

## **Draft Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting of Alderbury and Whaddon held on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at Alderbury Village Hall at 7pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Hartford, Mernagh, Diprose, Sell, Reeder, Taylor and Considine.

**In attendance:** Mrs Alison McGowan (clerk), Cllr Richard Britton and 30 residents.

The meeting opened at 7.03pm. Councillor (Cllr) Hartford as Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies and welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

Apologies were received from Cllr Hughes, Richardson and Clarke, Alderbury Bowling Club Committee, the PCC and Alderbury Gardening Club.

### **2. To approve the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting in 2014**

The draft minutes for the Annual Parish meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Hartford.

### **3. How to use the defibrillator and CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)**

Cllr Hartford welcomed Dr Paul Diprose, who works at Southampton General Hospital and specialises in cardiac resuscitation. Dr Diprose explained that a defibrillator is fitted to the outside wall of the village hall in a box. The box has a keypad on it and if required you should dial 999, explain your location and you will be told the code to unlock the box.

Dr Diprose explained that a DVD would now be shown to demonstrate how to use the defibrillator. It was highlighted however, that no-one needs specific training to be able to use the machine. Once the box is opened there is one important button to press which will discharge the electricity if required. Call handlers are experienced and can talk you through what to do. The most important thing is to stay calm.

Cllr Hughes and Dr Diprose are happy to run a session on CPR in September time if required for residents.

There is only one set of pads to use with the machine. This model does not have a separate set for children. Chest compressions are more appropriate for children. Studies show that chest compressions are the most important, rather than using mouth to mouth.

**Question:** Is respiratory arrest more common in children?

**Answer:** Yes. Once a patient is unconscious, get professional support as quickly as possible. Open the airway and start chest compressions. Respiratory arrest is more common in children than cardiac arrest. There is generally a higher chance of survival with cardiac arrest if there is access to an AED.

**Question:** How many compressions would you recommend?

**Answer:** 30 compressions to 2 rest is the current ratio. Carry on with compressions if you are untrained as it is better if oxygen is moving around the body.

The pads with the defibrillator can only be used once. There is a spare set of pads in the village. The machine is checked each week to ensure it is working and a return is made once a month to the ambulance service.

Cllr Hartford thanked Dr Diprose for the overview. Cllr Hartford has the DVD which she is happy to show to individuals or groups as a refresher. She is at the Boundary coffee shop every Friday.

### **4. Reports from:-**

#### **• Wiltshire Councillor Britton**

Good evening and thank you Chair for the opportunity to account for myself. Last week I was elected Chairman of Wiltshire Council. I have learnt what 'herding cattle is' managing 90 councillors egos. It is

a privilege to be Chairman, but I am only responsible for procedural and constitutional matters and attending events, of which there are a number. As well as Chairman i am the local councillor representing the Grimsteads, Whiteparish and Alderbury. I am also Chairman of the Police and Crime panel. There was requirement to put up the precept and therefore it has been an interesting time. There has also been the appointment of a new Chief Constable. An emerging issue with the Police is a strategic alliance with the Somerset and Avon force. It is a challenging job. I am also vice chair of the audit panel and Chairman and a member of the Southern Planning Committee.

I would like to introduce Karen Lineaker, Community Area Manager who looks after the Southern Area Board and five other locally elected councillors. Themes for the Area Board in the last year have included footpaths (there is a circular route being developed in Alderbury), local transport schemes which has a budget of £80,000 and youth. The Area Board helped to fund the footpath from Whaddon to Grimstead.

A main theme this year is older people e.g. Dementia – what can people in Communities do to support those with the condition.

In respect of planning issues, the recent Matrons College Farm application was outside of the housing policy boundary. I repeatedly opposed it. I support the idea of a medical centre for the village but am concerned about the delivery of the centre and i felt that i needed to hold out until it could be confirmed. I have a concern that extra houses will be built to get the building, but the village may not get the medical centre. I have been continually pushing the NHS and Whiteparish surgery to come up with the finances.

