

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 2015
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, ALDBOURNE

Present

Cllr P Lawler (Chairman), Cllr A Edmonds (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr W Brown, Cllr A Deuchar, Cllr H Bland, Cllr N Josephy, Cllr S Muirhead, Cllr A Phizacklea,
Cllr J Rayner

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 7 members of the public

Cllr J Sheppard (WC) & Cllr P Whitehead (Cabinet member for highways and transport WC)

217. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr H Keen, Cllr C McGowan, Cllr P Niblock, Cllr R Price,
and Cllr M Pryce

218. Declarations of interests in respect of any item contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Phizacklea – Item 229 (no dispensation required)

219. Consider and sign the Minutes of March 2015 Parish Council meeting

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 4th March 2015 be approved and signed.

220. Matters arising from the last Minutes not already listed (for information only)

- a. (196a) Surface water drainage problem at the top of Oxford Street & eroded bank on Lottage Rd - Both of these are on going issues that Wiltshire Council are looking at engineering solutions to solve. However, there is no ETA on when this will be.
- b. (196b) Castle Street drain – Some ditches are known to have been cleared, so it appears JCB has been out. Need to check the top of Castle St to see if cleared.
- c. (196c) Road side edges and pavements (particularly along South Street) full of debris - Road sweeper has now been around the village, and the debris has been cleared.
- d. (196d) Cats eyes very faint on the B4192 - Wiltshire Council have confirmed these are self cleaning and thus do not need to be cleaned.
- e. (196e) Dangerous state of the surface on the raised path on Lottage Rd - A solution for this is still awaited.
- f. (196f) Bench on Lottage Rd – This has now been replaced with a very nice new one.
- g. (200) Concessionary bus fares - The clerk found the required timetable and sent it onto the member of public asking about it.
- h. (200) Highway sign for the Heritage Centre - Enquires have been made, a response is awaited.

221. Update on resurfacing around the village & consider any actions required

During this item standing orders were suspended to allow Cllr Whitehead to speak, and for members of the public present to ask questions.

Cllr Lawler re-iterated the council and villages dismay at the current appalling state of the roads around the village, and asked Cllr Whitehead why the resurfacing had been delayed following a 'conversation with two locals'. Cllr Whitehead advised that the delay had actually been caused by Thames Water not having released the roads yet. Although this is expected to happen in the next few days, it is too late now to get the machinery required to do the work. Plant machinery across the south west is in short supply due to jobs for the equipment exceeding what is available to use.

Aldbourn's resurfacing work has been booked in for September 2015, and whilst Wiltshire Council can never say 100% that the work will go ahead they will do their best to ensure it does happen then. Cllr Whitehead urged everyone to still report dangerous pot holes to Wiltshire Council for temporary repair whilst the resurfacing is awaited. Cllr Whitehead was asked for a detailed list of which roads/areas are to be resurfaced. He agreed to send this to the council.

222. Receive the monthly financial report & sign any cheques for payments

It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the accounts and cheques for payment as presented. A copy of the financial report is attached to these Minutes

223. Consider change of location for June 2015 meeting

It was RESOLVED unanimously to move the June 2015 meeting to the Methodist Chapel due to the Heritage Group hosting a supper for the National WW2 Museum of America visitors

224. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

Standing orders suspended during this item

- It is good to see the ditches have been cleared along Lottage Road. Unfortunately the debris from them was placed on the road side banks and is now being spread across the roads, or has fallen back into the ditches.
- There will be small ceremony soon to celebrate the installation of the new bench on Lottage Rd.
- The WI celebrates its 100th year this year, and ideas to celebrate this are being discussed. One idea is to plant 100 daffodils around the pond. Any other suggestions are very welcome.
- A youngster was seen smashing a glass bottle against the wall near the scout hut. There were spoken to by a member of the public, but they unfortunately just received verbal abuse.
- The Heritage Centre opens this weekend, and will be open weekends, Wednesdays and bank holidays from now on. A new sign is being made by the forge, are the PC happy for it to be put up over the door?
- Ivy is growing up under the roof tiles on the toilets, which means it is now difficult to remove.

WC will be advised of the ditches/debris.

The PC will get someone to have a look the ivy on the toilets.

225. Update on trees on Marlborough Road & consider any actions required

Wiltshire Councils Arboriculture & Landscape Officer has visited the site and inspected the trees. He did not have any concerns regarding the general structure of the walnut leaning over the road, but felt that the amount of ivy on it could add to the likelihood of it failing at some point. It was his view that Wiltshire Council could cover the cost of having this tree removed. He has asked their contractor to provide a quote. Cllr Sheppard will chase again to see if there is an ETA for when this work will be carried out. He will also ask if there are any thoughts on the larger tree above the walnut. It would be good to have this sorted at the same time.

The Council felt that at this time they did not need to action the resolution to remove the tree made at the last meeting, since Wiltshire Council did now seem to be taking action to do this. Whilst the news is more positive, they will continue to monitor the situation. The issue of ownership of this whole area also needs to be confirmed 100% as problems will continue to occur in the future.

226. Update on repairs to the pump by the bus stop & consider any action required

Whatley's estimate to remove the pump was half that of Carter's so the insurance company instructed the council to use them. They have now removed the pump, and the good news is that the actual pump workings are undamaged. The cast iron pump is very badly damaged, but Whatley's do have the facilities to fix it. They will provide a quote for this work, and if it is lower than Seager's the insurance company will ask that they are used. They are also providing a quote for a way to secure the iron plate to the brickwork to prevent this from moving if hit again, and for fixing the brickwork. Cllr Lawler is awaiting a call from Martin Cook to discuss barriers.

