



ALDERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Caring for Alderbury and Whaddon

Despite having a shorter agenda for the first meeting of 2017, as you can see below there was a lot to discuss!

January meeting – key themes:

- Budget setting for 2017/2018
- Agree the parish precept for the next financial year
- Parking on pavements
- Lorry/HGV watch scheme
- The Great British Clean up

Budget for 2017/2018 – Each year Alderbury Parish Council calculates how much money it requires to provide its services and achieve any planned projects. This year the Parish Council has reviewed the budget with the knowledge that Wiltshire Council will have to save more money in the next financial year and therefore increased costs will be incurred to replace some of the services that it has previously provided.

Parish precept for the next financial year – The budget is funded by the precept and is collected by Wiltshire Council as part of a household's council tax. Alderbury Parish Council does not receive any money from central government, nor does it receive any financial support from local business rates which are collected by Wiltshire Council. Parishes have previously received a grant from Wiltshire Council in addition to the precept, however this has been stopped and 2017/2018 will be the first year without it. Therefore due to the cut backs at Wiltshire Council, Alderbury Parish Council has increased the budget for the next financial year, which will mean an increase of £2.38 per annum for a Band D property.

Parking on pavements – Concern was raised at the January Parish Council meeting about the number of cars parking up on the pavements in the village. It often makes it impossible for those walking with a pushchair or using a wheelchair to continue walking safely along the pavement, forcing them out into the road where cars can be travelling at quite a speed. As a result of the discussion I have been asked to write to several organisations to ask their staff to avoid doing this in the future. Please bear this in mind when parking in the village – your car at the roadside will help to slow oncoming traffic down and will help to keep pedestrians safe!

Lorry/HGV watch – I have been receiving an increasing number of reports of lorries and heavy good vehicles (HGV) travelling along Clarendon and Southampton Road, which both have a 7.5 tonne restriction on them. The Parish Council are currently investigating whether a lorry watch scheme could be set up, in a similar way to the current Community Speed watch team. I need your help.....if you see a lorry or HGV travelling along either Clarendon Road or Southampton Road, I would be very grateful if you could note down the registration number and the date and time (or even take a photo if you can) and drop me a line with the details.

The Great British Clean up – Last March the 'Clean for the Queen' initiative was very successful throughout the Country, with 250,000 volunteers getting involved to pick up litter and clean up the country. The initiative has been launched again this year and Alderbury Parish Council would like to get involved but need the support of a resident (s) who would be willing to co-ordinate the event between 3rd – 5th March. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know.

Date for your diary - the **Annual Parish meeting** will be held on **Wednesday 17th May 2017 at Alderbury Village Hall at 7pm**. Apologies to the Gardening Club as I understand that the date coincides with your meeting! Join us if you can for a chance to hear about what has been achieved during the past year and to have an opportunity to ask questions and give your thoughts and ideas for 2017 and beyond.

The February parish council meeting will be on Thursday 9th February at St. Mary's Hall, Whaddon. Come along and have your say!

PS. We currently have a vacancy for a councillor – find out more from one of our councillors or myself. It is your chance to have an influence on what happens in the village!

Alison McGowan, Parish Clerk

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