

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL 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. C. McGowan, Cllr. R. Price,
Cllr. M. Pryce, Cllr. J. Rayner

Mrs K Clay – Parish Clerk

In attendance: 20 members of the public. Cllr. J. Sheppard – Wiltshire Council

Before the start of the meeting Cllr. Lawler advised that as only 13 people had applied for the 15 vacancies on the Council there would be no election on 4th May, and thus all who had applied would be elected unopposed.

227. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. L. Harris, Cllr. H. Keen, Cllr. S. Muirhead, Cllr. A. Phizacklea & Cllr. G. Salman

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

Cllr. Pryce item 234 – The council agreed to allow the councillor to debate the topic, but not vote in it.

229. Consider and sign the Minutes of the March 2017 Parish Council meeting

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 be approved and signed.

230. Matters arising

Any changes to matters arising are listed below. A full list of all issues is attached to these Minutes.

h) (102g 02/03/16) Damage to grass on Southward Lane (top of football field) – The grass has repaired itself since the work was completed. No further action required.

n) (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 it will be emptied on next annual scheduled visit. WC were reminded after the March meeting that there is a history of flooding in the area, but are still leaving this for the next scheduled visit.

o) (180 04/01/17) Planting at Preston – Ramsbury & Axford PC contacted about the issue to get their view on it. They did consider reporting it to highways, but then decided it was very similar to existing hedging further along the B4192 so there was no point as a precedent was already set.

p) (223 10/09/09) Encroachment on The Green – The 'garden area' has finally been moved back in line with the porch overhang.

q) (212 04/01/17) Trees on The Green – 4 of the 5 trees that were dead/dying have been replaced with Malus Transitoria. Thanks to Mrs I Bound for ordering the trees and organising their planting and maintenance.

231. Clerks report

■ The Community Junction have asked to use either Palmer's Field or the football field this Sunday between approx 11 and 2pm to run an archery coaching activity with a trained coach. There were no objections to the group using whichever field they felt best suited the activity.

232. 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.

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

- St Michaels school has a safe guarding issue due to the open public footpath that runs between their playground and playing field. They have approached the Wiltshire RoW department about installing some gates either end of the path, similar to those that are suitable for both walkers and horse riders. They would not be locked, but due to the handle system it would be harder for any child that tried to leave the school to open. The RoW department said that gates would not be allowed, but that the school could apply to close the RoW, which would almost certainly be granted. The school do not want to take this route and deprive those that use the path of the right to walk along it. They would like to work with WC RoW department to find a solution but are having problems trying to arrange a meeting with them.
- Several members of the public present spoke in support of the HoA for ARC. The PC were also thanked for the work they had put into the document.
- Thanks expressed to the Clerk for putting the last minutes on Dropbox
- There is a lot of ivy that has been cut from the trees on the bank on Marlborough Road. This is now dying back and falling down into the road and generally making the area look very untidy.

The PC supported the schools proposal for a gate. They suggested that a gate which could be left open to allow unimpeded access during the times the school was closed may possibly be viewed more favourably by the RoW officer. Cllr. James Sheppard said he would speak to the RoW officer in an attempt to find a solution.

The Council were not sure who had cut the ivy as no one actually owns this piece of land. They will see if they can find out who has done it, and ask them to clear the dead ivy.

234. Consider Heads of Agreement with ARC

Cllr. Lawler thanked ARC and the FSFD group members for all the work they had put into putting the HoA together. There was then a lengthy discussion about the various parts of the HoA, particularly the areas for any lease. A record of the proposer and seconder of each vote was requested.

There was a proposal and then an amendment to this proposal, the amendment was voted on first: It was PROPOSED Cllr. McGowan, SECONDED Cllr. Brown and FAILED two in favour, four against and three abstentions that the area of Southward Lane Field required for car parking and access is covered by a licence or other legal agreement for the same period as the main lease, rather than being included in the main lease.

As this amended proposal failed, a vote was taken on the original proposal

It was PROPOSED Cllr. Lawler, SECONDED Cllr. Josephy and RESOLVED five in favour, none against, and four abstentions that the Parish Council grant a lease to ARC for the land known as Palmer's Field (the main lease), this agreement to include the area of Southward Lane Field that is required for car parking and access. This to be generally in line with the published HOA and will be subject to legal opinion and if necessary amended based on that opinion.

The Southward Lane (football field) part of the area was considered separately to Palmer's Field as there were reservations about giving up the rights to this area when there have been no substantial plans proposed for it. ARC have stated they will not be able to get grants if both areas are not included in a lease, but to date have not provided any evidence to back up this statement. All proposed plans provided by ARC, and the basis on which the HoA was considered, have been for the Palmer's Field area, for which a lease had just been voted for and approved by the Council.

Original proposal

It was PROPOSED Cllr. Josephy, SECONDED Cllr. Brown that the Parish Council grants a separate lease (or licence or other legal agreement, depending on legal opinion) for the remaining portion of Southward Lane Field, which would differ from the main lease in that:

- It would allow APC and other village organisations to use Southward Lane Field for occasional village activities or events for up to 20 days per annum
- It would be subject to review at the end of each five year period, with APC having the right to terminate it and repossess the property, or repossess part of the property, if in the view of APC other village uses were then more compelling.

