

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 2019
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, ALDBOURNE

Present

Cllr. A. Edmonds (Chairman), Cllr. N. Josephy (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. H. Bland, Cllr. W. Brown, Cllr. M. Cheney, Cllr. J. Gould, Cllr. L. Harris, Cllr. B. Hill,
Cllr. P. Lawler, Cllr. J. Moore, Cllr. A. Phizacklea, Cllr. J. Rayner, Cllr. C. Williams

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 16 members of the public, Cllr. J. Sheppard (Wiltshire Council)

19/190. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. A. Deuchar & Cllr. S. Muirhead

19/191. Declarations of interest of any item contained in the Agenda & granting of any dispensations required – There were no declarations of interest.**19/192. Consider and sign the Minutes of the February 2019 Parish Council meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2019 be approved and signed.

19/193. (i) Update on matters arising

- a) (18/149c 07/03/18) Marlborough Rd – Tree cutting debris still not cleared by WC.
- b) (18/149d 07/03/18) Memorial Tree – Cllr. Edmonds has spoken to the family and a tree type and planting location have been agreed. A date from the family is still awaited.
- c) (19/171b 04/07/18) Fence on Lottage Rd – Awaiting update from highways.
- d) (18/149g 04/07/18) Flood defence equipment – All the equipment, other than the large flood barriers, has now been moved into secure storage.
- e) (19/181 09/08/2018) SIDs – Currently the units have been taken down due to ongoing issues. A summary of all the issues will be put together which will give a better overview of whether the Council should consider trying with the company again, or continuing with their efforts to obtain a refund.
- f) (19/183 06/02/19) Wider parking bay by the pond – Martin Cook has agreed this can be installed when the highway line refresh work is carried out in the village.
- g) (19/185 06/02/19) Public toilets – The instances of vandalism have reduced dramatically since they have been locked overnight. The toilets responsibility group will continue to monitor the situation with a view to re-opening them 24/7 again.

(ii) Review of long term issues and any actions required

- a) The Garlings – The road has been patched, though a full resurface is some years away.
- b) Road gullies – Still no date on when these will be cleared. There are now several that are very blocked and there is a risk of property flooding due to this. Mr Cook will be asked for an update next week.
- c) 30mph speed limit move on Oxford Street – This is on the agenda for the next CATG meeting being held on 14 March. There is cautious optimism that it will happen fairly quickly.
- d) A refresh of highway white lining and signs is to be carried out across the village when the contractors are next in the area. A list of those requiring attention has been sent to Mr Cook.
- e) The council has once again been asked about the possibility of a 'link path' between the edge of the village and New Barns. Cllrs. Edmonds and Josephy are meeting with Mr Cook next week to discuss if it will be possible to have a path installed here.

19/194. Clerks report

- Aldbourne & Baydon Aid in Sickness scheme agreed to donate the £50 required by the First Responders for the new kit they wished to purchase.

- A request has been received from Natalie Humphreys asking for permission to park a tractor, which will be her wedding car, on The Green for about an hour on Saturday 4th May 2019, when she gets married in St Michael's Church. Her wedding is at 2pm.

The council had no objections to this, subject to the ground conditions not being too wet, that the tractor is driven straight on/off with no turning on the grass, and that if any damage occurs it is repaired at her cost in consultation with the council.

19/195. 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.

19/196. Questions and request from the public for councillors to consider

- Two residents were in attendance in response to letters received from the council about a wheelie bin and bollards being left/put on the highway. Both residents stated that they had put these items there to protect their families and property due to the speed of vehicles coming along Castle Street. Whilst they appreciated that they did compromise where pedestrians could walk, they felt most tended to walk on the other side of the road anyway. Neither were keen to remove them due to their concerns over safety and having previously encountered damage to their properties.
- There were also comments from other Castle Street residents about the speed of vehicles on this road and their roof having been damaged by vehicles repeatedly hitting it. Further comment was made that six lorries from a local company drive, at speed, along this road regularly on a Friday.
- It was reported that the work to patch The Garlings was very sub standard and in fact has caused issues in other parts of the road due to the plant equipment lifting further tarmac.

The Parish Council expressed sympathy with all the residents on Castle Street over the issues of speeding. The letters sent are standard ones that Wiltshire Council asked the council to send in the first instance when issues such as this are raised. Most of the time the residents and the council manage to work out the issue between them, without the need for Wiltshire Council to become involved. Concern was expressed that the homeowners could leave themselves liable to prosecution if there was an accident due to items being left on the highway. Cllr. Sheppard confirmed that this would be the case should such an event occur, and it be proved the items were impeding the highway. It was noted that the only agreement for the local company not to drive their lorries through the village is a 'gentleman's agreement', and there is nothing legally to stop them, or any other lorries, from doing so. Cllr. Sheppard advised he would come and have a look at the works on The Garlings, with a view to reporting the issues back to highways at Wiltshire Council.

