

**Minutes of a meeting of Alderbury Parish Council held on Monday
8th March 2021 at 7.30 pm via the Zoom virtual conference platform**

Present: Councillors Elaine Hartford (Chair), Ken Bath, Michael Considine, Kim Diprose, John Fuller (Vice-Chair), Adam Hughes, Michael Huntley, Mel Lawrence, Darren Mernagh, John Ridd and Barry Sloan

In attendance: Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton, Steve Milton (Parish Clerk), David Canty (Longford Estate Manager), John Martin (Nunton Farm) and one member of the public

Questions or statements from members of the public

Mr Carley raised several points:

- *Caravan Park at Whaddon - licensing*
- *Grass cutting contract and wildflowers*
- *Flooding – Forest View*

Report from Unitary Cllr Richard Britton

Updated the Council on:

- Press reports of Wiltshire Council's projected budget deficit 2021/22 of £45m had arisen due to the prudent provision to cover any potential upsurge in demand for adult social care services and children's' services once the national COVID-19 support schemes had ended. At present this demand was unknown.
- He had managed to secure the retention of the garages at Spiders Island.
- Notice of Poll for the forthcoming elections would be published on Thursday 11th March.

Council Business

5870. Apologies for absence

All councillors were present.

5871. Declarations of interests and dispensations

There were no declarations.

5872. Minutes

RESOLVED: that the [minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th February, 2021](#) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair at the earliest opportunity.

5873. Milk Vending Machine

The Chair reported receipt of two requests for permission to site whole milk vending machines at the Village Hall. Nunton Farm (a tenant of the Longford Estate) already had machines operating successfully at The Radnor Arms in Nunton, The Bull in Downton and in the West Street Car Park in Wilton. John Martin from Nunton Farm was present and invited to address the meeting to explain how the operation would work in Alderbury. The other request came from Michelmarsh Manor Farm near Romsey in Hampshire.

RESOLVED: Permission to site a milk vending machine in the village hall car park is deferred until the demand for spaces can be better assessed once the newly refurbished hall is reopened.

5874. Longford Estate

Longford Estate Manager, David Canty was present to answer questions from councillors. His update included:

- Housing Development on the original football field in Junction Road, hoping for approval of reserved planning matters in May.
- Support for the Nunton Farm milk vending machine proposal
- Tree removal at Woodlynne House is not a matter for Longford Estate, the land was sold to the property owners.
- Tree works at The Rickyard is purely for health and safety purposes.
- No plans for tree planting on the paddock in front of the school.

The Chair thanked Mr Canty for attending the meeting and invited him to stay for the remainder of the agenda.

5875. Maintenance update

The Chair reported as follows:

- (1) In accordance with the decision at the last meeting, invitations to tender were sent to three local companies for works to the two oaks at Oakwood Grove Amenity Area. Only one quote had been submitted from Tree Menders.

RESOLVED: that the quote from Tree Menders in the sum of £5,330 be accepted and the works commissioned as soon as possible.

- (2) Gates at Oakwood Grove amenity area and the Recreation Ground had been repaired by Hurdcott Landscapes for the price of £30. The order for works was issued as a variation to the existing grounds maintenance contract.
- (3) Drain in Grimstead Road adjacent to the two new properties needs to be inspected as it is flooding and causing an obstruction. The Clerk was asked to report this using the MyWilts system.
- (4) The Chair had inspected the white railings at the end of Old Road but found no issues that needed attention.
- (5) The Football Club had still not repaired the pavilion veranda and the Hennis fencing that had surrounded the portable goal posts was now causing a nuisance. The Clerk was asked to write to the football club again.
- (6) The hedge into Southampton Road from Bracken Close needed attention. Cllr Bath agreed to cut this back as soon as he was fully recovered from his recent illness.
- (7) Bulbs in Waleran Close, planted by the residents, were looking lovely and it was agreed to thank the volunteers in the next Fountain article.
- (8) The Chair reported concerns about mountain biking in the woodlands at the old canal adjoining Firs Road. David Canty reported that the Estate had no particular concerns. Councillor Lawrence asked Mr Canty if the local footpath group could be more involved in managing the site. Mr Canty asked the Council to send him ideas that could be considered by the estate.
- (9) Councillor Hughes raised the issue of the unsightly broken-down fence at the Sandringhams. The Clerk explained that he had been unable to locate a property management company. Councillor Hughes agreed to approach the property occupiers to find out what could be done.

