows was still unadopted.
- An objection about the ARC sign location was lodged, as it makes it look like they have been leased the whole area.
- The weeds are still growing around the area where the trees were removed by the tennis court.
- The hedges on Southward Triangle need to be cut back. It was asked if anyone had a hedge cutter that could be borrowed to do this.
- Mr Gardner thanked the Parish Council on behalf of Aldbourn Scout group for their generous donation.

The Parish Council do have at least one area being considered for parking that they will be looking at again in the future. The Neighbourhood Plan will also be addressing this issue. The part of Farm Lane that goes to the bungalow's is still an unadopted road. The ARC sign is temporarily located where it currently is. It was put in this location to be able to update as many people as possible on future plans. Cllr. Brown advised he had sprayed the weeds once, and is intending to take another look at the area to see what still needs clearing. There were several offers of loan of a hedge cutter.

#### **19/104. Confirm date of next meeting**

Wednesday 2 October 2019 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:05

Signature of the Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ 2 October 2019