19/197. Discuss Aldbourne Website

Mr Dyson Wilkes attended this meeting to update the council on what was happening with the village website. Mr Rupert Bound had also been invited to attend, but unfortunately was not able to do so, although he had spoken to the clerk earlier in the day to provide an update. The main issue is that the site is in need of a software update, but there are currently not enough volunteers, with enough time, to take this task on. People who are willing to write content and/or are tech savvy are very much needed to get things moving again, and then maintain the site once up and running. Discussions are also needed about whether the forum should remain, or whether in this day and age with other social media, if it is still viable. It is currently used very infrequently. Mr Bound had indicated to the clerk during their conversation that he would be willing to consider handing over the running of the website if the right person stepped up to take on the task. Without more volunteers the website will unfortunately remain in limbo. If anyone would be interested in finding out more, or offering to help/or take over the site, please contact the website.

19/198. Consider Lease & Management Agreement for ARC

Cllr Lawler updated the meeting on progress in concluding the lease negotiations. Unfortunately, the councils' solicitor, Lucy Ingram, has left the company and the work has been taken over by Mr Chris Ware. Initial contact with him has been positive and the FSFD are maintaining pressure to achieve the prompt conclusion of the lease.

It was suggested that the FSFD should meet with ARC to see if issues could be resolved directly to save on further costs. Cllr. Josephy advised that the next step was for the solicitors to report back on progress with the lease and the issues which remained to be resolved, at which stage further direct negotiations with ARC on any difficult points might be the best way to resolve them.

It was noted that the total level of fees anticipated by the solicitors had increased, due to the fact that more extensive negotiations and additional issues have had to be dealt with. Concern was raised that the costs could be increasing due to the change of solicitor. This was not something the council had initiated and hence it should not have to pay for any extra work made necessary by it. It was agreed that FSFD would request a full breakdown of costs to date and projected, review it in detail and negotiate a reduction and/or cap at a level justified by the actual work involved.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to increase the total budget for solicitor costs to £3,300 subject to the FSFD scrutinising the charges made so far and negotiating a cap to the fees at this figure, or if appropriate a lower one.

19/199. Update on beech trees by the tennis court

Cllr. Brown confirmed the work had now been completed, though he was not completely happy with how the work was carried out. Also, repairs to the tennis court net are not satisfactory and the contractor will be asked to come back out to sort this before the full final payment is made. Logs have been left for bug habitats and can be moved to new locations if required. The larger logs are being taken away by Smiths of Axford, but there is no date on when this will take place.

David Wyatt at WC has confirmed that he is happy for the council to replace the trees with at least the same number as were there (12) or more. He has no objections to a mix of trees, though advised the site should be predominantly Beech, Hawthorn and Field Maple. He also has no objections to the planting being carried out in the 2019/2020 planting season. Suggestions from the village on the type and number of trees to be planted are very welcome. Please contact Cllr. Brown with any ideas.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to delay the planting until the 2019/2020 season. The council will look into the costs of purchasing and planting the trees themselves with volunteer help, as well as looking at the costs from other contractors. The current contractor will be advised that they are no longer required for the re-planting, as they are unable to supply the bulk of the trees required.

19/200. Neighbourhood Plan

(i) Consider adoption of Neighbourhood Plan Privacy Policy

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan Privacy Policy as presented.

(ii) Consider any other updates or actions required

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Housing Needs Survey as produced by Wiltshire Council from the completed surveys from the village.

Standing orders were suspended to allow Miss. Carey Wallin to update everyone on the **Neighbourhood Plan Design Day being held on Saturday 30th March between 10:30 & 16:00 in St Michael's School**. The day is an event that the whole family can help with. Issues such as housing development, employment and the infrastructure of the village will be looked at with a view to the evidence obtained from everyone helping to build the plan for the village. There will be activities being carried out across the village for families, groups or individuals to take part in, with an added exciting event for 9-13 year olds. Anyone who cannot commit to the whole day, is encouraged to come along for any period that they are able to. Even for those unable to help with the activities, it is an ideal event to come along to and find out exactly what a Neighbourhood Plan is, and what it means for Aldbourne to have one.

Miss. Wallin also reported that she had had a successful meeting with the Place Studio at St Michael's School, and that the year 6 pupils will be carrying out a safety audit across the village after they have completed their SATS.

19/201. Discuss Community Assets

Cllr. Lawler advised that he had discussed a list of possible assets with the Neighbourhood Plan group, in order that they could be used in the upcoming Design Day. The legal side of what is involved in listing any community assets will be investigated further once the ARC lease is completed, as previously agreed, unless anyone else is willing to take this task on.

