

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2017
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, ALDBOURNE

Present

Cllr. P. Lawler (Chairman), Cllr. A. Edmonds (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr. H. Bland, Cllr. W. Brown, Cllr. N. Josephy, Cllr. H. Keen, Cllr. C. McGowan, Cllr. S. Muirhead,
Cllr. R. Price, Cllr. J. Rayner, Cllr. G. Salman

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 6 members of the public, Cllr. J. Sheppard – Wiltshire Council

176. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. L. Harris, Cllr. A. Phizacklea & Cllr. M. Pryce,

177. Declaration of interests in respect of any item contained in this Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr. Keen item 184 & Cllr. Brown item 194 – Both allowed to debate the topics, but not vote on them.

178. Consider and sign the Minutes of the January 2017 Parish Council meeting

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2017 be approved and signed.

179. Matters arising

- a) (102a 01/07/15 raised initially in Oct 2013) Lottage Road, issues with raised path and beyond (4468/4470) – With CATG. On going issues that requires major work to fix. Martin Cook is pushing for money to be made available for this work from the 2017/2018 budget
- b) (102b 01/07/15) Erosion of Kandahar bank – On going issues that requires major work to fix. Currently no budget to carry this out.
- c) (102c 01/07/15) Drainage issue at the top of Oxford Street – WC looking to create a drainage channel at the edge of the road. It is being considered for the 2017/2018 budget, but there are no guarantees due to further funding cuts. Cllr. Sheppard continues to push for a fix on this.
- d) (102d 06/01/16) – The Grasshills byways – Some of the byway has been repaired, but a section remains to be completed. Cllr. Sheppard advised that a request has been put in for the remainder of the work to be carried out, but there is no ETA.
- e) (113 03/02/16) Bus stop sign (4469) – Update 17/12/16 CATG have agreed the work can be carried out. The PC contribution will be no more than £150. There is no date available for when the work will be carried out.
- f) (102e 03/02/16) Upper Upham name sign – WC have advised that as this is only a name place sign it is less likely to be replaced due to budget cuts.
- g) (102f 02/03/16) Fly tipping on Peaks track – As soon as one pile is cleared, another appears. Cllr. Sheppard advised that every report of fly tipping here needs to be reported via the My Wiltshire system. The more reports there are, the more likely WC will consider a camera.
- h) (102g 02/03/16) Damage to grass on Southward Lane (top of football field) – Awaiting for the work to be completed before looking at action to be taken to rectify the damage.
- i) (102h 06/04/16) Bus shelter – The thatcher has advised he will carry out this work summer 2017.
- j) (102j 06/04/16) State of the footpath across the front of The Old Manor – Call logged with CATG to get the main path repaired as requested. However, CATG have closed the issue as not something they can resolve. Cllr. Lawler will speak to Martin Cook about the issue to try and find a way forward.
- k) (102k 26/05/16) The Garlings – Continuing deterioration of this road. In urgent need of resurfacing. WC have now got this logged as requiring repair, but it will not be done during the 2017/2018 financial year.

- l) (117 02/10/16) SID – Cllr Lawler still trying to establish if the one the PC was given by WC works. Meanwhile Cllr. Edmonds is looking into new units, and hopes to have an update at the March meeting.
- m) (05/01/17) Warning sign before junction for Upper Upham on B4192 – Sign has been damaged. WC say this will be replaced as it is a warning sign, but cannot give an ETA.

180. Clerks report

- Ramsbury & Axford Clerk was contacted about the planting at Preston. She has raised it to the Council, and will let me know what action they have taken once they have discussed it.
- The owners of 2 Crooked Corner have been in touch about using the grassed area in front of their property during some roof works. The area is actually classed as highway, so they will need to obtain a licence from WC. They also wanted to double check if the PC had any objection to this happening. The area will be kept tidy and safe, and any damage will be made good once the works are completed.
- Thames Water are moving their commercial market to a company called Castle Water. From 1st April the supply of water for the pond and toilets/community room will come under this new company. There shouldn't be any noticeable difference, other than a change of name for the provider. Supply of water and waste water services will still be provided by Thames Water.
- Cllr Paul Niblock has resigned from the council with immediate effect as of today.

There were no objections to the grass verge outside No. 2 Crooked Corner being used, subject to the relevant licence being applied for, and any damage being repaired.

Parish Council elections are being held in May this year, and this would mean that anyone co-opted to the Council now will be at 1 or 2 meetings at the most before they have to re-apply to be a councillor. It was felt it would be better to advertise the upcoming election as widely as possible so that enough candidates come forward to trigger an election.

