



Minutes of the meeting of Alderbury Parish Council held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.30pm at the Alderbury Social Club, Rectory Road, Alderbury

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

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

Public question time

Ken Carley:

- Flooding issues at The Copse and the wider collect area on the surrounding hillside. The Clerk confirmed that this matter had been referred to the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council.
- Clearance of land in Rectory Road. The Chair informed the public that the Council would have an opportunity to comment on any planning application submitted.
- Specific planning issues. The Chair explained that the Council was unaware of any changes to approved planning permissions and that Mr Carley should refer any concerns to Wiltshire Council's enforcement officer.

Councillor Ridd asked what action the Council was proposing in respect of an incident of dog fouling on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk informed the Council that this matter would be covered in his report on recent correspondence (minute 6066 below).

Councillor Lawrence asked if the Speed Indicator Device situated in Southampton Road collected data that could be reviewed by the Council. The Clerk informed the Council that the SID did collect data, but this could not be accessed while the device was in situ.

Councillor Hartford:

- Reminded Councillors of the need to avoid replying to emails sent to the Council distribution list - replying to all recipients - as this included PCSO Taylor, the Longford Estate Manager and Councillor Britton. The Clerk confirmed that he would amend the distribution list to avoid this in future.
- Reported that PCSO Taylor had spoken to the owners of motorcycles causing nuisance in the Old Road area. He had also visited the parents to discuss the issues. In connection with this matter, she also updated the Council on recent changes to the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton reported as follows:

- 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.
- Richard confirmed that the area board's transport and grants funding was set to be maintained in 2022/23, although the final budget was still to be agreed.
- The next Southern Area CATG meeting was scheduled for 17th November and the area Board would return to physical meetings on 9th December.

6047. Apologies for absence

All Councillors were present.

6048. Declaration of Cllrs Interests and dispensations

The Chair, Cllr Hartford, declared a non-pecuniary interest in the matter set out under minute 6060 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.

6049. Council meeting minutes

RESOLVED: that [the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 7th October, 2021](#) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6050. Village Maintenance update

Cllr Hartford updated the Council on the following matters:

- Posts at the Green would be repaired before the Remembrance Day parade on Sunday
- The bank along Grimstead Road at Spiders Island was overgrown – she would refer this to the Parish Steward.
- A fence at Matron's Cottages at Spiders Island was in urgent need of repair. Cllr Britton felt this was a matter for Wiltshire Council's Housing Team and undertook to refer the issue to the appropriate officer.
- A Christmas tree had been donated to the Council by Nick Ludlow. The Council recorded its thanks to Mr Ludlow for his kind generosity.

6051. Alderbury Wildlife Project – Community Orchard and Wildflower Meadow

The Council noted that consultation with residents of Waleran Close about the creation of a community orchard and wildflower meadow had closed on Sunday 31st October. On the whole, the response was very positive with all but one resident supporting the overall scheme (as set out in [the consultation document](#)). However, the survey revealed opposition to the idea of providing benches, with residents fearing this might lead to noise, disturbance and anti-social behaviour. A resident of No.3 Waleran Close was present and spoke in opposition to the scheme.

The Council noted that the next step was to order the fruit trees and arrange a volunteer planting day. Landford Trees had confirmed that the 10 fruit trees were available and could be delivered within two weeks of order. [The quotation was available to view online.](#) It was noted that the quote (£668 to include stakes, ties and delivery) was for semi-mature trees that will establish quickly and fruit within two to three years.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That [the community orchard and wildflower meadow scheme](#), with the removal of the benches, be approved;
- (2) That an order be placed with Landford Trees in the sum of £668 for the supply of the trees specified in [the quotation](#) for delivery on Friday 26th November;
- (3) That the Wildlife Volunteers be invited to a tree planting event on the weekend of 27th/28th November with refreshments provided;
- (4) That the following stages of the project are approved:
 - March 2022: Meadow preparation – heavy scarification, seed scattering and layout.
 - May/June 2022: Installation of wildlife features (bug/hedgehogs hotels, bird/bat boxes).
- (5) That the purchase of 2 x spades and 1 x wheelbarrow be approved
- (6) That Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Wild Landscapes Team are invited to attend the event

6052. Volunteer Policy

The Council works alongside many local volunteers – speedwatch, garden volunteers, the footpath group, winter emergency volunteers, litter pickers and the Alderbury wildlife group. It was important that volunteers work in safe and supervised groups with insurance cover if things should go wrong. The Council's insurance policy does cover volunteers (over age 16) but it is necessary for the Council to adopt a formal policy document in order to comply fully with the terms of its insurance policy. The draft volunteer policy requires the Council to provide first aid kits, safety equipment (gloves, litter pickers, etc), a volunteer consent form and a model risk assessment template for each activity. Equipment would be stored in the Garage in the Recreation Ground (to be renamed the Alderbury Community Resource Hub) and each volunteer group leader would be provided with a key.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That [the Volunteer Policy](#) be adopted;
- (2) That two first aid kits are purchased and stored at the Community Resource Hub.
- (3) That nominated leads for each group are identified and provided with a key to access the Community Hub

6053. Southampton Road Footway

[An invitation to tender](#) had been sent to four licensed highway contractors. The closing date for receipt of tenders was 5th November. One contractor had requested an extension for the submission of tenders to enable costs of waste disposal to be obtained.

