

Minutes of the meeting of Alderbury Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th April at 7.30pm in The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall.



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

In attendance: Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton, PC Pete Jung, Steve Milton (Parish Clerk), and four members of the public.

Public question time

Ken Carley:

- Reported that the eastern end of a blocked drainage pipe had been discovered in a dry ditch at Waleran Close. The Chair agreed to report this to the Parish Steward.
- Raised concerns about 'wildlife reports' submitted to the Local Planning Authority to support local planning applications – he felt these were cursory at best and many appeared to be 'cut-and-paste' jobs with no relevance to Alderbury at all.
- He was concerned to see some hedge trimming taking place during the bird nesting season. The Chair confirmed that the Council's grounds maintenance contract made clear that Council hedges are to be cut outside of the nesting season in the early autumn.

Mel Lawrence raised the following issues on behalf of residents

- Would the Council be working to house Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian invasion? Councillor Britton reported that Wiltshire Council was planning to take in Ukrainian refugees and had issued several press releases relating to the matter. The Clerk confirmed the press releases were included on the Parish Council website.
- A local resident had made a complaint to Wiltshire Council's Enforcement Officer about machinery and materials placed on land allocated for the school extension at Firs Road. Councillor Britton reported that the Enforcement Officer had visited the site but found no breach of planning permission.

PC Pete Jung

- Was aware of an incident of anti-social behaviour involving a group of young people that had caused distress to an elderly gentleman. Investigations were continuing.
- Reported an attempted shed robbery at Whaddon. The lock had been forced but nothing had been taken.
- He also reported a spate of older model Land Rover thefts in the area. The vehicles were being stripped of valuable spare parts and the chassis dumped or burned. He warned owners to be vigilant.
- There had also been reports of theft of fuel oil in South Wiltshire and he asked owners of fuel oil tanks to be wary.

Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton

- Drew attention to a paper published by Wiltshire Council's Spatial Planning Team explaining the situation regarding the Local Plan and the 5-year land supply – an issue that had caused the Parish Council much concern for several years. He reported that a review of the land allocations in the plan had been undertaken and this had seen an increase in the 5-year housing supply. Sadly, still it did not meet the target set by the Government, but it might help parish and town council's fight applications outside of the settlement boundary.
- He explained that the housing delivery numbers for the County were suppressed because major developers were not building-out the full housing numbers permitted by their planning permissions to manage supply and demand.

- The planning application for Caynton Lawns later on the agenda had been withdrawn by the applicants due to a technical issue with the plans.
- An appeal had been lodged against refusal of permission for permanent occupation of caravans at the Alderbury Caravan Park in Whaddon.
- On 27th April at 6.30pm, the Southern Wiltshire Area Board was holding an Eco-themed event at Whiteparish Memorial Hall. in Whiteparish – councillors would be welcome to attend.
- In response to a question from Councillor Hughes, Councillor Britton agreed to help in any way he could to resolve concerns about the impact the new development in Firs Road would have on the safety of school children.
- In response to a question from the Chair, Councillor Britton confirmed that the Southampton Road resurfacing works were still in the local highway maintenance schedule, but a date was not yet provided. Consultants had been engaged to review the programme and their report was awaited.

6139. Apologies for absence

Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted from Cllrs Considine (childcare) Fuller (holiday), and Ridd (away).

6140. Declaration of Cllrs Interests and dispensations

The Chair, Cllr Hartford, declared an indirect interest in the matter set out under minute 6147 below and remained in the meeting and spoke (but did not vote) on the matter.

6141. Council meeting minutes

RESOLVED: that [the minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 7th March, 2022](#) are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6142. Village Maintenance update

Cllr Hartford updated the Council on the following matters:

- Pavements at Whaddon had been resurfaced. Jet-washing before application of the new surface coating had caused a mess along the route with debris sprayed into gardens, drives and onto the road surface.
- The bollard at the junction of Firs Road and Southampton Road needed fixing and this had been reported to the Parish Steward.
- The hedge at the bus stop at the junction of Clarendon Road and Southampton Road had now been cut back by the homeowners.
- The Parish Steward had been patching potholes in the village.
- Cllr Lawrence reported that the Wildlife Friendly Alderbury Volunteers had been working to introduce wildflowers in the orchard meadow at Waleran Close. The group had scarified the ground where possible and scattered wildflower seeds. The seeds would require watering for six weeks until established. Cllr Lawrence was attempting to organise a watering rota with the volunteers as the fruit trees also needed a weekly soak during their first year. The main issue was access to water – at present it was possible to use the tap in the treatment room in the Village Hall on Friday mornings, but a more permanent solution may be required. She explained that more substantial seed planting would be undertaken in autumn with mechanical rotovating and scarifying.

6143. Best Kept Village Competition

The Clerk reported that the Parish entry would be submitted to CPRE Wiltshire by Friday 22nd April. The Clerk was preparing the submission in consultation with the Chair. [A new digital mapping project has been launched to support this year's entry.](#) Councillor Sloan asked the Council to consider improving signage around the village, including renewing the village map, general signs in the Recreation Ground and replacement of the shabbier noticeboards.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk obtain prices for the replacement signs in order that they may be installed before the Best Kept Village Competition judging in June.

