

ALDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 2017
IN THE METHODIST HALL, ALDBOURNE

Present

Cllr. A Edmonds, Cllr. N. Josephy, Cllr. H. Bland, Cllr. W. Brown, Cllr. M. Cheney, Cllr. B. Hill, Cllr. P. Lawler, Cllr. C. McGowan, Cllr. J. Moore, Cllr. A. Phizacklea, Cllr. M Pryce, Cllr. J. Rayner

Cllr Lawler opened the meeting and welcomed the 3 new councillors in attendance.

1. Elect Chairman of the Council for 2017/2018

Cllr. A. Edmonds was proposed by Cllr. A. Phizacklea and seconded by Cllr. P. Lawler
It was RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr. A. Edmonds as the Chairman for 2017/2018.

2. Elect Vice Chairman of the Council for 2017/2018

Cllr. N. Josephy was proposed by Cllr. A. Edmonds and seconded by Cllr. M. Pryce
It was RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr. N. Josephy as the Vice Chairman for 2017/2018.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. A. Deuchar

4. Declarations of interest of any item contained in the Agenda & granting of any dispensations required

Cllr Pryce & Cllr Cheney – Item 21, no dispensations required for this meeting.

5. Consider annual financial statement for 2016/2017

It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the financial report for 2016/2017
A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

6. Decision on annual audit return governance statement 2016/2017

It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the annual audit return governance statement for 2016/2017

7. Decision on annual audit return accounting statement 2016/2017

It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the annual audit return accounting statement 2016/2017

8. Consider changes asset register & risk management

It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the changes to both documents as agreed by the finance group.

9. Consider insurance renewal for 2017/2018

It was RESOLVED unanimously to renew the 2017/2018 insurance with Zurich for £996.88.

10. Consider provisional meeting dates for 2017/2018

The meetings for the next year will be held on the 1st Wednesday of each month from June 2017- June 2018 apart from:

August 2017 & January 2018 – No meeting

25th April 2018 – Annual Parish Assembly

11. Appoint parish representation on outside bodies for 2017/2018

Item deferred until June. The current status quo will remain until then.

12. Appoint planning committee, village responsibilities & liaison roles for 2017/2018

Item deferred until June. The current status quo will remain until then.

13. Consider and sign the Minutes of the April 2017 Parish Council meeting

It was RESOLVED unanimously that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2017 be approved and signed.

14. Review of issues raised at Annual Assembly

No new issues were raised at the meeting.

15. Matters arising

f) (102e 03/02/16) Upper Upham name sign – The sign has now been replaced.

No changes to any of the other items as listed on the attached document.

16. Clerks report

- James Sheppard has been re-elected as the Aldbourne & Ramsbury Unitary Councillor
- Feast Tolls – The Lease Rights that Mr Humphries has are for the stalls that are in The Square on the pond side. Mr George Scarrott owns the Rights to all the stalls on the library side of The Square. As a favour to Mr Humphries Mr Scarrott has always done the advertising for the feast and also covered the whole area on his insurance. If the PC took on these Rights they would be responsible for their own advertising and insurance. At least £10m liability is required when using roads that are closed, and you can only get this by being a member of the Showman's Guild. Mr Scarrott has proposed that he buys Mr Humphries Lease Rights, and also make an agreement with the Parish Council to continue to pay us rent (tolls), which would be about the same sort of sum as paid by Mr Humphries. He assured the PC that the Feast is here to stay and he has no intention of moving on. The Scarrott family wish to continue with their 100+ years of coming to Aldbourne. The only thing he would ask in return is that the Council help him to try and ensure The Square is clear of vehicles before they arrive. He does put notices up but there are always still 1 or 2 cars left in the way that he has to call the Police about to get them moved.
- The organisers of the 5k fun run on 11th June, would like to be able to use the edge of the football field for parking should it be necessary.
- Aldbourne tennis club are asking permission to put up a banner advertising an event they are holding this weekend. They will remove it by the end of Sunday.

The agreement with Mr Humphries was subject to there being no additional costs or responsibilities coming to light. Due to the new information received the Council felt that Mr Scarrott taking on the feast tolls would be the best option. The clerk will contact Mr Humphries about this new information. A resolution signed by 8 councillors will be submitted to allow for the item to be considered again at the June meeting.

There were no objections to the parking, subject to the usual conditions, or the banner.

17. Receive monthly financial report and to 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.

18. Consider co-option of two councillors

2 candidates to be considered were at the meeting, Leigh Harris & Sandy Muirhead. A paper ballot was taken on both vacancies.

Both candidates having received a majority vote it was RESOLVED to co-opt Leigh Harris and Sandy Muirhead to the Council.