19/202. Discuss precept donation amount to AYC

Cllr. Josephy gave a report on the projected finances for Aldbourne Youth Council noting that the current year was now expected to show a surplus, due to better than expected revenues from the charity shop, higher donations and lower youth club costs. However, a deterioration in the figures and a deficit was still anticipated for 2019/20, largely due to the ending of the previous generous funding of the Youth Worker's salary by a local benefactor, which was granted on the understanding that the Youth Council would become self-funding over time and that the grant given would be phased out.

It was **RESOLVED** twelve in favour and one abstention to donate to Aldbourne Youth Council the amount of £2,500 already included in the 2019/2020 precept.

19/203. Update on 2020 Festival organisation

Cllr. Gould advised that the groups were working together towards organising the festival, and are currently considering a draft constitution.

19/204. Consider purchase of grit bin for The Square

The clerk had confirmed that Wiltshire Council will not provide grit bins for new locations, or fill them if the Parish Council purchased one. The council felt that it would not be a good use of the precept to fund such an item, either in The Square or any other part of the village.

19/205. Discuss entering 2019 Best Kept Village Competition

It was **RESOLVED** twelve in favour and one abstention to enter the 2019 Best Kept Village Competition.

Cllr. Gould agreed to be part of the organisation team, along with Cllr. Edmonds and the clerk.

19/206. Receive & adopt the January 22 planning committee minutes

The Minutes from the meetings held on 22nd January 2019 were adopted. A copy is attached to these minutes.

19/207. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- Cllr. Edmonds advised she had been asked to attend St Michael's School year 1 & 2 Polar Exhibition taking place on Tuesday 2nd April at 2pm. Any other councillors who are free are also very welcome to attend.
- It was suggested that a white line be put on Marlborough Rd opposite the junction for Castle Street, since cars parking here make it very difficult for vehicles turning into Castle Street and those trying to traverse Marlborough Road.

It was felt that since these would not be enforceable, there was little point in having them.

- It was recognised that Aldbourne is a working village, and thus farm vehicles need to move around it. Castle Street is already very difficult to traverse with a large vehicle, it will become even more difficult if it narrows any further.
- Several councillors raised the issue of speeding on Castle Street, with a view to a 20mph speed limit being looked into at this location and others across the village.

Cllrs. Moore and Gould agreed to put together a list of roads where a 20mph limit would be preferable. They will bring this list to the April meeting for consideration by the council for submission to CATG.

- There have been several comments received about the static caravan that has been installed on land off Lottage Road. The council has already reported this to WC, and the planning enforcement team have confirmed they will look into it and report back.

- No issues to report in the play areas and sports field. The recycling bin in the Goddards play area is being well used, and there has been a big decrease in items being left around on the ground across the whole area.
- Cllr. Edmonds reported that she had met with PCSO Emily Sykes last week during her surgery in the village, and had raised the issue of the ongoing antisocial behaviour across the village. PCSO Sykes urged everyone to report all instances of ASB to the Police as it builds up a picture of how big the problem is, and means they can assign resources to trying to resolve the issues.

19/208. Wiltshire Council report

Nothing further to report.

19/209. Correspondence

Correspondence received and sent during the last month was noted.

19/210. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- The hedge by the tennis court is in need of attention.
- The geophysics carried out in the village as part of Operation Nightingale show good results for Aldbourne, and this is where they will be focusing their investigations going forward. More information will be available for the April meeting.
- Mr. Martin Warren has finished the hedge on Southward Triangle.

The council will look at the hedge, but any cutting back cannot be carried out until after September now due to nesting birds.

The Parish Council asked Mr. Keith Warren to pass on their thanks to his brother for laying the hedge at Southward Triangle.

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 first part of the business about to be transacted. Voting on the applications above the minimum total score were open to the public, though all had left the building by then.

19/211. Consider requests for share of Vodafone donation

The scores for the six applications, based on the previously published criteria, were discussed. The following applications were declined due to them scoring below the minimum agreed total score;

St Michael's Church Flowers – No amount suggested
ARC for a noticeboard and gazebo- £731

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to donate £300 to Aldbourne Girl Guiding towards their new badge syllabus and programme packs across all sections.

It was **RESOLVED** twelve in favour and one abstention to donate £300 to Aldbourne Pre-School towards a wooden play house/shop.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to donate £175 to St Michael's School football and sports teams towards hoodies.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to donate £150 to Aldbourne Silver Threads towards future activities.

19/212. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 3rd April 2019 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall &
Annual Assembly, Wednesday 24th April 2019 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:31

Chairman Signature: _____ 3rd April 2019