

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

Present

Cllr. P. Lawler (Chairman), Cllr. A. Edmonds (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr. H. Bland, Cllr. W. Brown, Cllr. L. Harris, Cllr. N. Josephy, Cllr. H. Keen, Cllr. C. McGowan,
Cllr. A. Phizacklea, Cllr. M. Pryce, Cllr. R. Price (left the meeting at 7.55)

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 9 members of the public, Cllr. J. Sheppard – Wiltshire Council

202. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. S. Muirhead, Cllr. J. Rayner & Cllr. G. Salman

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

Cllr. Keen & Cllr. Pryce item 209 – Both allowed to debate the topic, but not vote on it.

204. Consider and sign the Minutes of the February 2017 Parish Council meeting and adopt the notes from the 8 February public meeting

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st February 2017 be approved and signed, and that the notes from the public meeting held on 8th February be adopted.

205. 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.
- 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. 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. Request made for the remainder of work, but no ETA.
- e) (113 03/02/16) Bus stop sign (4469) – Update 17/12/16 CATG have agreed the work can be carried out, but have no ETA for when. The PC contribution will be no more than £150.
- 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 RoW – Every instance of fly tipping here needs to be reported via the My Wiltshire system so that an enforcement camera can be pushed for.
- h) (102g 02/03/16) Damage to grass on Southward Lane (top of football field) – Awaiting for the work to be completed before checking if any work is required to rectify the damage.
- i) (102h 06/04/16) Bus shelter – The thatcher 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 liaising with Martin Cook
- k) (102k 26/05/16) The Garlings – Continuing deterioration of this road. WC have now got this logged as requiring repair, but it will not be carried out during the 2017/2018 financial year.
- l) (119 05/10/16) Heritage Centre – Extension of lease. PC needs to action this.
- m) (179 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

- n) (183 05/10/16) Southward Lane pot holes – Reported again to WC 03/02/17, but as they do not meet safety intervention levels they will only be monitored and not repaired.
- o) (183 01/02/17) Southward Lane drains – Inspected by WC and they advised that as it is not on a high speed road, or causing flooding, they will be cleaned on next annual scheduled visit. The PC will chase this up again as there is a history of flooding in this area.
- p) (180 04/01/17) Planting at Preston – Awaiting update from Ramsbury & Axford PC
- q) (197 01/02/17) Over hanging plants/trees – A notice has been sent for inclusion in the next Dabchick reminding all residents to cut back anything growing from their property.
- r) (197 01/02/17) Manhole cover – Martin Cook did chase BT, and they have now fixed it.

206. Clerks report

- St Michaels School have responded to the PC's letter about the parking. They have sent a letter out to parents and will continue to remind them termly about parking.
- The grass cutting contract has been signed by D.R & R.A Pittams and commences on 1st April.
- Community Assets nominations – This is still something that the Parish Council needs to consider but at present other issues are taking up councillors time. It will be put back on the agenda later in the year.
- Parish Council Elections – The main dates that everyone who wants to re-apply to be on the council needs to know are: **16 March** – Nominations can be accepted from this date, **4 April 4pm** – Closing date for nominations to be delivered by, **4 May** – Election day. One of the biggest changes this time is that due to a change of legislation all nomination papers now have to be hand delivered by the candidate, or someone appointed by them, to the WC offices at Devizes, Chippenham, Trowbridge or Salisbury.
- ATE Ghana is a Ramsbury based charity that are planning to do a fund raising walk between Ramsbury & Aldbourne and vice versa on 2nd April and have asked permission to put a gazebo on The Green.
- Concern has once again been raised about the trees on the bank along Marlborough Rd. At least one branch fell on the road during last weeks Storm Doris. As the council knows from wrangles in the past this area has no ownership registered.

There were no objections to the gazebo on The Green.

Whilst the Council had every sympathy with the resident concerned about the trees, they are unable to get involved as it is not an area they are responsible for, and they have no powers to take action. They will raise the concern about trees falling on the road again with highways. Cllr Sheppard confirmed he was pursuing this for the resident who had made the complaint.

207. 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.

