



**Minutes of the meeting of Alderbury Parish Council held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Alderbury Social Club, Rectory Road, Alderbury**

**Present:** Councillors Elaine Hartford (Chair), Ken Bath, John Fuller, Michael Huntley, John Ridd and Barry Sloan.

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

### **Public question time**

---

Ken Carley:

- Flooding issues at The Copse. The Clerk agreed to refer this matter to the Environment Agency.
- Hedge maintenance – not in accordance with Natural England advice. The Chair reported that hedges were maintained sensitively and cut after the nesting season. However, the Council's view was that hedges needed to be cut in order to retain effective boundaries and restrict spread onto adjoining facilities, footpaths and roads.

Colin Nelson (Royal British Legion)

- Asked who was responsible for managing wreaths and other commemorative tributes at the war memorial. The Chair replied that this was carried out by Mrs Harmon.

Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton reported as follows:

- He had attended the re-launch of the Alderbury branch of the Royal British legion. He thanked Colin Nelson for taking on the organising role.
- He had received no new case work relating to the village over the last month.
- He was involved in a number of planning issues including the forthcoming meeting of the South Wiltshire Area Planning Committee that would be considering the application relating to the old football pitches in Junction Road. The Chair would be attending to put forward the Council's objections but she called on other councillors to attend the meeting and speak in a personal capacity.
- Richard talked about his role with the Wiltshire Council Audit Committee that was currently scrutinising the Council's financial position and the potential £48m budget deficit.
- In connection with the [schedule of highway improvements for the Southern Wiltshire area](#) Cllr Britton had drawn to the attention of the Council, the following questions were raised:
  - Councillor Fuller asked whether top dressing Lights Lane and Tunnel Lane with stone chippings provided good value for money. Cllr Britton replied that the works had been carried out by the Council's technical highways team and he accepted their judgement that the works were cost effective. He would always prefer resurfacing, but recognised that with a limited budget available, highway works needed to be prioritised.
  - Councillor Sloan asked for confirmation that the resurfacing of Southampton Road remained in the highway maintenance schedule and an indication of when the works might be carried out. Cllr Britton replied that the works were included in the schedule but that a start date was not yet known. He further pointed out that plans were reviewed annually following the Government's budget settlement.

### **6025. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Michael Considine (self-isolating), Adam Hughes (work commitments), Kim Diprose (unwell), Mel Lawrence (clashing engagement) and Darren Mernagh (self-isolating).

**6026. Declaration of councillors' interests and dispensations**

Cllr Sloan, declared a non-pecuniary interest in the matter set out under minute 6037 below. In accordance with the National Code of Conduct he was permitted to remain in the meeting and speak on the matter – he abstained from voting.

**6027. Council minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that [the minutes of the last meeting held on 8th September 2021](#), be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

In connection with this item, the Clerk was asked to seek clarification from the new estate management company, if public access was available at the play area in Tozer Way.

**6028. Maintenance updates**

The Chair, Cllr Hartford, reported as follows:

- Pot holes in Old Road had now been filled.
- There had been complaints on the Village Facebook site about footpaths linking Spiders Island to Eyres Drive. The Chair asked Phil Spooner from the Alderbury Footpath Group (who was present) to check out the issue. She would also raise the matter with the Parish Steward. Another complaint had also been posted about a path from Spiders Island into the woods across Longford Estate land. The Chair reported that this path was not shown as a public right of way on [the definitive map](#) but that she would refer the matter to David Canty, the Estate Manager.
- Wiltshire Council had confirmed that a Land Registry search had shown that Alderbury Parish Council was the legal owner of amenity land around the oak tree at Priory Close. This had been maintained by Wiltshire Council in the past but would now be included in the Parish Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract. There were a number of oak saplings and other scrub that needed attention.
- The Chair reported that a local resident had cleared an area of land at Avon Drive that had become an eyesore. She commended the work undertaken and requested that the Council's appreciation be recorded.

**6029. Alderbury Circular Footpath**

The Council received a very informative presentation from Phil Spooner, coordinator of the local Footpath Volunteers. Phil had prepared [a map of the circular path](#) showing issues along the route and this was displayed at the meeting. Phil reported:

- Some sections of the path would always become boggy during the winter months.
- In consultation with the tenant farmer the path between Rectory Road and Whaddon had been realigned to drier areas.
- The tenant farmer had indicated that works would be undertaken in the vicinity of the kissing gate – repairs and surfacing. Phil would keep this under review and report back in December. If necessary, he would contact the Ramblers' Heavy Gang for help. The Council may be asked for financial assistance towards the cost of materials.
- Copies of the footpath guide were running low and he may need to ask for some funding for a reprint.
- In answer to a question from Councillor Sloan, Phil explained the reason for the metal sheeting that had been erected near the style. This was put up for safety reasons after vehicle damage.
- In answer to a report of overhanging scrub on a section of the path, Phil confirmed that he was aware of the issue and had cut back some of the overgrowth.

The Chair thanked Phil for his presentation and the excellent work undertaken by the Footpath Volunteers. Members concurred that the circular footpath was a wonderful village asset and the volunteers were applauded for their tireless efforts.

**6030. Alderbury Wildlife Project**

The Council welcomed Longford Estate's decision to grant permission for the tree planting and wildflower meadow area proposed for Waleran Close. Wiltshire Wildlife's Wild Landscapes Team had recommended breaking this work up into three phases:

- November 2021: Consultation, engagement, publicity and fruit tree planting
- October 2022: Meadow preparation – heavy scarification, seed scattering and formal layout.
- April 2023: Benches, display boards and wildlife features (bug hotels, birdboxes, etc.)