RESOLVED: that the date for submission of tenders be extended until Friday 12th November and a decision on the preferred submission be taken at the next meeting on 7th December.

6054. Nunton Farm Whole-milk Vending Machine

The Council had received further requests for a whole milk vending machine to be installed at the Village Hall. Three members of the public were present and spoke in support of this proposal. The land in question was leased to the Village Hall Committee and any permission would need the final consent of the Trustees. The machine would take up approximately two parking spaces, would require electrical connection and space for servicing (installing milk tanks). The benefits of the machine were mainly environmental – the use of recyclable glass bottles and the reduction in food miles from the local suppliers – Nunton Farm which adjoins the village.

RESOLVED: While not opposed to the installation of a facility in the village, permission for the milk dispensing machine at the Village Hall be refused because of the lack of space and the loss of parking spaces involved.

6055. Flag Pole – The Green

The Royal British Legion had asked if the Council would install a flag pole near the war memorial on the Village Green. This would be provided and maintained at the Council's expense. The cost of installing a flag pole and the purchase of two flags (Union and St George) would be in the region of £1,400. There was currently no budget available to cover this expenditure.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken on the provision of a flag pole at The Green.

6056. Alderbury Parish Council Forward Plan

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

Planning - To respond to Wiltshire Council on the following planning applications:

6057. TPO/2021/00019: Tree Preservation Order – Snowflakes, Rectory Road.

To note that a provisional TPO has been placed on an Oak Tree situated in the rear garden of Snowflakes, Rectory Road.

RESOLVED: That Alderbury Parish Council supports the Tree Preservation Order on the oak tree to the rear of Snowflakes and wishes this confirmed as a permanent listing.

6058. [PL/2021/09708](#): Works to trees in a conservation area - 1 x Ash tree – fell, 1 x Sweet Chestnut tree – fell, 1 x Sycamore tree - 25% reduction – 6 Silverwood, Alderbury.

RESOLVED: Reflecting the views of local residents, Alderbury PC places a very high value on the rural and woodland nature of the village and seeks to preserve and enhance this unique landscape character through the planning process. The Council resists any proposal to fell trees in the village where this is avoidable. The Council supports the proper management of trees to prolong a long and healthy life but recognises the need to control Ash die-back and other diseases. In the absence of any independent arboricultural assessment of the trees in question, the Council is unable to form a view on the necessity of felling in this case. In light of this, the Council requests Wiltshire Council Arboricultural Officer to seek evidence of the need for the trees in question to be felled and, in

coming to that decision, the officer is guided by this Council's policy to resist the loss of trees wherever possible. Consideration should be given to the replacement of any trees removed.

- 6059.** [PL/2021/08711](#): Amended Plans - 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 SP5 3BL. The Council had raised no objection to the original plans.

RESOLVED: that the Council raises no objection to this development, subject to conditions mitigating overlooking of the property to the rear of the site.

- 6060.** [PL/2021/08056](#): Amended Plans - 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: the Council considers that the amended plans do not adequately address the concerns raised about this development, the changes are minimal and inconsequential. Therefore, Alderbury Parish Council maintains its original objection as submitted to the Local Planning Authority as set out below:

- (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 known 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.

Finance

6061. Budget Monitoring Report Month 7

The Council noted the [budget 2021/22 and expenditure report to 31st October 2021](#). Councillor Fuller reported that some minor additional works were required at the Village Hall to improve ventilation of the store room.

6062. Bank Balances 31st October 2021

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

6063. Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: that the [schedule of payments and the invoices](#) be approved and that the ZOOM video conferencing subscription is cancelled now that physical meetings have resumed.

6064. Draft Budget 2022-23

Members noted [a first draft of the Council's 2022-23 budget](#). Members were asked to review the budget proposals and submit any suggestions in order that these may be costed prior to adoption of the final budget and precept request in January. The Council had received confirmation of its Council Tax Base for 2022/23 from Wiltshire Council and this would determine the level of precept required. Cllr Ridd asked if consideration could be given to providing additional funding for traffic/speed management measures along Southampton Road.

Matters arising from previous meetings

6065. Reports from outside bodies

Councillor Huntley provided an update on the work of the Village Hall Committee. Councillors felt that the Trustees should consider providing a commercial dishwasher and upgrading the Wi-Fi and audio-visual facilities for which grants may be sought from the Southern Area Board and the Council.

6066. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been made about a local resident who was found to be exercising her dog on the Recreation Ground. The Council does not permit dogs on the play area and sports ground. In response, the Clerk would be purchasing additional signs for the park and raising the issue in the next edition of the Fountain magazine.

RESOLVED: that a letter be sent to the individual concerned requesting that she desist from exercising her dog on the Recreation Ground.

6067. The Fountain magazine

It was agreed that the Clerk would submit an article summarising the decisions taken at the meeting. In connection with this item, Cllr Considine requested that his telephone number be corrected in the magazine.

6068. Dates of future meetings– the following dates are agreed:

- Tuesday 7th December – Alderbury Social Club
- Wednesday 5th January 2022
- Thursday 3rd February 2022
- Monday 7th March 202

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Signed as a correct record

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Chair

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Date