I currently have a fairly low case work regarding Alderbury. It is a battle to get maintenance completed, for example fly tipping and verges and is getting increasingly difficult. Fly tipping can take up to 6 months to be collected. There is less money as the Government takes austerity measures and in the next financial year it will get worse before it gets better. We are likely to see Wiltshire Council talking to others about strategic alliances in a similar way to the police. Having said that, Wiltshire Council is one of the most advanced councils e.g. Neighbourhood policing teams.

The next election will be in 2017. I will see if i have the enthusiasm to stand again then.

**Question:** Has Hive energy submitted a planning application yet?

**Answer:** No planning application has been made yet. Conversations have been held to date prior to an application.

**Question:** Even though Sainsbury's has pulled out, why is there still an application going on to build on the land?

**Answer:** Sorry it is not on my patch and i haven't been involved.

**Question:** Is Hill Billy Acre still there?

**Answer:** Yes, evicting people nowadays is not easy. There is an enforcement group working closely with the families involved. They are trying to find another site, potentially Dairy Farm, however they are waiting for spaces to become free.

**Question:** With regards to the housing developments being considered, do they include any housing for older people in smaller units?

**Answer:** There is often housing for families who want to stay in the village, but rarely consideration for older people. I am sure our colleagues from Longford are listening.

**Question:** I am concerned about the number of trees being cut down with tree preservation orders (TPO) on them.

**Answer:** There are three more tree applications to be considered by the Council at a meeting later this evening. They could request replacements.

**Question:** Where will the Council be spending the money from the £40 payment that residents will be paying for the collection of their green bin? Will it be ring-fenced?

**Answer:** Managers have had their budgets cut, have less staff and still need to deliver a service for residents. The money will not be ring-fenced, it will be used to provide a range of recycling services. The world has changed in the last three years.

**Question:** Why is it taking 6 months in some cases to remove fly tipping? A resident locally has said he would be willing to move it, however he was told that he could be prosecuted if he does so.

**Answer:** You need a licence to dispose of the rubbish. The Southern Area Board is looking at funding a team to collect fly tipping in our area. There may be a benefit if it is under local control and it is becoming a big issue in southern Wiltshire.

**Question:** There are often comments about road repairs, they are on lots of lists but when will they be completed?

**Answer:** The issue is priorities, which are the main routes. It is only where it is a safety issue that it will potentially jump the queue. The ramp on Southampton road is being looked at, it is likely that it will be re-engineered.

#### • **Local Police Team**

Cllr Hartford welcomed PC Henry Clissold to the meeting and thanked him for coming to the meeting on his day off!

It has been another good year in the village. The police force does feel the impact at times of changes which have been made due to the pressure on budgets. The police share IT systems with Wiltshire Council employees and this has been a benefit to all of those involved. For instance with adult care, the police can now have increased face to face contact with the relevant teams.

Looking at data from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 there have been 130 'occurrences' in the Alderbury area. This could be issues ranging from a lost dog or passport to a road traffic collision. 30 were crimes. Out of the 130 cases, 60 were road traffic collisions. The force has two new probationary PC's at present and they are using the A36 as their 'hunting ground'. 60 – 70% of the road traffic issues have been the two PC's catching speeding motorists.

There have been 6 thefts in Alderbury, 4 burglaries from a shed or house. There have been 7 incidents of violence against a person and it ranges from in the school playground to more serious occurrences. Wiltshire is one of the safest counties in the country. We live in a safe area.

PCSO Rachel Gunn is leaving at the end of June/beginning of July and will be replaced with Guy Hammel who is currently learning the area.

PC Clissold would like to thank the Community Speed watch team. It is a good core of volunteers and he joins them when he can. Thanks go to Denis Watson for his help with the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

**Question:** Did the statistic you mentioned earlier regarding speeding motorists include any captured by the Community Speed watch?

