

# ALDERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

*Caring for Alderbury and Whaddon*



## **Agenda for a meeting of Alderbury Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in The Fountain Room at Alderbury Village Hall.**

At the start of the meeting 15 minutes is set aside for members of the public to ask questions and make statements. Members of the public are asked to restrict their comments and/or questions to three minutes. After public question time, the public will only be able to speak if invited by the Chair.

To receive reports from Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton and PC Pete Jung (if available).

### **AGENDA**

**6233. Apologies for absence and approval of reasons given.**

**6234. Declaration of Cllrs Interests and Dispensations**

To receive declarations of interest or dispensations relating to matters contained in this agenda.

**6235. Council minutes**

To approve [the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th August 2022](#).

### **Village matters**

**6236. Village Maintenance Update**

To receive an update from the Chair, Cllr Hartford.

Quotations have been sought for the repair of the White Railings at Old Road, for kerbing at the War memorial (to retain the gravel) and for the repair of the rotten fence at the Rec. Updates will be provided at the meeting.

**6237. Solar Panels – Alderbury Village Hall**

The Council has provisionally accepted a quotation for the installation of solar panels on the Village Hall roof as part of [Wiltshire Council's Solar Together cooperative buying scheme](#). Wiltshire Council tendered (by auction) for companies to provide the panels and selected the company [EE Renewables](#) as the best value for money provider. EE will carry out a survey of the Village Hall roof and recommend a suitable scheme for installation. The Council has allocated £7,500 in its reserves to support this project and has a further £24k of CIL available.

It is recommended that

- (1) £20k is approved from reserves and CIL to complete this project,
- (2) The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and representative of the Village Hall Committee, be authorised to agree the best achievable scheme within the budget available.
- (3) That, in view of Wiltshire Council's comprehensive tendering exercise that identified the best value provider, the requirements of standing orders and financial regulations in respect of tenders is waived in this case to expedite the delivery of the project.

**6238. Wildlife Friendly Alderbury – Projects 2022**

The Council's forward plan includes several wildlife projects. After discussing these with Cllr Lawrence and the volunteers it has been agreed to move forward with a slightly less ambitious programme. The second phase of the community orchard and wildlife meadow project will be completed with the mowing

of the meadow, scarification and overseeding of the designated wildflower area. This should increase the diversity of wildflowers in 2023 and enable the meadow to continue to develop with little further intervention in future years.

The second project proposed for Autumn is the planting of a wildlife friendly native hedge along the Northern boundary of Oakwood Grove Open Space. The initial proposal is to create a 50m stretch of indigenous wildlife hedgerow consisting of Hazel, Holly, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Spindle, Dog Rose and Dogwood. The intention is to leave the margin of the hedge to become wild and link it to around 4 new native trees (Birch, Hawthorne, Malus, Sorbus). It is also planned to create small log piles along the length of the hedge to increase biodiversity, plus install a couple of hedgehog lodges.

The hedgerow would be managed for wildlife but cut outside of the nesting season to prevent it affecting nearby properties. Rabbit guards and mulch would be required for the planting. Cllr Lawrence will present further details following a site meeting. The Council has set aside £8,500 in its ear-marked reserves for community projects. If the Council agrees to this project in principle, then a consultation exercise will be undertaken with residents – as happened with the Waleran Close project. Planting would be scheduled for early November.

It is recommended that, subject to the outcome of consultation with residents, the Council proceeds with the Oakwood Grove wild hedgerow project as described above.

### **6239. Southampton Road Allotments**

The Council, together with members of the Southampton Road Allotments Association, met with representatives of Formula Land (Alderbury) Ltd on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the future of the allotments. Formula Land had submitted an initial proposal to relocate the allotments to a new, larger site further down the pasture at a point just NE of Oakwood Grove (adjoining the woodland and extending down to the land drain across the field). A new access and improved parking had been proposed.

Following a tour of the existing allotments and the proposed new site it became apparent to all present that the proposed alternative location was waterlogged, exposed and generally unsatisfactory for cultivation. In addition, the proposal involved the removal of a substantial area of mature woodland. Formula Land agreed to reconsider its position and prepare fresh proposals. At the meeting, the Directors of the Company signed an amended licence with the Council extending the notice period for early vacation of the site from six to twelve months as requested by the Council in its letter to Formula Land dated 18<sup>th</sup> May. This brings the licence into line with the Council's own tenancy agreements.

Subsequently, Formula Land have submitted a further draft proposal. This substantially achieves the desired objectives the Council submitted to Formula Land on 18<sup>th</sup> May. The proposal protects the existing allotments and, subject to planning, provides a new hard-surfaced access and parking area. This proposal has been circulated to members of SRAA and their views will be reported at the meeting.

Subject to the views of the SRAA members, it is recommended that:

- (1) The Council formally welcomes Formula Land's offer to retain the existing allotments and thanks the Directors for their willingness to address the concerns expressed by allotment holders and the Council;
- (2) That the Council confirms its desire to acquire the freehold of the allotment site, access, and car park (together with all obligations relating thereto) to secure the provision of allotments in the village for the future;
- (3) That the allotment holders be invited to submit priorities for the improvement of the site.
- (4) That the Council expresses its thanks to the members of SRAA for their assistance with this matter.

#### **6240. Playground Equipment**

Following the request for quotes for the repair of various items of equipment in the playground an inspection of the large multiplay unit at the NE end of the field was undertaken. In the opinion of the inspector, the unit was beyond economic repair due to the extent of structural wood rot.

It was recommended that this unit is replaced with something of similar size utilising the same location. The cost of replacing a unit of this size, including removal and disposal of the old unit and the installation of new equipment plus reinstatement of the safety surfacing could be as much as £20k.

The annual RoSPA safety inspection is due in September, and this will determine whether the unit is still fit for use. If it is found to be fit for continued use, the Council may want to consider replacing this with the second tranche of CIL money received in respect of the Firs Road development – due in 2023.

#### **6241. Picnic in the Park 2023**

The organisers of the Picnic in the Park event have requested permission to stage the event again on Saturday 3rd June 2023, starting at around 1.00pm and finishing at 10.30pm. The Council received no complaints regarding the 2022 event and the field was cleared of litter and left in excellent condition.

### **Planning**

- 6242. [Planning Application PL/2022/06383](#):** Replace Window with Bi-fold Door - 4 Foster Lane, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3FY

### **Finance**

#### **6243. Conclusion of Audit 2021-22**

To note [the Conclusion of Audit Statement from PKF Littlejohn](#). In accordance with proper practices, this will be posted on the Council website and noticeboards together with [a statement of public rights](#).

#### **6244. Budget Monitoring Report – 31st August 2022 (Month 5)**

[To note the budget monitoring report.](#)

#### **6245. Bank Balances and Bank Reconciliation – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

[To note the bank balances and bank reconciliation statement.](#)

#### **6246. Reserves – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

To note [the reserves statement](#) including the additional Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds received in respect of the new development at Firs Road.

#### **6247. Accounts for Payment**

To approve [the schedule of payments and invoices received](#).

### **Council business**

#### **6248. To receive reports from Cllrs representing Alderbury Parish Council on outside bodies.**

#### **6249. Correspondence – to consider correspondence received since the publication of the agenda.**

#### **6250. The Fountain magazine – to agree the key themes for the next article.**

#### **6251. Dates of future meetings– to note the following meeting dates:**

Wednesday 5 October                      Thursday 3 November                      Monday 5 December



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**Steve Milton**

Clerk to Alderbury Parish Council

30 August 2022