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

- Compliments were expressed to the new grass cutting contractor. The sports field has not looked this good for years.
- The area of grass at the top of Alma Road, where it meets Cook Road, does not appear to have been cut.
- Thanks were expressed to Peter Lawler for his chairmanship over the last 3 years.

Cllr Phizacklea left the meeting (8pm)

20. Discuss Neighbourhood Plan & consider any actions required

Cllr. Muirhead and Cllr. Deuchar have both expressed an interest in joining this group alongside the existing members. Chairman/vice chairman to be decided for agreement at the June meeting.

21. Sports-field area: i) Update from FSFD group & discuss future; ii) Update on HoA and consider any action required including preparation of leases & expenditure

For the benefit of the new councillors Cllr. Lawler gave an update on what the FSFD group was, what they have been doing and where the council were up to in terms on the HoA. Approval was given at the April meeting for a 30 year lease on Palmers Field and, thus work on gaining grants for building could commence. There was a lengthy discussion around the leasing of the football field under the same terms as Palmers Field. Particularly around the fact that the Council has yet to be convinced of why ARC need a lease for both areas in order to be able to apply for grant funding. ARC are meeting again at the end of the month. They were asked to come back to the Council with convincing reasons why they need a lease for both fields. They have also been asked to look at a lease with a resumption clause to see if that could work for them.

It was RESOLVED twelve in favour and one abstention to consider a vote on leasing the football field at the July 5th meeting.

The Council were happy for the FSFD group to continue with the same members as it currently has and Cllr. Lawler as the chair.

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

Cllr. Brown advised he was still awaiting a call back from SSE.

23. Receive & adopt the March 1st & 14th 2017 planning committee minutes

The Minutes from the meetings held on 1st & 14th March 2017 were adopted, and are attached these Minutes.

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

- Some trees on a property near Crooked Corner were cut down recently whilst birds were still nesting in them. Permission had been granted by WC for the work. It was felt that WC should be asked to make the conditions about not carrying out work to trees whilst birds are nesting much clearer on future approvals.
- In order to establish if there is a leak in the pond it was refilled, and it did lose quite a bit of water, about 3 inches in depth over two weeks. Cllr. Josephy has spoken to a company which carries out pond repairs, and if the leak is due to a leak in the cocreate repair should be fairly straight forward. However, the pond needs to be drained to establish the scale of the problem

and obtain a quote for the work. He will investigate further and report back at the June meeting. Actual draining and any work will need to be deferred until September to minimise harm to the wildlife in the pond.

- It was suggested that when the precept is next considered there needs to be a more robust discussion about 'high risk items', which is those where expenditure has the potential to differ greatly from that shown on the budget. The finance group will take this into consideration towards the end of the year when the precept is being prepared.
- Is there one more tree being put in on the Blue Boar side of The Green? Yes, time ran out to get this one planted. Cllr. Muirhead will discuss with Isobel Bound about getting this planted in the autumn.
- The Aldbourne Sports and Social Club AGM is being held on Monday 15th @ 7pm. Everyone is invited whether they are a member or not.
- The Churches Together would like to use The Green on Saturday 16th December. There were no objections to this, subject to the usual conditions.
- It was noted that there is an increasing amount of litter being thrown from vehicles into the verges around the parish. Cllr. Edmonds advised she would be discussing a litter awareness campaign at the June meeting.
- Cllr. Edmonds led the Council in thanking Cllr. Lawler for chairing the council so well in the last 3 years.
- All play areas have been inspected, and there are no issues to report.
- The bird boxes made and put up by Sid Watts a year ago have been knocked down from the trees in the last 3 days. One of them did have eggs in it. They will be put back up in higher positions which will hopefully prevent further malicious damage.
- A dummy CCTV camera was found on the zip wire and has been taken down. It has been kept safe so the owner can reclaim it.
- Work to build the additional storage on the storage rooms begins later this month.

25. Wiltshire Council report

None

26. Correspondence

A full copy of the correspondence not already mentioned is attached to these minutes.

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

- The council were asked who the 3 new councillors were. The Chairman introduced them all and advised there were elected unopposed at the recent Parish Council elections.
- Comment was made about the many other things that that sports field is used for by various village groups.
- On the 2nd June 80 Americans will be visiting the village on a Band of Brothers tour.
- The metal detecting in Rectory Wood was carried out at the end of March. Only half the area was covered. It is hoped the other half will be done next year. Lots of bullets and shells were found, along with a Victorian padlock and a few items from more recent times.

28. Confirm date of next meeting

Wednesday 7th June 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:50

Chairman Signature: _____ 7th June 2017