**Answer:** The Community Speed Watch team use the camera and note the time, date and details. This information is then given to the co-ordinator who sends out a letter. The vehicle registration is noted and if there is a repeat offence then the police are notified. There were recently reports in Landford of a speeding motorist all on the same day in the same car. Within a week PC Clissold had issued them a ticket. The offence has not been repeated.

**Question:** Is it correct that 7.5 tonne lorries are not allowed along Southampton Road?

**Answer:** Yes, there are two ways that it can be reported, either via 101 or email the details to PC Clissold. Trading standards normally write to the company. If the offender is repeatedly committing an offence, the GPS tracking system can be used and the transport manager can confirm.

#### • **Alderbury Parish Council**

It is my pleasure as Chair of Alderbury Parish Council to welcome you to our Annual Parish Meeting. It has been a difficult year in some respects, but a successful year in others.

Amanda Newbury, our previous chairman, resigned from the council owing to her moving house. I was elected to fill the position thereby causing us the need to elect a vice chairman. I am delighted to say that Cllr Darren Mernagh agreed to stand, and was duly elected, to fill this position.

It has been a very busy year for Alison, our clerk, She has had to spend a considerable amount of time updating our asset register, dealing with various leases that we have with Longford Estate and the Bowls Club to name but a few. This has entailed hours of research, trawling through countless minutes, papers and records etc. Work on this is ongoing but as a result I can say that we are getting there.

Last year we entered the BKV again and were second in the large village category to Whiteparish. We have entered again this year and Cllr Graham Reeder has taken on the responsibility of overseeing it. He has spent a lot of time cleaning up various parts of the village, namely the fountain, the wooden bus shelter at the top of Silver Street, the milepost at the top of Clarendon Road, to name but a few. Graham also enlisted a workforce from the Scouts to repaint the white railings on Old Road. Instead of the old bob a job week, after two decades they have resurrected it and now call it Scout Community Week. They work in supervised groups, focusing on local projects.

The adult gym equipment has been installed as has the table tennis table. As you can see, the defibrillator has been installed and registered with the South Western Ambulance Service.

Further improvements have been made to some of the footpaths around the village during the year. This has been done by Phil Spooner and other volunteers organised through Nigel Walsh and we are very grateful to them.

The book swap is up and running and seems to be well used. Unfortunately, due to a firework being set off inside, some of the glass was broken. We are getting quotes to replace the panes with Perspex as unfortunately, we have lost Keith our handyman who was going to do it.

Having single handedly litter picked the recreation ground almost daily, Cllr Reeder has leapt into the breach and is picking through the village regularly. Thank you for all your help Graham. We regularly check on maintenance issues in the village and the problems with fly tipping, particularly in Old Road and the road between Southampton Road and Shute End road.

With many thanks to Cllr Darren Mernagh, we now have a new website [www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk). Darren has put a lot of work into designing it and keeping it regularly updated. Please look at it and feel free to contact Darren or the clerk if you are an organisation who would like a link in it.

We have now finished the purchase of the land at Oakwood Grove which will be used as an amenity area. Support has been given to the Bowls Club to aid their extension plans. Cllr Nigel Sell has spent a considerable amount of time dealing with the lease to the Bowls Club and we are grateful to him for that.

This year "Fun in the Sun" sessions will again be held during the summer. It was well attended last year and hope it will be this year. We have been hoping to start up a youth club in the village but have been held up by finding a suitable hosting organisation to run it. We have been unable to find 3 quotations but are still trying. Emma Drage, the Southern Wiltshire Community Youth Officer, is hoping to help organize some youth activities during the Summer Months.

Recently the Parish Council has been involved in three major planning issues either in or on the outskirts of the village. One at Matron's College Farm which has been decided, and two other potential developments, one on the football field in Junction Road, and Hive Energy's plans for a 200 acre solar energy farm on land belonging to Witherington Farm. The land borders Pepperbox Hill so we are very concerned about how it is going to affect the beauty of the rolling countryside.