181. Consider payment to A.W Services for grass cutting

It was RESOLVED unanimously to pay A.W Services the previously agreed total of £3,850 for cutting the village and sports field grass during 2016.

The letter and the back of the cheque will advise that this is paid in full as the final settlement of all outstanding money.

182. Receive monthly financial report and 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.

183. Questions and request from the public for councillors to consider

- The pothole on Southward lane has still not been repaired.
- The drains along Southward Lane and South Street are in dire need of clearing. There will be flooding when heavy rain occurs. The drain across from Old Malt House also needs clearing.
- The Heritage Group will be carrying out the survey of Rectory Wood on 5th March. Anyone who has a detector is welcome to come along. It will be a small scale event, and those properties around the woods will be advised of it.

WC will be chased on the pothole repair.

WC no longer automatically clear drains on a rota. They will only clear them on high speed roads and where there is a need to protect properties. Cllr. Josephy advised that this is a subject the flood warden team flag up regularly with WC. They will continue to push for action. Cllr. Sheppard advised he would go back to the drainage department and try to get the gully team back into the village ASAP. The drain opposite Old Malt house on South Street has been investigated and found to be blocked. Cllr. Sheppard advised that he is hopeful this will be fixed before April, with a new drain being installed.

1) February 8th Public Meeting

The Memorial Hall has been booked, and the meeting has been advertised across the village. Though publication needs to remain the priority to ensure a good turn out. The Parish Council will be taking the lead at the meeting, and will give an update on what the Council has been doing. There will then be a Q&A session. Some members from ARC will be there and will have some proposed plans with them which can be viewed by those attending.

2) Update from FSFD group

The FSFD have met several times since January to work on the complicated issue of the Heads of Agreement, with the most recent being Monday this week with members of ARC. It was a very productive meeting between the two groups, and they both hope to be able to have a draft HoA drawn up for review at the March meeting.

3) Heads of Agreement

As per item 2

185. Consider changes to area by the noticeboard

It was RESOLVED unanimously to try and get a grant of £1000 from MAB to help towards the costs.

The Greenhouse Graphics noticeboard was the preferred choice of those working on this project. There were some questions about how weather proof the board would be, and how much longevity there would be in wooden legs. The group will speak to Greenhouse Graphics and discuss these points with them, with a view to a decision been made on the noticeboard and pond area works at the March meeting.

186. Update on beech trees by the tennis court & consider any actions required

All the quotes are now in and there are a wide range of prices. WC are still considering the application, with the target date being 13th February. Cllr. Brown advised he is in talks with SSE about having the power cable buried in order to prevent issues with the new trees in the future. This work may well delay the tree work until the Autumn, and may also mean the tree species could be reviewed. It was felt that any delay was worth while in order to get this project right. There are two quotes that are being considered, the rest are much higher in cost and it is not recommended they are accepted.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to update the two contractors being considered that there is a delay on a decision whilst the Council waits on SSE and WC. And that the remaining contractors will be advised they were unsuccessful.

187. Discuss types of replacement trees on The Green

Cllr. Muirhead advised that whilst the Malus Transitoria that had previously been suggested do have a small berry, it is the type that do not drop and cause a mess. A resident on The Green has also asked if a Rowan could replace the tree outside their house, and that they would pay any additional costs if this was agreed.

It was RESOLVED nine in favour and two abstentions to plant 5 Malus Transitoria trees and 1 Rowan Tree on The Green to replace the 6 dead and dying Hawthorn trees.

188. Consider grass cutting contractor for 2017-2019

It was proposed to contract Bawden to cut the grass for the next 3 years. An amendment was proposed to contract Pittams

It was RESOLVED five in favour, four against and two abstentions to contract Pittams to carry out the next 3 years grass cutting as per their quote dated 16/01/17.

Thus the amended proposal was successful and the original proposal was no longer valid.

189. Update on signs for back Lane & consider any actions required

Prior to his resignation, Cllr Niblock emailed WC and chased them. He advised that the PC would consider putting the signs up themselves if no response was received.

190. Update on highway meeting and consider any action required

Cllr. Price advised a very productive meeting had been held with Martin Cook on 12th January. He thanked Martin for taking the time to come out the village, and also Cllrs. Edmonds and Salman for giving up their time to attend.

Parking in The Square – Suggestion is to put in lines to show 4 spaces at the top side of The Square. Also putting some form of ‘pathway’ in for pedestrians.

The Council were not convinced that the parking bays were a good idea, but did think the path idea was worth looking into. Cllr. Price will continue to get more information on both items.

