



**Minutes of the meeting of Alderbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Fountain Room at the Village Hall, Rectory Road, Alderbury**

**Present:** Councillors Elaine Hartford (Chair), Ken Bath, Michael Considine, John Fuller, Adam Hughes, Mel Lawrence, Darren Mernagh, John Ridd, Barry Sloan.

**In attendance:** Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton and Steve Milton (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public.

### **Public Question Time**

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On behalf of a local resident, Councillor Ridd raised the issue of loud and anti-social vehicles in the village. The Clerk undertook to pass on details to PCSO Taylor.

On behalf of a local resident, Councillor Sloan, reported on a problem of glare at night from the street light immediately outside of the bedrooms of nos. 40-46 Windwhistle Way. This became more acute after the lights were changed from sodium lamps to brighter LED bulbs. Councillor Britton undertook to take the matter up with streetscene officers at Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton reported as follows:

- He had attended the first day of the enforcement appeal hearing relating to Hillbilly Acre (formerly Avonview) in Southampton Road and was awaiting the final decision report.
- He had attended the opening of a new skate park at Old Sarum which had been part funded by the Southern Wiltshire Area Board.
- He was following up on two items of case work relating to Spiders Island – one a housing issue and one relating to uneven pavements.
- He reported on Wiltshire Council's financial position following the impact of the COVID-19. Latest projections were indicating that the next budget may have to find savings in the region of £45m to balance the books unless the Council received additional funding from the Government in the Autumn settlement.
- In answer to a question from Councillor Lawrence, he explained that Wiltshire Council was still seeking guidance from the Government on the housing numbers to be allocated in the local plan. He agreed that this needed to be based on a more robust assessment of local need.
- In answer to a question from Councillor Ridd, Richard referred to [a schedule of highway improvements for the Southern Wiltshire area](#).

#### **6005. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Kim Diprose (holiday) and Mike Huntley (working in London).

#### **6006. Declaration of Cllrs Interests and dispensations**

The Chair, Cllr Hartford, declared a non-pecuniary interest in the matter set out under minute 6019 below. In accordance with the National Code of Conduct she was permitted to remain in the meeting and speak on the matter – she abstained from voting.

#### **6007. Council meeting minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that [the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th August 2021](#), be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

#### **6008. Maintenance updates**

The Chair, Cllr Hartford, reported as follows:

- Gate at Oakwood Grove – she reported that the gatepost had rotted and needed replacement and that she would discuss the problem with Mr Fencing before agreeing repairs.
- The public bench at The Copse had become unstable and repairs were needed to the base.

- Litter bins in the Recreation Ground and at other locations around the village were overflowing. The Clerk had contacted Idverde and the bins in the Rec had been emptied that afternoon, however the other village bins had not been emptied and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Idverde again to request urgent attention.
- Speed Indicator Device – the solar panels were now with Hurdcott Landscapes and she would request that a panel is erected at the tennis court location as soon as possible.
- Drain in Grimstead Road – she reported that a camera survey had revealed that the drain was partially collapsed. Wiltshire Council was aware of the issue and was considering how to effect repairs.
- Posts at The Green – she reported that some posts were missing and others were not properly secured. She would discuss the matter further with Mr Fencing.
- Drain at the bottom of Rectory Road – she reported that a resident had reported a blocked drain and that she would refer the matter to the Parish Steward.
- Green Space at Priory Close – grass cutting.
- Pavilion at the Recreation Ground – the slab had still not been fixed and the Clerk was requested to write to the Football Club again requesting urgent attention.
- Garage at the Recreation Ground – the roof had now been replaced, doors repaired, rubbish cleared and new shelves installed. Works to the outside walls and planter had been delayed due to the building contractors having to follow COVID-19 self-isolation rules.
- Play area at Tozer Way – Cllr Sloan asked if there was any news about the reopening of this play area. The Clerk reported that the play area was managed by the management company formed when the estate was built. The play area had closed during the pandemic and had not reopened because the company could not afford the cost of sanitising the equipment. There had also been a dispute between residents and the management company about the payment of charges. The Council was not responsible for this play area but it had intervened in order to try and find a solution.
- Road verges – Councillor Ridd asked about changes to Wiltshire Council's maintenance schedule. Verges at Lights Lane were now very overgrown. The Clerk reported that [Wiltshire Council had adopted a new maintenance policy](#) which would concentrate on visibility splays with other areas flail mown once a year in Autumn.

