ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, ALDBOURNE.

Present
Cllr C Humphries (Chairman), Cllr C McGowan (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr H Bland, Cllr W Brown, Cllr A Devey, Cllr A Edmonds, Cllr M Hillas, Cllr A Jerram, Cllr P Lawler,
Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr J Rayner, Cllr K Warren, Cllr N Howard (arrived at 19:45)  Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: PC Batchelor, 6 members of public & 2 members of the Youth Council

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were accepted from Cllr C Boreham & Cllr B Buckler

2. Approve and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2009
IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR HILLAS, SECONDED COUNCILLOR JERRAM AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY;
“That the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2009 be approved and signed”

3. Declarations of interests in respect of any item contained in this Agenda
Cllr Devey – Item 6 & Item 9/Cllr McGowan – Item 11

4. Chairman’s announcements (for information only)
As PC Batchelor was in attendance the Chairman invited him to speak.
The police bulletin continues to be sent out each month and is placed on the notice board and website; crime figures are not included as they can be found on the Wiltshire Police website. In the last 30 days in Aldbourne there has been 1 theft of a wallet from a vehicle. Unfortunately there is no evidence to be able to proceed any further with this issue. Batch reminded everyone to leave nothing of value in cars or on site within them. The report of the theft of a vehicle turned out to be domestic related. A distraction burglary was carried out on Whitley Rd but luckily the perpetrators left empty handed. Thanks to the observations of a neighbour the vehicle number plate used by the perpetrators was noted. This is a countrywide problem and a task force is working on trying to stop this crime occurring. Batch had some leaflets and stickers that can be used by residents worried about this problem and these will be left in the library.

Batch reported that the bottom of the scaffolding on Castle St had been extended to prevent vehicles trying to get through as several had already tried and at least 2 had lost their wing mirrors. He has also put out extra cones across each end of the road. He confirmed that this was a lawful closure and that it should be adhered to. The owners had received some intimidation due to the closure and he had been to visit them and advised them what to do in the event of any further incidences. Cllr Humphries said he had been horrified by the actions of a small minority and the way they had treated the owners of Half Moon Cottage and had apologised to them on behalf of the village.

Cllr Humphries congratulated Matt Gibbs and James Keen on being awarded a Wiltshire Young Peoples Award.

5. Clerks report (for information only)
• Thames Water is still awaiting a final reading to come back from their meter readers before they can process the leak allowance. A chase has been put on this as it is now over the 20 working days they stated.

6. Youth Council report (for information only)
The YC AGM is being held on 1st December at 7pm in The CAN, everyone is welcome to attend. A £25,000 play builder grant has been awarded to the Youth Council for play equipment on Palmer’s Field; Cllr Rayner will give more details on this later. On 10th November interviews will be held for the position of youth worker, both adults and young people will be in attendance. Football training has had to be cancelled due to the darker nights but a 2 hour session has been arranged for Saturday morning. A younger member of the YC suggested putting bollards around the pump to prevent it being damaged in the future.

Cllr Howard arrived

7. Unitary report
Several meetings have been attended and there is a full council meeting next week. The next Area Board meeting is on the 7th December.

8. Public participation (Max 5 mins, to consider any points raised) Standing order suspended
• A petition signed by 112 residents against the Castle St closure was handed to the council and asked to be sent onto Wiltshire Council.

Standing orders re-instated
9. Approve monthly financial report and sign any cheques
IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR MCGOWAN, SECONDED COUNCILLOR LAWLER AND RESOLVED ELEVEN IN FAVOUR AND TWO ABSTENTIONS;
“To approve the accounts and cheques for payment as presented”
A copy of the financial report is attached to these Minutes

10. Decision on whether to write to Wiltshire Council about funding for the toilets
The Clerk read out the letter from Pewsey Council in which they pointed out that imbalance of parishes having to take on the local public conveniences and increase their precept to pay for this yet now Wiltshire Council owns and maintains many public conveniences across the county. Pewsey had advised they would be writing to Wiltshire Council make a substantial contribution to the Parish Council towards the ongoing maintenance and cleaning.
It was felt that whilst Aldbourne’s public conveniences were different to Pewsey in that they had been partially converted into office space there were still considerable costs involved in the day to day running and maintenance of the building that the PC would not otherwise have had if the building had remained under the control of the local authority or some rebate or contribution had been made by KDC at the time. It was agreed that Aldbourne Parish Council would write in to Wiltshire Council about this issue in conjunction with Pewsey PC.

11. Committees & Working Parties:
Finance
a) Receive Chairman's report
IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR DEVEY, SECONDED COUNCILLOR BROWN AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY;
“That the minutes from the Finance meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2009 be received”
b) Decision on precept for 2010/2011
The clerk and Cllr McGowan had provided a detailed summary of the precept workings for the next financial year and the draft precept figure is £3000 less than last year. A copy of this information is attached to these Minutes
IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR HILLAS, SECONDED COUNCILLOR HOWARD AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY;
“To set the precept for 2010/2011 at a figure of £21,500”

Planning
a) Receive Chairman’s report from planning meetings Oct/Nov 09
A copy of the report provided by Cllr Bland and received by the Council for the planning meeting held on 12th October & 4th November 2009 is attached to these Minutes.