6144. Youth Provision

As part of the work of Wiltshire Council's Southern Area Board, a review of young people's needs in the area had been undertaken by Community First based in Devizes. The researchers talked to young people from Spiders Island in Whaddon. The main issues identified are listed below:

- A strong need for a separate safe space for older children and teenagers to hang out. Currently the bus stop at the recreation ground is the main hang-out for teenagers, which can be intimidating for bus users.
- Teenagers hanging out at the younger children's play park is intimidating for young children and their parents. So, many choose not to play in the park after 4pm, this means they are playing and riding their bikes and scooters around the estate which causes concern for road safety.
- A few people that were reached expressed interest in being volunteers, ranging from someone wanting to run a possible Youth Club to someone offering to share with the youths their knowledge on mechanical repairs. Also, a mother and a young person keen to be trained as youth leaders.

As part of the budget preparation in December, [a quotation was sought for a dedicated youth shelter to address the issues highlighted](#). However, because of the cost (£16k), this was not included in the budget. A shelter could be funded from Community Infrastructure Levy in respect of the new development at the old football ground, once this is received. Members agreed with the suggestion and hoped a local builder could construct a bespoke youth shelter designed in consultation with the teenagers. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise further with Wiltshire Council's Community Engagement Manager.

6145. Road Safety Issues at Alderbury and West Grimstead School

The Council considered how to mitigate the impact upon the school of the new development at the old football pitches in Firs Road. The Council's representations on the reserved matters application highlighted concerns that were not addressed in the planning permission granted by the appeal inspector. The developers, Vistry Homes, had previously explained that they had no legal obligation to carry out off-site improvements at the school access. Members shared the view that urgent action was required to tackle the road safety issues as identified by Wiltshire Council's Highways Engineers.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Wiltshire Council, Vistry Homes, the Football Club and the Head of the School to arrange a round-table meeting to discuss solutions to the current safety issues.

6146. Community Resource Hub

The Council considered the need for more equipment for the Community Hub in the Recreation Ground for use by volunteer groups.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the following items are purchased at a cost of around £250 funded from the village development programme reserve:
 - 2 x rakes, spades, hoes and yard-brooms
 - 1 x roll-along water carrier
 - 2 x watering cans
 - Flexible hose attachment for tap

- (2) that the Clerk investigate the possibility of providing a large water tank at the rear of the Village Hall to collect rainwater from the roof.

Planning

- 6147. Planning Appeal APP/Y3940/W/21/3289683:** Demolition of the existing dwelling house 'Brackendale', and for the erection of 2 x detached dwellings, associated parking, access, and hard and soft landscaping – Brackendale, Junction Road. The Council noted an appeal received in respect of the above application.

RESOLVED: that the council agrees [its response to the forthcoming appeal](#).

- 6148. Planning Application PL/2022/02035:** New dwelling with associated drive, carport/garage, and garden/amenity space (revision of planning application 20/07605/FUL) - Caynton Lawns, Oak Drive, Alderbury, SP5 3AJ. The Council noted this application had been withdrawn.

- 6149. Application PL/2022/02481:** Loft conversion, extension and alterations – Marlton, Clarendon Road SP5 3AT

RESOLVED: that the Council raises no objection to this application.

Finance

- 6150. Budget Monitoring Report – End of Year Month 12**
The Council noted [the budget outturn for 2021/22 on 31st March 2022](#).

- 6151. Bank Balances and Bank Reconciliation - 31st March 2022**
The Council noted [the bank balances and bank reconciliation for 2021/22 on 31st March 2022](#).

- 6152. Accounts for Payment**

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

Council business

- 6153. To receive reports from Cllrs representing Alderbury Parish Council on outside bodies.**

- (a) **Wiltshire Police - Neighbourhood Tasking Group**
The Chair reported that she had attended a recent meeting in Downton.
- (b) **Alderbury Village Hall Committee**
Cllr Huntley reported that new hire rates had been approved by the Committee that reflected the improved facilities now available.
- (c) **Southampton Road Allotments Association**
Cllr Lawrence reported on an informal meeting of the Southampton Road allotment holders convened to consider the recent sale of the site by Longford Estate. The allotment holders had been unhappy that Longford Estate and Alderbury Parish Council had not informed them of the impending sale and the new license agreed between the Council and the new owner. The allotment holders were also concerned about the new owner's intentions and wanted to open negotiations with them as soon as possible. They had agreed a list of points they wanted to raise. Members of the Council shared the concerns raised and agreed that the Clerk respond to the allotment holders' spokesperson conveying the Council's support for the position the tenants have adopted and particularly that the Licence be amended to include a 12 months' notice period in the event of closure. Cllr Diprose raised the possibility of listing the allotments as an asset of community value – members supported this idea.

6154. Correspondence – there were no items to consider.

6155. The Fountain magazine – it was agreed that the Clerk submit a report outlining the matters contained in these minutes.

6156. Dates of future meetings

- Wednesday 11 May
- Annual Parish Meeting: Date to be confirmed - theme: online fraud and internet safety
- Thursday 9 June
- Monday 4 July 22
- Tuesday 2 Aug 22 (provisional)
- Tuesday 6 Sep 22

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.26pm

Signed as a correct record

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Chair

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Date