227. Update on Emergency Plan

Item deferred until a later date due to Cllr Pryce not being able to attend this meeting.

228. Consider proposal for changing the type of BMX track

Item deferred until a later date due to Cllr Pryce not being able to attend this meeting.

229. Discuss action re access gate into Goddards play area

A gate has appeared at the rear of 4 The Paddocks, which gives the owners access to the Goddards play area behind the Scout Hut. The whole of this field, including the area with the scout hut, is owned by the Parish Council. Thanks to Mr Alan Watson on helping to recheck the area within the title plan were passed on from Cllr McGowan.

It was proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Bland and RESOLVED six in favour and three abstentions to write to the owners of 4 The Paddocks to ask them to remove this gate as they had no authorisation to put it in, and have no right of access.

230. Discuss works to the pond area

Members of the community volunteers are helping to clear as much of the over growth they can on 11th April. Once this has been done, Scofell will be asked to spray weed killer & grind out the tree stumps. Most of the initial clearance work should be covered by the £300 already agreed.

It was proposed Cllr Josephy, seconded Cllr Phizacklea and RESOLVED eight in favour and one abstention to allow up to a total of £500 (including the £300 previously approved) to be spent should it be required for the clearance works and replanting around the pond.

231. Consider measures to prevent anti-social issues on Palmer's field

More and more rubbish is being left by the teen shelter, and the rubbish sack left up there is now just being ripped apart. There is also a major issue with bottles being smashed around the teen shelter and by the rugby goal posts. Cllr Deuchar has been clearing up as best she can, along with Cllr Edmonds and members of the public, but the problem has become too great for this to continue. There have also been reports of youths hanging out beside The Bourne and taking what are thought to be drugs. The problems are only going to get worse as the summer and good weather arrives.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to put up signs around the whole area, on the noticeboard & in the Dabchick advising of the danger of broken glass. To ask the community volunteers if they could help clear the glass from the field during their clearance day on 11th April. Produce a leaflet which asks residents to report any incidents of antisocial behaviour directly to the Police.

232. Consider purchase of new nets for Whitely field football goals

It was proposed Cllr Josephy, seconded Cllr Deuchar and RESOLVED unanimously to allow up to £50 to be spent on new nets and pegs to hold them down.

233. Consider entering CPRE Best Kept Village 2015 competition

It was proposed Cllr Lawler, seconded Cllr Edmonds and RESOLVED unanimously to enter this years CPRE best kept village competition.

The clerk and Cllr Edmonds will work together to complete the entry form.

234. Receive planning meeting minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 1st April were accepted, and are attached to these minutes

235. Reports by councillors on any council business or village issues

- a. **Verges** – Is there a litter pick due along the road side verges surrounding the village? Cllr Sheppard agreed to check when they were due.
- b. **Allotments** – The rent requests for 2015/2016 are due to be sent out.
- c. **RoW** – The voluntary closure order on byway 19 is being totally ignored. Just last weekend 9 vehicles were seen using the byway.
- d. **Memorial bench Rectory Wood** – Don Davies's family are still discussing this.
- e. **CSW** – The group continues to be out as much as they can, and this morning recorded 166 vehicles in one hour, several of these were speeding. They would like to extend the initiative to South Street, but need more volunteers.

- f. **ARC** – They have written to Aster housing about having the access route via the current entrance on Farm Lane. A response is still awaited. Thanks were passed on to Cllr McGowan for his help with this.
- g. **Palmer's Field** – There is a tree down across the Bourne from the council's side. Expenditure for this can be covered using emergency spending powers as per financial regulations.
- h. **The Bourne** – The Environment Agency have noted that there are several blockages along the Bourne where it runs along Palmers field and beyond. They have written to the land owners about riparian ownership. Cllr Josephy has checked and none of them are stopping the water flow at present. The one that is within riparian ownership of the council could be cleared in the summer when the water is lower.
- i. **Noticeboard** – This is going to need major refurbishment in the not to distant future.
- j. **DIG** – The group has an all party meeting at the beginning of May. They will be pushing for a programme of works to the drainage culvert further up Lottage Road and along West Street.
- k. **Heritage Centre sign** – The council is happy for it to be put up, and will consider ratifying its installation at the May meeting.

236. Wiltshire Council report

The next CATG meeting is being held at 7pm on 16th April in Marlborough Town Hall.

237. Correspondence

A list of correspondence not already mentioned is noted below:

- 10/03 R.Strange – Re the PC commissioning a memorial for Adie Keen
- 06/03 A.Jack – Our Community Matters newsletter
- 13/03 A.Jack – Our Community Matters newsletter
- 16/03 WC – MAB agenda for 24th March 2015
- 12/03 SBC – Adopted the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 Development Plan Document
- 06/03 R.Malton – Details of funding for emergency items for anyone with an emergency plan
- 11/03 WC – Parish newsletter
- 11/03 WC – Car parking review cabinet report
- 17/03 WC – Parish newsletter
- 23/03 WC – Community Infrastructure Levy policies consultation document
- 23/03 WC – Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule
- 23/03 WC – Parish newsletter
- 25/03 R.Sanders – Advising that WC will be charging Parish Council for elections for councillors from the new financial year
- 31/03 WC – Parish newsletter

238. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider

Standing orders suspended during this item

- The repairs to the Market Cross are very substandard. The repairs are only temporary. The stone mason is coming back out to put in proper lime mortar once the weather improves.

239. Consider co-option of one councillors

No further candidates had come forward.

240. Confirm date of next meeting

The next meetings will be the Annual Assembly on Wednesday 29th April 2015 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall & Annual Meeting of Council on Wednesday 6th May 2015 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman's Signature: _____

6th May 2015

DRAFT