

**ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH 3 MARCH 2021
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

Present

Cllr A Edmonds (Chair), Cllr A Deuchar (Vice Chair)

Cllr W Brown, Cllr H Bland, Cllr B Hill, Cllr L Harris, Cllr S Henderson, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr P Lawler,
Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr A Phizacklea, Cllr J Rayner, Cllr C Williams

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 9 members of the public, Cllr J Sheppard (Wiltshire Council)

20/121. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Cheney, Cllr L Smitten

20/122. Declarations of interest in respect of any items contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Lawler – Item 20/127. No dispensation required.

20/123. Consider the Minutes of the February 2021 Parish Council meeting

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2020 be approved. They will be signed following the meeting.

20/124. 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](#).

20/125. Consider internal auditor

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to continue to engage Mr McGowan as the internal auditor for Aldbourn Parish Council.

20/126. Clerks report

- May 2021 elections – The notice of poll is expected to be issued on 11 March. Nominations papers for those wishing to stand as a parish councillor must be submitted by 4pm on 8 April. Due to COVID-19 and officer restrictions, these forms must be hand delivered either by the candidate, or someone on their behalf, to the Wiltshire Council Chippenham office. An appointment booking system will be in place. The clerk and Cllr Sheppard have petitioned for an electronic system of submitting forms to be put in place but sadly the government have not allowed for this to happen.

Whilst being unhappy about this arrangement and expecting that it is likely to put off some potential candidates, the council reluctantly accepted that it was not going to change for this election. They will write to the Devizes MP, Danny Kruger, to ask that a change in the law is considered before the next elections.

20/127. Discuss Aldbourn Scouts & Guide hut and consider extension to lease

Mr G Edmondson gave a presentation on the future plans for the Scouts & Guide hut. The groups wish to remain in their current location but extend the length of the existing hut, to allow for an extra meeting room, larger entrance lobby and improved kitchen, toilets and storage areas. Planning would need to be applied for and the groups asked for the assistance from the parish council in actioning this. The current lease expires in 2024 and the groups will discuss this further with the parish council once the outcome of the planning application is known.

The council are happy to assist with any planning application. It was recommended that the Scouts & Guides updated residents in the location of the hut of their proposed plans.

20/128. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

There were no questions or requests.

20/129. Update on Heritage Group lease for Community Room and consider any changes, and signatories

Standing orders suspended during this item for questions to be answered by the Heritage Group.

It was **RESOLVED** eleven in favour, with two abstentions, to update Paragraph 8.8.1 of the lease to show that the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 Sections 24 & 28 will not applying to this lease, and that a declaration by the tenants has been signed to acknowledge that they are aware and accept this.

It was **RESOLVED** twelve in favour, with one abstention, to issue a licence to the Heritage Group to use part of the loft for storage. Mr C McGowan will be asked for his assistance with drawing this up.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Chair and Vice Chair are given authority to sign the lease declaration, property lease and loft licence on behalf of Aldbourn Parish Council.

20/130. Review of outstanding issues

Below is a list of those issues that have been resolved or updated since the last meeting.

- a) [08/06/16] Extend the 30 mph limit on Oxford Street – The works have been completed.
- b) [05/02/20] Manhole cover on West Street – Reported once again to Openreach.
- c) [24/04/20] Market Cross repairs – The stonemason requires a period of dry warm weather to carry out the repairs.
- d) [06/07/20] Window in the community room – The window has now been replaced.
- e) [07/10/20] Electrical safety check toilets/community room – Inspection has been carried out.
- f) [02/12/20] Trees on Marlborough Rd & Lottage Rd – Cllr Wayman has advised that all the trees will be inspected during the summer (whilst in leaf) and the council updated following this.
- g) [02/12/20] Hedge trimmings on the football field – These have been cleared.
- h) [02/12/20] Southward Triangle – The Sarsen stones have stopped vehicles driving up the bank.
- i) [03/02/21] The Butts – No entry painted road sign added to the line painting list by Mr Cook.
- j) [03/02/21] Hedge on Palmer's field/Farm Lane – Both hedges cut in early February.
- k) [03/02/21] Allotments – Awaiting indicative costs from Aster Housing.
- l) [03/02/21] Virtual meetings - Efforts are being made by various bodies to try and allow virtual meetings to continue beyond 7 May.

20/131. Discuss and consider any action in relation to Assets of Community Value

Deferred to the April meeting.