#### **6009. Alderbury Wildlife Project**

The Council considered the updated [project programme](#) and noted that budget provision and CIL funds could cover the cost of the items set out in the suggested project plan and grants would be sought to cover additional costs involved.

Members noted the next steps in the project:

- (1) Arrange an engagement event for volunteers
- (2) Develop detailed proposals for Waleran Close in consultation with Longford Estate.
- (3) Prepare a consultation document for delivery to residents

#### **6010. Great Big Green Week**

Members noted that [the Great Big Green Week](#) would take place on 18 – 26 September, and will be the largest event for climate and nature ever seen in the UK. Thousands of events will celebrate how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and encourage others to get involved too. Alderbury Parish Council would take part in this initiative by organising a consultation meeting with volunteers to launch the next phase of the wildlife project.

#### **6011. Wiltshire Climate Strategy**

The Council considered Wiltshire Council's [draft Climate Strategy](#). Councillor Lawrence drew attention to [Wiltshire Climate Alliance's initial response to the consultation](#) and [Wiltshire Council's arrangements for promoting the consultation](#).

**RESOLVED:** that Wiltshire Council be informed of the Council's view as follows:

- (1) The Council recognises that the draft strategy sets out broad ambitions for the County and this will be supported by more detailed implementation plans, Alderbury Parish Council welcome the commitments but hopes to see more details, including:
- (2) Proposals to promote and facilitate home working. The pandemic has shown how this can reduce private car use and cut carbon emissions.
- (3) Proposals to switch off highway lighting where not required for public or highway safety.
- (4) The embedding of climate change objectives in all council activities and policies. In particular the review of planning policy to facilitate low carbon or carbon neutral development, currently the draft local plan does not go far enough.
- (5) Proposals to introduce food waste collection and recycling schemes for a more diverse range of disposable products.
- (6) Proposals to plant more trees and policies to protect existing trees, woodlands and greenspace.
- (7) Proposals to support renewable energy schemes.
- (8) Adequate investment to realise the ambitions. Without this in place the strategy will not achieve the urgent impacts required.
- (9) Measures to hold the Council to account for the development and achievement of its climate change strategy, including a community-led commission.
- (10) Proposals to facilitate climate action at community level through the area boards.

#### **6012. Garage Refurbishment**

The Council noted that work at the garage was progressing. Several issues remain to be decided.

- (1) Bug hotel – to agree location.
- (2) Wild Alderbury Noticeboard – to consider purchasing a noticeboard to act as a focal point for the wildlife project.
- (3) Community Resource Hub – to agree to use the garage to store litter picking, snow clearance and other community resources and to provide access for lead councillors.
- (4) Planters – to consider a planting scheme to encourage pollinators.

**RESOLVED:** that consideration of this item be deferred until the refurbishment works are complete.

#### **6013. Alderbury Parish Council Forward Plan**

The Council welcomed progress on the delivery of the [Forward Plan](#).

**RESOLVED:** that tenders be invited for the clearance of the overgrown verges and pavements along Southampton Road

#### **6014. Footpath Network**

The committee considered improvements to the local footpath network and a review submitted by the Alderbury Footpath Group. There were two issues that were frequently reported to the Clerk – the boggy sections on the circular path and issues around access at Longford Park. In connection with this item, members considered changes to the route of footpath No 7 between Rectory Lane and Old Lane at Greenset House.

**RESOLVED:**

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- (1) that the Alderbury Footpath Group be asked to submit proposals for the improvements needed to the circular footpath – including boardwalk sections, signage, and gates. The Council will then consider developing an action plan to tackle the priorities; and
- (2) that Councillor Britton be asked to seek clarification about any approved changes to the route of footpath 7.