20mph speed restrictions – Cllr. Price confirmed he was getting more information on this from Steve Hind.

Traffic Mirrors – WC are not in favour of these being put on the highway. Cllr. Price will advise the residents that raised this issue that it is unlikely to happen.

It was noted that the Council had received two letters this month about parking, and the subsequent dangers it was causing, along West Street at the start and end of the school day. Cllr. Sheppard advised there is a pilot scheme about to be trialled by Wiltshire Council for school car sharing. It was RESOLVED unanimously to write to the school to ask them to remind parents about parking sensibly and safely, and to also mention the new pilot car share scheme.

191. Discuss policy on reporting items to WC that are on the highway

The Council will ask for Martin Cook for advise on possible wording for a letter they could send out.

192. Consider Community Assets nominations & consider any action required

Deferred until March due to the late hour.

193. Update on 2020 Festival organisers & consider any action required

The Heritage Group are so far the only group that has come forward to offer to help with the organisation. The Council will continue to advertise for other groups to come forward.

194. Consider donation to Aldbourne Dog Show

It was RESOLVED nine in favour, one against, and one abstention to donate £125 to the dog show organisers to be used towards the hire of portable toilets for the event.

195. Consider dates of Annual Assembly and Annual Meeting of Council

The Annual Assembly will be held on the 26th April 2017. Due to the elections, and the need to hold a meeting within 14 days of it, the Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th May.

196. Approve & adopt both the January 2017 planning committee minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 4th January 2017 were adopted, and are attached to these minutes.

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

Sign – It has been reported to the Council that the fund raising sign put up by the Community Junction does actually cover The Square road sign. Cllr. Keen confirmed she would get this moved.

Feast Tolls – Chris Humphries has asked if the Parish Council would take on the task of collecting the feast tolls. He has also asked if they would consider taking on the rights. It was not anticipated that there would be a problem collecting the tolls, but a reminder would be needed nearer the time to see who was free to do it. Rights issue to be added to March agenda for consideration.

Road sign – The chevron sign at Woodsend was damaged early Monday evening, and by later that night WC had sent the Parish Steward out to fix it. Thanks were expressed for the speedy resolution.

Allotments – There are two plots vacant. An advert has gone up about them. Current tenants will be reminded about keeping their plots free of weeds.

ARC – The group would like to use the Sports Field and Palmers Field for a fund raising event on 15th July. There would be overnight camping. In principle the Council had no objections to this, but they would need more details once available.

Overhanging tree – The tree overhanging the path near Glebe Close is once again causing water to drip on pedestrians when they walk under it in wet & damp weather. Cllr. Rayner will speak to the owner about this. It was noted that there are a lot of trees and bushes growing out from properties into and over footpaths. A reminder about ensuring overhang is cut back will be put in the next Dabchick.

Manhole cover – The BT cover at the start of Farm Lane has still not been repaired. Cllr. Edmonds advised she would take pictures of these to send to Martin Cook so he could chase BT again

Play areas – A copy of the report provided by Cllr. Edmonds is attached to these minutes.

198. Wiltshire Council Report

Nothing further to report.

199. Correspondence

A list of correspondence received not already mentioned is listed below.

- a) 24/01 R. Leigh – Details of new BBC show being commissioned.
- b) 24/01 WC – Notification of road closure on Old South Street on 27 January 2017.
- c) 26/01 A. Hampton – Highways newsletter
- d) 27/01 WC – Dates for Parish Steward visits
- e) 18/01 S. MacArthur – Advising he will be back out mid March to complete the final repairs on the Market Cross.
- f) 16/01 MAB – Agenda for next meeting on 24 January 2017
- g) 23/01 MAB – Agenda for special meeting being held on 31 January 2017
- h) 30/01 ARC – January update report
- i) 11/01 WC – Advising the Government have dropped their proposal for Town and Parish Councils to hold a referendum if precepts raised 6% for the next financial year

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

- WC need to be given a deadline for when the new signs for Back Lane are installed. The White House was hit yet again on 14th January.
- The Parish Council were urged to continue to push on with the Neighbourhood Plan despite Paul Niblocks resignation. It is an important document and needs completing.
- How vandal proof the new noticeboard is going to be should also be considered. The school one was recently damaged by vandals.
- The Heritage Centre asked if they could put up a support for a hanging sign that they could put up to show that there were open.

The Neighbourhood Plan steering committee will discuss a new chairman for the group and report back at the March meeting.

There were no objections to the Heritage Centre putting up a support and sign, as long as it was higher than head height.

201. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 1st March 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:47pm

Chairman's Signature: _____ **1st March 2017**