20/132. Update on flooding issues

The filtration unit was turned on shortly after the last meeting. Whilst this is helping to prevent surcharging and the need for tankers to pump through the night, it should not be considered as a permanent solution to this problem. DIG will continue to work with Thames Water on this issue. There is a leak on Lottage Rd but it is not clear if this is sewer surcharging, a blocked drain, a burst main or rising springs. Cllr Josephy will investigate further and action as required.

20/133. Update on re-installation of the pump

The bolts have still not been replaced yet. Whatley's to be chased again.

20/134. Update on road & pedestrian safety review, and consider any action required

A large amount of work has been carried out, but the report is still very much a work in progress. It was **RESOLVED** eight in favour & two against, with three abstentions, that the document will be reviewed annually by the highways lead and the clerk.

20/135. Consider family memorial request

The family are considering other options and will come back to the parish council if required.

20/136. Consider request to move benches on Southward Lane

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the ASB was likely to be cyclical, as it often is throughout the village and thus consideration of moving these benches will be deferred for six months.

20/137. Consider request for verge rewilding and vehicle charging point

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that parish council carbon neutral working party will review the suggestions made by the Aldbourn Carbon Neutral group with a view to bringing a proposal for planting and maintenance back to the council to consider.

The vehicle charging point is still under discussion. Information will be brought to the council as soon as it is available.

20/138. Consider adoption of the February 2021 planning committee Minutes

The Minutes from the meeting held on 3 February 2021 were adopted. A copy is attached to these Minutes.

20/139. Wiltshire Council Report

Cllr Sheppard apologised for not attending the last few meetings, which was due to work and technical issues.

- Pleased to see the 30mph limit extension completed on Oxford Street.
- The next CATG meeting is tomorrow and then on 16 April (which will be the last one before the elections).
- The budget was agreed at last weeks full council meeting. Due to previous sound financial planning, this year's budget has not suffered as much as might have been expected. It is likely to be the 2022/2023 budget which will be impacted by COVID-19.
- Continues to raise issues of ASB and drug taking/dealing in Aldbourn with the police. Please let Cllr Sheppard know of any further issues.

Cllr Sheppard was asked if there was any likelihood that Wiltshire Council will ask parish/town councils to take on additional services. Cllr Sheppard advised that he was not aware of any plans for this to happen.

20/140. Reports by councillors on any Council business or village issues

- a) Cars parking on the grass on the corner of Farm Lane/Southward Lane are once again parking over the footpath, forcing pedestrians onto the road at this point.

Cllr Harris will add this to road & pedestrian safety review.

- b) The neighbourhood plan is now with AECOM for an independent review. This will take 5 weeks and providing no issues are raised, it should then be able to go to Regulation 14, which is the next public consultation.
- c) A request had been received for a pole to be installed on Lottage Road (as you come into the village) for the SID to be used at this location.

When the SID poles were put up this area was considered. Unfortunately, one could not be put at this location as there was no suitable or safe place for it to be located.

- d) The allotment access has been blocked. The clerk is liaising with Aster Housing on this.

- e) The end of Peaks track (where it joins Lottage Rd) has been very badly cut up by farm vehicles. Whilst understanding that ground conditions are very wet, the landowner does have a duty to ensure the RoW remains safe for use. It has been reported to Wiltshire Council.

There was support for the clerk to write a letter to the landowner about this, asking for action to be taken to make the area safe again.

- f) The entrance to Whitley Field could be better utilised for parking, whilst still allowing access for pedestrians and emergency vehicles, if the ground was re-enforced in same way to prevent the grass being cut up.

Cllr Harris will add this to the road & pedestrian safety review. Though it was noted that the entrance is under the ownership of Wiltshire Council.

20/141. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

- Questions regarding the verge rewilding.
- Query on whether the road & pedestrian safety review will be made public.
- Thanks were expressed to Cllr Josephy and the DIG group for all they have done and continue to do for the village in relation to sewage surcharging and flooding.

A map showing the areas suggested for rewilding was displayed at the meeting.

Currently the road & pedestrian safety review is very much in draft form but should be ready for consideration of adoption by the council at the April meeting. It will then be published to the village.

20/142. Review of correspondence

Correspondence received and sent since the last meeting was noted.

A letter in relation to a community lead project to get fibre to the property (FTTP) in Aldbourne had been received. Currently there is only fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) available. This will be added to the April agenda for further discussion.

20/143. Confirm date of April full council meeting and Annual Assembly meeting

Full council meeting to be held virtually on Wednesday 7 April 2021 @ 7.30pm.

Annual Parish Assembly to be held virtually on Wednesday 28 April @ 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:33

Signature of the Chair: _____ Date: 7 April 2021