#### **6015. [PL/2021/08056](#): Demolition of the existing dwelling house 'Brackendale', and erection of 2 x detached dwellings, associated parking, access and hard and soft landscaping – Brackendale, Junction Road**

**RESOLVED:** That Alderbury Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

- (1) The development by virtue of its scale, massing, layout and large areas of hardstanding represents a very significant over development of the plot.
- (2) The proposed dwellings by virtue of their location adjacent to the boundaries of the site will have a detrimental impact on neighbouring properties through loss of light, privacy and the quiet enjoyment of gardens.
- (3) The design of the new development is out of keeping with the rural village character of Junction Road which is characterised by individual dwellings accommodated within adequate garden space. The proposal introduces a pair of identical dwellings, a wide frontage and large areas of hardstanding which are out of keeping with the traditional rural building pattern.
- (4) Inadequate consideration has been given to the treatment of the underground spring-fed pond towards the front of the site. Development impacting on this natural pond could:
  - a) Result in the loss of an ecologically important habitat which is know to support a variety of amphibian and invertebrate species
  - b) Cause run off and flooding risks for adjoining properties

A full hydrological and ecological assessment is required before any intensified residential development of the site is considered.

- (5) Inadequate consideration has been given to the protection during building of the large pine trees that are a prominent landmark in this area of the village. A detailed arboricultural assessment is required before any works are commenced in order to protect the root system and avoid any destabilisation of the trees which adjoin neighbouring properties, with the consequent safety risks.
- (6) Bats are known to frequent this site and a full ecological survey is required before any intensified residential development is considered and prior to the commencement of any works (including removal of hedges and trees) to secure the protection of wildlife.
- (7) Inadequate sewerage and surface water drainage details have been submitted. Sewage is known to be a longstanding problem in Junction Road and this proposal fails to address the additional impact of the intensified residential use of the land.
- (8) Access to the proposed dwellings along the unmade track (Junction Road) is likely to introduce increased highway safety risks at the busy junction with Southampton Road and for school children using this footpath route to school.
- (9) Inadequate details of landscaping have been submitted; a full landscaping scheme would need to be approved prior to the consideration of any intensified residential development of the site to ensure that the buildings sit within a native, deciduous canopy that reflects the character of the other properties in this area.
- (10) In addition, the Council has been made aware of covenants relating to the original sale of land in Junction Road from Longford Estate. The Local Planning Authority should take steps to clarify whether any covenants restricting development of the site exist prior to considering any intensified residential development of the land in question.

**6016.** [PL/2021/07850](#): Proposed single storey side and rear extensions – Whitedown, Southampton Road

**RESOLVED:** That Alderbury Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

**6017. [PL/2021/06640](#):** Single storey ground floor front extension – 66 Spiders Island, Whaddon.  
The Council was concerned about the poor quality of the plans submitted which were considered to be below the quality the LPA should expect.

**RESOLVED:** That Alderbury Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

(Councillors Lawrence and Ridd abstained from the vote on this application)

**Finance**

**6018. Budget Monitoring Report Month 5**

The Council noted [the budget 2021/22 and expenditure report to 31st August 2021](#).

**6019. Bank Balances 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

To Council noted [the bank balances and bank reconciliation at 31st August 2021](#).

**6020. Accounts for Payment**

**RESOLVED:** that the [schedule of payments](#) be approved.

**Matters arising from previous meetings**

**6021. Reports from outside bodies**

The Council noted that the AGM of the Village Hall Committee was due to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**6022. Correspondence –** The Clerk reported that an issue relating to loud cars in the village had been raised in public question time.

**6023. The Fountain magazine –** It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a report based on these minutes.

**6024. Dates of future meetings–** the following amended dates are proposed:

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 1st November

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Thursday 3rd February 2022

Monday 7th March 202

The Chair, Cllr Hartford, closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Signed as a correct record

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Chair

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Date