Policy
a) Decision on adopting policies i) Disciplinary & Grievance; ii) Complaints
The clerk suggested an addition of a clause about serial facetious, vexatious or malicious complaints be added but otherwise the documents remained as drafted. Copies of the documents are attached to these Minutes.
IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR MUIRHEAD, SECONDED COUNCILLOR RAYNER AND RESOLVED NINE IN FAVOUR AND FOUR ABSTENTIONS;
“To adopt the Disciplinary & Grievance and Complaints policies as presented by the Clerk with the addition of the clause named above”

Allotments
a) Chairman’s report – Nothing to report

Highways
a) Update on Castle Street Closure
There was still much anger that about the way this whole affair had been handled by Wiltshire Council and there was also some feeling that the Parish Council had let the residents down. Despite being contacted by the PC Wiltshire Council had offered no alternatives and had stone walled all attempts to get the closure delayed or to entertain alternative suggestions for the scaffolding. If there had been much earlier notice of the closure the Parish Council would have stood a better chance of finding a compromise to the situation. The services and standards of WC have fallen well below what would have been expected throughout this whole incident. It was agreed that a further letter should be sent to the Chief Executive from the Council about the lack of consultation and response as well as demanding some form of compensation for those left out of pocket because of this. It was also agreed to send the petition handed into the Parish Council to WC at the same time.
WC will be contacted about the possibility of bollards being placed around the pump.

b) Chairman’s Report
The report provided by Cllr Buckler about his meeting with Chrissy Powell & the Ringway agent for this area was read out by Cllr Warren and a copy is attached to these Minutes.
c) Decision on expenditure for various maintenance works around the village. It was agreed to get R.Copp to trim around the gas meter building on Alma Road. Trimming around the pond will be added to the Sodeco schedule. Cllr Humphries said he would look into getting the hedge on Farm Lane cut back and Cllr Rayner said he would take another look at the dogwoods in the Bourne by Strawberry Hill. The following items also need attention: Baydon Hill tree needs looking at/Garlings sign is still missing/a sunken man hole by the railings near the pond/Aldbourne sign on Lottage Rd still missing/Ewins Hill grips still to be cleared/Clear gully’s near Whitley Rd and fill pot hole on Castle St.

**Playing Fields**

a) Inspection reports
An inspection of all the play areas is due to be carried out by Wicksteed next week.
b) Chairman’s report – Nothing further to report
c) Decision on expenditure for tower repair in Goddard’s
Cllr Humphries had prompted investigations into removing the tower but on taking a second look had felt that with proper repair the towers life could be extended. The playing fields WP agreed with this and Cllr Jerram also pointed out that the tower could never be replaced with a similar unit because of new regulations. 3 carpenters had been approached with a view to doing the required work and come back with quotes. It was felt other local firms should be contacted about quoting for this repair and all of the companies should be asked to give an additional quote for reinforcing the base of the unit.

IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR RAYNER, SECONDED COUNCILLOR LAWLER AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:
“To allow up to £1,200 net to be spent on repairing the tower in Goddard’s play area and to give delegated powers to Cllr Jerram & the Playing Fields working party to decide on which contractor to use” Action Cllrs Jerram & Edmonds
d) Decision on Goddard’s Play area refurbishment & expenditure
The spring rides are in need of urgent attention but all other decisions on the refurbishment were delayed until after the tower repairs were finalised.

IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR HOWARD, SECONDED COUNCILLOR JERAM AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:
“To allow up to £250 net to be spent on repairing the spring rides in the Goddard’s play area” Action Clerk
Cllr Edmonds brought up some areas of funding that could be used to pay for the refurbishment rather than using the precept. Cllrs Edmonds & Jerram will liaise on this and apply for any that they feel the PC could be successful with. Cllr Howard said he would be happy to help with this too. Action Cllrs Jerram/Edmonds & Howard
e) Decision on expenditure for goal posts on Whitley
The goal posts are on route from Ramsbury to Aldbourne

**Rights of Way**
a) Chairman’s report – Cllr Brown
Has tried to get hold of Esther Daly at WC about the possible refurbishment of Sheep Walk but no joy as yet.

**Sports Field**
a) Chairman’s report – Cllr Rayner
Still waiting to hear about the grant. Pictures of the far corner of Palmers Field by the rugby pitch were shown around as this is an area being used by youngsters as an unofficial ‘play area’ and there has also been some vandalism here. Nicky Williams, who is the WC play advisor, recently met with Hazel Keen and she had suggested rather than banning people from the area it should be enhanced to allow them to use it safely. With this in mind the Youth Council had applied for and been awarded a £25,000 play builder grant. They would like to draw up plans for the area and present these to the Parish Council. There were no objections to this.