5876. Alderbury Wildlife Project

The Chair, Vice-Chair, Cllr Lawrence and the Clerk met with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) on Friday 5th March to discuss the wildlife and tree planting project. Councillor Fuller reported that the meeting had been very positive and WWT had proposed launching a 'Wildlife Friendly Alderbury' project along lines successfully delivered in other villages. This would entail WWT undertaking a survey of the village and publishing a report highlighting valuable habitat areas with proposals for consideration by the Council and local groups. Councillor Fuller reported that the cost for the survey would be less than £500. Because of COVID-19 it was proposed to undertake the survey in the Spring and work towards delivering the recommendations in the Autumn.

RESOLVED: that Wiltshire Wildlife be commissioned to undertake the 'Wildlife Friendly Alderbury' survey at a cost not exceeding £500 and that all efforts be made to engage the community in the survey work.

5877. Best Kept Village Competition

The Clerk reported that the Council had received an invitation from CPRE Wiltshire and The Hills Group to enter the Best Kept Village Competition 2021. The organisers felt that, despite COVID-19 related restrictions, it was feasible both to prepare for being judged and for judging to take place from mid-May onwards. The Council agreed that the Chair would prepare an application. Cllr Lawrence asked for a downloadable copy of the circular footpath map to be uploaded to the new website.

5878. Village Hall Project

The Council considered the report submitted by Cllr Fuller on the Village Hall Extension and Refurbishment Project (previously circulated). He reported that in the last week, work had started on the external cladding and the skylights had now been installed. Work on the kitchens had been largely completed with far more space now available. So far, the contractors were still confident of meeting the April target for completion.

Cllr Considine reported that the Social Club's door had previously had a letter box and this had been removed during the works. As a result, letters could not be delivered. Some correspondence had been found on the roof of the Club. Cllr Fuller agreed to take this up with the contractors.

5879. Parish Council Elections

The Council noted that elections were due to take place on Thursday 6 May 2021. The Notice of Poll would be published on Thursday 11th March. The Clerk agreed to circulate information as soon as it was received from the Returning Officer.

5880. Census 2021

The Council noted that census day was March 21st 2021.

5881. Wiltshire Climate Alliance Steering Group

At the request of Councillor Lawrence, the Council considered a request from WCASG to support its campaign to halt Wiltshire Council's current proposals for the Local Plan 2016-36. The full text of the WCASG request was circulated.

RESOLVED: that Wiltshire Council be informed of Alderbury Parish Council's serious misgivings regarding the fundamental premise of the draft local plan. The Council believes that the plan should be based on a rigorous and objective assessment of local needs, particularly when this comes to demand for new housing. By relying on discredited and arbitrary housing figures the plan fails to properly address local priorities and differences across the County. The local plan should be based on high quality research and robust local data. In addition, the Council feels that the plan does not go nearly far enough in addressing the climate emergency and expects to see this strengthened in future revisions.

5882. Salisbury Live

The Council considered a request from Salisbury Live to hold a small live music event on 30th May from 3pm to 9pm at the Recreation Ground. Permission was sought to erect a small gazebo and public address system in the village hall car park area.

RESOLVED: that Salisbury Live be informed that the Council feels that this application is premature and would not want to promote mass gatherings until the risk of COVID-19 has passed. Consequently, the request is refused but the organisers are encouraged to make another application when the threat of COVID-19 has receded.

Planning - To respond to Wiltshire Council on the following planning application

5883. [20/11439/VAR](#): Variation of condition 2 of planning application 18/07786/FUL (Revised layout to planning permission 16/04775/FUL to allow for two additional dwellings)- land adjacent to Wagtails, Southampton Road, Alderbury. The Council noted that, in view of the timescale, objections were submitted following consultation with all members of the Council – the response was available to view on the planning portal.