The Parish Council meets monthly and there are 10 councillors at present plus one vacancy. We succeeded in keeping a nil % increase in our precept for the coming year, so for a Band D property the Parish Council portion remains at £47.38 pa. We operate an active Community Speed watch. We would love to fill the final vacancy on the PC so please think about putting yourself forward for cooption.

I try and attend the Coffee shop every Friday at about 1030 in order that the PC is represented and available for anyone to express any concerns that they may have.

Finally I would like to thank Alison for all her hard work and dedication, Cllr Richard Britten for his invaluable help and advice, and all the councillors for the many tasks that they undertake to ensure that we have a Parish Council that Alderbury can be proud of, and last but not least, thank you to all of you who have come here this evening.

I would like to end with a quotation that I pinched from the Chairman of another PC, written by that well known person, anonymous.

*The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.* Very true, think about it. Thank you.

## **5. The future of Alderbury Village Hall?**

Wiltshire Council has a programme of bringing buildings together. Melksham for instance now has a building called a campus with the benefit of increased facilities in one location. The issue for the Southern Area is that there is no one central place. There is a possibility that there will be money available. An informal group, the Communities Opportunities Board is considering how the money could be used if it becomes available. Three areas have been identified – Alderbury, Downton and Winterslow. What

would the project look like in Alderbury? Wiltshire Council will not be able to find the money for a complete rebuild of the village hall. It could be possible to leverage other sources of money or extend the hall. The money could be used to modify the inside of the hall. Community groups could use a meeting room. The Social Club is under used and the village hall very busy. The group includes Cllr Sell (a Cllr and ex. Treasurer of the football club), Cllr Clarke (a Cllr and Village Hall secretary), Andy Larkham (Church and other village groups), Steve Grimmett (Village hall Chairman), Peter Green (Bowling Club) and myself.

The group will need to speak to other village groups to see what is required. Anyone who would like to contribute or has any comments, please get in touch. It is a great hall, but it does have limitations. It would be good to see an imaginative new look for a wider section of the community.

Steve Grimmett asked the audience what other facilities would they like available? A cafe or a day care facility for example? Could the police be based at the village hall? A GP surgery may have been better placed at the village hall in the centre of the village. The group will work with both the football club and bowling club to seek their views. If you have ideas, do get involved in the working party.

A resident commented that she had recently seen someone trip up on the pavement along Southampton Road, at Junction road outside Crossways Cottage. The clerk was asked to investigate and report any necessary issues.

### **Short reports by Organisations with a display.**

#### **Local History Society – Brian Johnson**

They will not be producing a new book this year but linking in with the footpath work, there is an illustrated leaflet available for £1.50.

#### **Longford Estate – Alasdair Jones-Perrott**

I am the new agent for Longford Estate. My remit is to look at the various sites on the estate to recycle money back into the Estate. A potential Firs Road development has been going on now for several years. I have been working closely with the football club, Alderbury School (which currently has 50 spaces) and a sub-committee looking at working with the Pre-school and considering a new building on the new site. Plans are available to view at the back of the room and it is our intention to apply for outline planning permission. Longford Estate is on your doorstep. We want to leave a legacy and intend to put a design code into the Section 106 agreement with a future developer.

#### **South West Walking Group – Nigel Walsh**

A volunteer group was set up as a result of the Southern Area Board. 70 kissing gates have been installed around the area. Work has also included resurfacing and improving paths. Local groups have been set up in villages so that residents can get involved. Alderbury has the first circular path that has been developed by the group. It is 3 – 4 miles and the aim is a maximum 2.5 hour walk, however there are shorter parts of the walk that can be completed by those who have less time. Another recent project was in Langley Wood near Whiteparish. 10 volunteers cut back trees and opened up a footpath. We are keen to get more people involved and if you are interested contact the parish clerk to receive a regular newsletter about the dates and projects coming up. At present work is completed during the week, however we would like to extend it to weekends too.

Cllr Hartford thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Do have a look at the displays before you leave. The Parish Council have another meeting after this. You are welcome to join us.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.