The Clerk reported that he intended to write to all residents in Waleran Close explaining the proposals and seeking feedback before any works were commenced. The Clerk would prepare a draft plan to make it easy for residents to see what is proposed. If residents were happy with the proposal, he proposed purchasing 10 trees from Landford Tree Nursery for planting in November. These would be a mix of semi-mature desert and cooking apples, pear and plum trees.

**RESOLVED:** that the consultation with residents of Waleran Close be commenced as soon as possible and that, subject to the outcome of that consultation, 10 fruit trees be purchased from Landford Nurseries for planting in November, as follows:

- Four desert apple varieties
- Two cooking apple varieties (Bramley)
- Two pear trees
- Two plum trees

**6031. Southampton Road Allotments**

The Council noted the licence granted to the Council by Longford Estate that facilitated the provision of the allotments. The Estate had written to the Council to confirm that the land was to be sold. The new owners had indicated that they would honour the terms of the licence and this would facilitate the provision of allotments on the existing terms for tenants until at least 2026.

**6032. Southampton Road Footway**

The Council considered [an invitation to tender](#) for the clearance of the footway overgrowth.

**RESOLVED:** that the tender specification be approved.

**6033. Climate and Ecological Emergency - Private Members' Bill**

The Council considered a request from the CEE Alliance to support the [Climate and Ecological Emergency \(CEE\) Bill](#) and add its voice to those organisations calling for joined-up action that responds to the climate change emergency. A draft cross-party [motion](#) and [briefing](#) document was circulated.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council supports the Climate and Ecological Emergency Private Members Bill.

**6034. Alderbury Parish Council Forward Plan**

The Council noted progress with the delivery of the [Forward Plan](#).

**Planning**

**6035. [PL/2021/08711](#):** Proposed infill rear extension with flat roof, extension of pitched roof to allow height for loft conversion, construction of rear facing dormer, and all associated works - 11 The Copse, Alderbury Salisbury SP5 3BL

**RESOLVED:** No objection

**6036.** [PL/2021/07940](#): Demolition of domestic outbuildings and erection of two chalets to the rear, associated parking and hard and soft landscaping - Snowflakes, Rectory Road, Alderbury. Local residents Colin Isles and Malcolm Francis spoke in opposition to the proposal. Following consideration of these statements and the site visit held prior to the meeting, it was:

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

- (1) The proposal by virtue of its location, access and mass creates an unacceptable form of back-land development that is out of keeping with the character of Rectory Road and the rural setting of adjoining properties. In addition, it will create a serious danger for the occupiers of Snowflakes by virtue of vehicle movements in close proximity to the dwelling. Accordingly, the application fails to meet the requirements of Policy 57 (vi, ix and xiv) of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015.
- (2) The application fails to meet the requirements of Policy 61 (ii) of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015 in that it is not capable of being served by safe access to the highway network. The access by virtue of its narrow width, poor visibility, reduced sight lines and proximity to residential dwellings represents a very significant risk to road users and pedestrians.
- (3) The submitted plan fails to show the porch attached to Snowflakes that obstructs the proposed access. This is a material issue further affecting the safety of the proposed access.
- (4) The application fails to meet the requirements of Policy 67 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015 in that it does not include measures to reduce the rate of rainwater run-off and improve rainwater infiltration to soil and ground (sustainable urban drainage). The application does not include sewage or surface drainage details. This site is known to be subject to flooding and is affected by underground springs and a high water table in this location.
- (5) The development will have a detrimental impact on the rural landscape setting of the village, its biodiversity and wetland ecology contrary to Policy 50 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015.

**6037.** [PL/2021/08316](#): - Erection of a free-standing aluminium Edwardian style greenhouse – School House, School Hill, Alderbury

**RESOLVED:** No objection

**6038.** [PL/2021/05970](#): Revised Plans - Rear two storey extension and single storey side extension toward the rear of the property – Mitchett, Southampton Road, Whaddon.

**RESOLVED:** No objection

### **Finance**

**6039. Budget Monitoring Report Month 6**

The Council noted the [budget 2021/22 and expenditure report to 30th September 2021](#).

**6040. Bank Balances 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The Council noted the [bank balances and bank reconciliation at 30th September 2021](#).

**6041. Accounts for Payment**

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

**6042. End of Year Accounts – External Audit**

The Council's noted that the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, had concluded [the review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement 2020/21 \(AGAR\)](#). The review concluded that the Council's accounts were sound and prepared in compliance with the law - no qualifications were made. An error with the recording of asset values in 2020/21 was drawn to the attention of the Council and amended prior to conclusion of the review. The asset register for 2021/22 had already corrected this issue.

**Matters arising from previous meetings**

**6043. Reports from outside bodies**

Councillor Huntley undertook to circulate a written report summarising the recent activities of the Alderbury Village Hall Committee.

**6044. Correspondence –** The Clerk reported as follows:

- Induction training had been arranged for Councillors by the Wiltshire Association of Councils – Councillor Huntley had indicated a desire to attend and details would be forwarded to him.
- The Council had been notified of arrangements for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022. This would be brought before a future meeting.
- The Clerk had received an enquiry from the Royal British Legion about the possibility of erecting a flag pole on the Village Green. The Clerk had requested further details.

**6045. The Fountain magazine –** It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a report based on these minutes.

**6046. Dates of future meetings–** the following amended dates are proposed:

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	ThuThursday 3rd February 2022
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	MoMonday 7th March 202
Wednesday 5th January 2022	

The Chair, Cllr Hartford, closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Signed as a correct record

.....  
Chair

.....  
Date