5884. [21/01102/TCA](#): Application for Work to Trees in a Conservation Area:

- T1 - Ash - Section fell in parts to ground level or as close to as practically possible.
- T2 - English Oak - Remove lowest branch back to source and reduce over extended branches growing over and towards The Rickyard back by no more than 2m from the tips inwards. Remove all deadwood greater than 50mm in diameter or longer than 1m in length
- T3 - Beech - Reduce over extended branches growing over and towards the Rickyard back by no more than 3m from the tips inwards ensuring a flowing branch line is retained. Remove all deadwood greater than 50mm in diameter or longer than 1m in length
- T4 - Beech - Reduce over extended branches growing over and towards the Rickyard back by no more than 3m from the tips inwards ensuring a flowing branch line is retained. Remove all deadwood greater than 50mm in diameter or longer than 1m in length

RESOLVED: Alderbury Parish Council supports the views of Wiltshire Council's Arboricultural Officer

5885. [21/00636/VAR](#): Variation of Condition 12 of S/10/0001 to allow amended design and siting (Demolish existing suburban dwelling and replace with a new country dwelling of traditional proportions) - Woodlynne House, Lights Lane, Alderbury

RESOLVED: Alderbury Parish Council raises no objection to the proposed variation.

Finance

5886. Interim Audit Review

The Council's noted the report of the internal auditor (previously circulated) and agreed to action the recommendations therein.

5887. Budget Monitoring Report Month 11

The Council noted the budget monitoring report (previously circulated)

5888. Bank Balances 28th February 2021

The Council noted the bank balances as at 28th February (previously circulated).

5889. Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: that the following payments be approved:

Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
Building regs plan extension	Spire Building Control Services	500.00	100.00	600.00
Clerks salary	Steve Milton	935.92	0.00	935.92
St Marys Hall Hire	PCC Alderbury	80.00	0.00	80.00
Mobile Phone Contract	O2	14.00	2.80	16.80
Audit Fees	Lightatouch	393.75	0.00	393.75
Bin Emptying	ID Verde Ltd	74.96	14.99	89.95
Grounds Maintenance Contract	Hurdcott Landscapes	30.00	6.00	36.00
Village Hall Construction Costs	Greendale Construction Ltd	77,980.48	15,596.10	93,576.58
Village Hall Construction Costs	Barclay Phillips Architects	1,500.00	300.00	1,800.00
Clerk's expenses	Steve Milton	24.00	0.00	24.00
Zoom monthly charge	Steve Milton	11.99	2.40	14.39
Online backup storage & antivirus	Hill Data Systems Ltd	26.45	5.29	31.74
Village Hall Construction Costs	Wiltshire Council	58.00	0.00	58.00
		81,629.55	16,027.58	97,657.13

5890. Purchase of Adobe Acrobat

The Clerk reported that in order to maximise the value of the new website he needed a simple way of combining committee papers into a single agenda pack. He recommended purchasing Adobe Acrobat Professional. This allows PDF documents to be combined into packs for ease of upload to the website. The annual license would cost £163.56 for a full year.

RESOLVED: that the request be refused but the use of the Council's new website to upload papers be investigated.

Matters arising from previous meetings

5891. Speed Indicator Device (SID) – The SID is due for delivery week beginning 15nd March. It was agreed to request Hurdcott Landscapes to install the device under a variation to the Grounds Maintenance Contract. The mounting pole is set back slightly from the public highway near the tennis courts and has been used previously for a SID.

5892. To receive reports from Cllrs representing Alderbury Parish Council on outside bodies.

There were no reports.

5893. Correspondence – The Clerk reported correspondence received since the publication of the agenda.

- Confirmation that the application to carry out works to two protected oak trees at Oakwood Grove Amenity Area had been approved.
- A request to include links to Wiltshire Walks on the Council's new website. This was agreed.
- A report from the local Police Inspector – available to view on the Southern Area Board agenda.
- A request from West Grimstead PC to consider jointly arranging an apple day in the Autumn.

5894. The Fountain magazine

It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a summary of the meeting.

5895. Dates of future meetings

The following dates were agreed:

- Tuesday 6th April
- Wednesday 5th May
- APM to be agreed
- Thursday 3rd June
- Monday 5th July
- Tuesday 3rd August (provisional)
- Wednesday 1st September
- Thursday 7th October
- Monday 1st November
- Tuesday 7th December
- Wednesday 5th January 2022
- Thursday 3rd February 2022
- Monday 7th March 2022

The Chair, Cllr Hartford, closed the meeting at 10.00pm

Signed as a correct record

.....
Chair

.....
Date