**12. Correspondence (for review only)**
The following correspondence was noted as of importance/interest:
08/10 (e) Chris Humphries – Copy of WC Road conditions inspection reports.
08/10 (e) Tracy Carter WC – Acknowledgement of receipt of email about Castle Street and advising the matter is being investigated.
08/10 (e) R.Lester - Copy of email to Tracy Carter registering objections to closure of Castle Street
08/10 (e) T.Goddard - Copy of email to Martin Cook registering objections to closure of Castle Street
08/10 (e) D.Williams- Copy of email to Martin Cook registering objections to closure of Castle Street
09/10 (e) C.Huges - Copy of email to Martin Cook registering objections to closure of Castle Street
12/10 (e) Chris Humphries – Copy of comments made by Martin Cook following a site visit about the rational behind the decision to close Castle Street.
14/10 (e) Tracy Carter – Acknowledgement of chase re Castle Street and advising that email had been passed to Martin Cook and Peter Binley for their comments.
14/10 (t) A.Pratt – Registering their objections to the closure of Castle Street
15/10 (e) C.Foster - Copy of email to Martin Cook registering objections to closure of Castle Street
16/10 (e) C.Phelps – Registering objections to the closure of Castle Street
16/10 (e) Tracy Carter – Acknowledgement of chase re Castle Street & that letter is being drafted
20/10 (e) Tracy Carter – Acknowledgement of chase re Castle Street and advising letter is due soon
21/10 (e) Chris Humphries – Copy of response letter sent via post to PC re Castle Street closure.
23/10 Tracy Carter – Hard copy response to PC’s letter about Castle Street closure
26/10 (e) Chris Humphries – Copy of response from Tracy Carter re Castle St closure
04/11 (e) Chris Humphries – Copy of response from Peter Hanson re sizing of scaffolding and possible use as one way for traffic.
04/11 (e) Batch – Re traffic still using Castle Street
13/10 (e) Chris Humphries - Have a say in shaping Wiltshire’s future
03/11 (e) Brenda Pyne – November Parish newsletter

13. Public Participation (to consider any points raised)
Standing orders suspended
- Whilst it was understood that emergency planning committee was a Wiltshire Council body it was felt that some form of emergency volunteer system should be in place for times such as the Castle Street closure. Perhaps and appeal should be made to get more volunteers on the WC emergency planning committee.
- A lot of residents want to know exactly what the £10,000 charge for the street closure went towards
- Property on Castle Street is getting damaged as vehicles turn around or try to squeeze through the gap.
- Efforts should be made not to make the Palmers Field plan exclusive to any particular age range and it was felt this should be the same across all play areas.
Standing orders re-institated
Cllr Devey advised he is still a member of the WC emergency committee. It was agreed that something at a more local level should be investigated, perhaps reinstating the community advisors.

Action Cllrs Hillas/Devey
Cllr Hillas confirmed that the Aldbourne & Baydon link scheme were happy to help anyone who needed transport or shopping done during the road closure. They just need to contact the co-ordinator on 541345.
The figure paid to WC for the road closure was £2,000 some of which is used for advertising, which is very costly as the papers charge large amounts knowing that this publication has to be carried out.
Older children have been liaised with in regards to the Goddard’s refurbishment.

14. Local Affairs (to consider any points raised)
- A grant for £2,200 has been received from North Wessex Downs but has to be used by the end of the financial year. Unfortunately due to work commitments of the committee the planned questionnaire has been delayed until the spring of next year.
- It would be good to know when verges on the B4192 are due to be cut back next year so that the schedule could be adjusted to more appropriate times if required.
- The Friends of St Michaels many questions event planned for Saturday 14th November has been cancelled.
- The Citizens advice bureau will be in the old school room on 26th November at 7pm to explain exactly what they can do help people.
- The BMX inspection commented on what a good state the track was in and this is all down to the Youth Council who do an excellent job of maintaining it.

15. Delegation of duties over the winter recess
IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR LAWLER, SECONDED COUNCILLOR MUIRHEAD AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY;
“To give delegated powers to the Chairman/Vice Chairman and Clerk for all Council duties during the winter recess”

16. Date of next meeting Wednesday 6th January 2010 @ 19:30 in the Memorial Hall

Confidential item:
To consider a motion that in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1990 that the public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information:

17. Decision on clerks salary and date of payment
IT WAS MOVED COUNCILLOR RAYNER, SECONDED COUNCILLOR BLAND AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY;
“To give delegated powers to the Chairman & Vice Chairman to decide on the Clerks hourly rate and that payments will be back dated to April 2009”
The Clerk will contact WALT C about spinal column points.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:45

Chairman’s Signature: ________________________________ 6th January 2010