It was PROPOSED Cllr. Bland that the whole of Southward Lane Field be included in the area defined as the Property within the main lease.

There was no seconder for this proposal and thus it failed.

2nd amendment

It was PROPOSED Cllr. McGowan, SECONDED Cllr. Rayner and RESOLVED six in favour, none against and three abstentions to make a decision on a lease for the Southward Lane Field in the future when ARC have provided more detailed plans for the area.

As the 2nd amendment was successful the original proposal failed and thus no vote was required.

It was PROPOSED Cllr. Josephy, SECONDED Cllr. Edmonds and RESOLVED seven in favour, none against and two abstentions that the period for the main lease for Palmer's Field is 30 years.

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

Nothing to report

236. Update & consider any actions required on noticeboard and changes by the pond

The final details for the noticeboard were agreed, and the order has been placed today. The quote for the works to be carried out has been accepted.

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

Cllr. Edmonds attended the last CATG meeting and got them to agree, at last, to trial some height restrictions signs for 6mths. Martin Cook had found some overhang signs in the depot, which he put up straight away. Thanks to Nigel Payne for all his help with information on the signs, and Cllr. Sheppard for supporting Cllr. Edmonds and the PC's stance at the CATG meeting.

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

Cllr. Price advised he had discussed this with other villages who had put in 20mph limits and they said it had been a success. He strongly recommend that someone from the new council take this on and work to get it installed in Aldbourne.

239. Consider taking on rights for Feast Tolls

The Parish Council has been receiving approx £120 a year from these tolls for the last 16 years, and nothing has been asked for in return for this.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to pay Mr Chris Humphries £600 for the Feast Toll rights, subject to there not being anything that throws up any further costs or responsibilities.

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

Cllr Rayner has now looked at the tree in Rectory Wood from the Farm Lane property and it was clear that it is leaning, with most growth to one side, and is not looking very healthy. Whilst there doesn't seem to be any immediate danger, it has already survived several storms this winter, it would be sensible to get a tree surgeon to take a look at it and advise if any works are required. The Council will ask John Turner if he would take a look at the tree.

241. Consider extension to lease on Community room

There will be a £40 registration charge that the Heritage Group would need to pay for changing the lease length. The existing lease can be used as it was written in the right format to allow for a lease longer than 5 years. Cllr. McGowan will check with the group if they want a 20 year lease from the original date, or 20 years on top of the original 5 year one. He will then prepare a lease for the council to consider.

242. Discuss taking on cost of defibrillator maintenance

Standing orders were suspended to allow Diana Yeowell to speak on this item they were re-instated for a vote to be taken.

Diana Yeowell advised that the group were only seeking funding to help with maintenance, they will continue to look after the units. A grant was obtained when the units were first installed, but this money is nearly all gone now. Diana gave a breakdown of some of the costs involved in maintaining the units. Diana was asked if the units had been used since their installation, and she confirmed that all 4 had been used several times.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to donate £200 a year to the Aldbourne Defib Fund on the proviso that the group review this each year to advise if more or less funds are needed.

243. Consider entering Laurence Kitching Award 2017 (CPRE)

It was RESOLVED unanimously that as winners of the Laurence Kitching 2016 Award the Council would enter the village into the 2017 competition.

244. Consider use of The Green for 5k race & ice rink

It was RESOLVED unanimously to allow The Green to be used for the 5k race on 11th June 2017 & an ice rink on 9th/10th December. Subject to the usual conditions of use for this area.

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

Drains – WC advised in their last highways letter that drains would be cleared on a 2 year rota, unless there was indication within the villages flood plan of any that were of concern during flooding. Cllr. Josephy advised he would arrange for the Flood Wardens to review the Aldbourne Flood Plan to highlight any drains that needed more regular clearance.

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

Goddards Swings – Keith Warren is going to repaint the swings. He may need to purchase a small amount of paint & some brushes. The Council were happy for delegated powers for expenditure be used if these needed to be purchased.

Finance – The committee will need to meet in April to discuss year end figures and reserves.

Cllr. Price – Has greatly enjoyed his time as a councillor, but would not be standing for another 4 years. The council thanked Cllr. Price for his time on the Council.

Pond – The pond is leaking. The Council will try to find someone who can look at this and advise what is required.

The Winterbourne – No water was running on the section by the houses at the lower end of Lottage Road. It was discovered that someone had dumped a load of garden waste into the Winterbourne at this point. The council will send a letter to everyone in the area reminding them about riparian ownership and that this sort of thing is not acceptable as it will cause flooding.

246. Wiltshire Council Report

Cllr. Sheppard advised that he had contacted Spatial Planning about the boundary review and they had advised that a 6 week consultation will commence in June this year.

The PC will publicise this across the village, both on-line and on the noticeboard.

As it is nearing the end of Cllr. Sheppard's 4 year term he thanked the Council for their support during this time. He advised he was standing again.

The Council thanked Cllr. Sheppard for all his help and input over the last 4 years.

247. Correspondence

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

248. Questions and requests from the public for councillors to consider – None

249. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 26th April 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall for Annual Assembly,
Wednesday 10th May 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall for Annual Meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:42 pm

Chairman's Signature: _____ **10th May 2017**