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

- Is the Neighbourhood plan still being considered?
- Has there been any more news on the Settlement Boundary changes? The WC site says they will be implemented in the spring of 2018.
- On June 2nd 60 people from the World War II Museum in America will be coming to Aldbourne to find out about the Band of Brothers.

The NP is still being considered. It has been suggested that Cllr. Muirhead becomes a joint chairman along with 1 other, though a final decision will need to wait until after the May elections now. Once the chairman is agreed the group can start working through all the paperwork passed over by Paul Niblock with a view to putting a timeline of objectives together.

The Parish Council has not received any more information about the boundary review. When they last chased for an update, they were advised that a new consultation date would be advertised as soon as it was agreed. Cllr. Sheppard advised he would chase up what was happening and see if there was a new timescale.

Cllr Price left meeting

209. Sports field area

i) FSFD group update

The public meeting was well attended and a lot of information was given and received.

The FSFD group have been working on the HoA. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Josephy for all his work on the last draft. The group have asked ARC to look at parking as concerns were expressed at the public meeting that there would not be enough. They have also asked them to look at a possible circular route that would allow for easy and quick drop off and pick up.

The discharge of planning has not been completed yet due to the wrong form being submitted, and also because there was a change of layout for the gates which cannot be considered on a discharge of conditions. ARC are looking into the best solution to move this forward.

ii) Review draft Heads of Agreement

The Council discussed and made comment on the agreement as it currently stands. Further comments from councillors were welcomed following the meeting. The FSFD will meet again to take all comments on board, and then have another meeting with ARC. They will be working to try and have a final document ready to be voted on at the April meeting.

210. Consider new noticeboard and changes to the area by the pond

The issues with weather resistance and the legs longevity had been followed up. Marine ply and beading will be used on the board. The legs will be set in postcrete which stops them rotting.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the Interpretive Board and an oak replacement Parish Noticeboard be installed, at the back of a flat grassmatt area, with a root barrier and kerb drop as per the layout tabled at the February 2017 Parish Council Meeting, at a total cost of £5,950 (net)

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

Consent for the work has now been granted by WC, subject to the work being carried out within a year and the trees being planted as per the specifications on the application.

Cllr. Brown advised that the cost of carrying out the electricity line move was £8,765.65. The Council felt that this was far too much money, and asked Cllr. Brown to work with SSE to try and get this amount reduced. The cost of burying the line where it crossed Palmers Field was considerably less.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to confirm with Conservation Contactors that their bid of £3,780 to remove the trees, £1,660 to replant & £180 per annum for 5 years tree care package would be accepted. The work is to be carried out in the autumn, subject to getting the electricity line removed, and a possible change of tree types to be planted. Costs for any changes to the trees would be agreed at a later point if required. The Council acknowledges that the total cost of the new the trees and the amount for the 5 year care package may increase due to price changes for the tree purchase & planting in the autumn rather than now. They are willing to accept a small increase in this amount (if the trees being ordered remained the same)

212. Update on replacement trees on The Green

It was RESOLVED unanimously to contract John Turner to remove the 4 old trees and plant 4 new trees at a cost of £600.

The 4 new trees are already in the village and cost £88 in total.

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

An email was sent to Steve Hind advising that if the PC did not hear back within 2 weeks they would go ahead with the height restriction signs. Precisely on the two weeks Mr Hind responded to say that WC did not approve these signs as they did not meet WC standards, and they did not feel they would be effective. WC feel a bollard on the road will solve the issue. They have asked that the PC attend the next CATG meeting to discuss this further.

A total blocking of this road with a bollard was widely unpopular with the village when proposed last year. The Council were also opposed to the idea.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to ask WC to carry out a 6 month trial of the height signs. If this fails, then a width restriction can be looked at. It was agreed that Cllr. Edmonds would attend the CATG meeting to represent the Council.

214. Consider starting process of applying for 20mph limit in the village

Deferred to the April meeting.

215. Discuss SID units

It was agreed to delay a decision on this until the new Council is formed following the May elections. It was noted that there was nothing in the budget for purchasing new units during the 2017/2018 financial year.

216. Consider standard letters to be sent for highway/footpath encroachment & discuss policy for action following this

It was RESOLVED to adopt the proposed standard letters to be used in the event of highway or footpath encroachment. Follow up action on what to do if no action is taken will be decided on a case by case basis.

217. Discuss finger post for Southward Triangle

It was felt that there was no need for such a sign. No further action required.

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

Still only one group interested, they will not do it alone. Advertisement for other volunteers to come forward will continue.

219. Consider taking on Feast Tolls

The likely cost to take on the rights is £600. Questions were asked about the following: Was there any room to manoeuvre on the cost, would there be any liabilities involved in taking on the rights, would the PC become responsible for obtaining the road closures, how is the amount to be collected calculated, is there a percentage.

These issues will be investigated with a view to having response for the April meeting.

220. Discuss possible tree issue in Rectory Wood & Consider any action required

A resident in Farm Lane had contacted the Council about concerns they had about a tree behind their property in Rectory Wood. Cllr. Rayner had been out to have a look but could not pinpoint the tree in question. He had spoken to the home owner via telephone but they were not able to give more information. He has arranged to meet up with them in a couple of weeks to take another look.

221. Approve & adopt both the February 2017 planning committee minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 1st February 2017 were adopted, and are attached to these minutes.

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

The Bourne – Part of the roadside edge has slipped into The Bourne. WC has been advised but have taken no action as yet. It will also be reported to the Environment Agency. The Council were happy for the warning tape that has been put up to remain in place.

Heritage centre lease – The extension, and how to do it, will be looked into further.

Ridgeway – One of the byway signs has fallen down. The Council were advised by a member of the public that this had already been reported to WC.

Bourne Farm, Preston – There is someone living there. An enforcement officer has been out but no action has been taken. Cllr. Sheppard advised he would chase this up.

Community Junction – The drop in youth programme at The Junction is being well attended. It is open 3.30pm-6.00pm after school. The CJ is also looking for anyone that can offer support with GCSE homework. Please get in touch if you could help with this.

Football field gate – The gates have been shut and a lock put on it as unauthorised vehicles were driving onto the field. Those that need to know have the number. Dog waste is still being put on the BMX bin despite requests for people not to do this. A new notice will be put on the bin.

Elections – Advertising needs to be done now as the closing date for nominations is before the April meeting.

223. Wiltshire Council Report

Cllr. Sheppard had chased up several reports of faulty street lighting around the village. He will keep chasing these until fixed. If any new ones come up, report them via My Wiltshire, but also let Cllr. Sheppard know. A budget for pavements works has been agreed for Wiltshire. Details on how to apply for some of this will be sent out by the area boards.

Steven Neat has advised that the encroachment on the highway by The Green has been resolved, as the residents have now reduced the width of the garden area to no further out than the storm porch roof, which complies with the licence.

The bonfire on Lottage Road continue to burn. The Environment Agencies, who are the body responsible for enforcement, appear to not want to have anything to do with it. Cllr. Sheppard has taken it back to Claire Perry MP and she will be contacting the EA again. Cllr. Sheppard reminded everyone the need to ensure that any household or garden waste they get removed from their property is taken by a licensed carrier to ensure that it does not end up at places such as this being burnt illegally.

224. Correspondence

A list of correspondence received not already mentioned is attached to these Minutes.

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

- Does anyone know why the springs are not up yet?
- There is a street light out on Marlborough Rd.
- Aldbourne website are very slow to post up the Minutes that are sent to them, and whilst the PC's posting them on Facebook is an alternative way to make them available, it is not that easy to see view them on there. Could the PC find another way to make them accessible online?

Ground water levels are still very low due to a dry early winter. They are slowly rising, but they may not rise enough to make the Bourne flow.

Cllr. Sheppard advised he would double check the street light on his way home and report it if it was not one of the ones already advised to WC.

The Council are as frustrated as the village is about how long it takes for the Minutes to appear on the website. The Facebook posts were as a direct result of the delay in the Minutes being posted up, but the Council agrees it is not a perfect system. A possible email group or some thing like Dropbox will be looked at.

226. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 5th April 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.42pm

Chairman's Signature: _____ **5th April 2017**