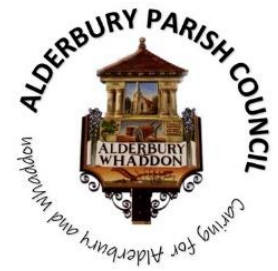


Minutes of the meeting of Alderbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm in The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall.



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

In attendance: Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton, Steve Milton (Parish Clerk), and 17 members of the public.

Public question time

Ken Carley:

- Drew attention to Government consultation on proposed changes to the planning system.
- Raised the issue of poor-quality ecological reports submitted with planning applications.
- Mentioned an incident of hedge cutting during the nesting season which he had reported to the appropriate authorities.

PC Pete Jung

PC Young reported that it had been an unusually busy month for the Police:

- A pair of solid oak automatic gates had been stolen from a property in Tunnel Hill – investigation ongoing.
- An incident of criminal damage to a vehicle in Firs Road.
- Several outbuildings had been broken into and items stolen in Old Road, School Hill and Rectory Road. Another outbuilding had been broken into, but nothing taken in Lights Lane. Investigations were ongoing but the criminals are not thought to be local.
- An incident of anti-social behaviour that occurred on the Recreation Ground is being investigated.

Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton

- He had followed up the concerns raised about the dates of proposed road resurfacing through the village. However, there was nothing further to report and the dates were still not published.
- The Annual Council Meeting would be taking place in Trowbridge on 17th May and he was expecting Cllr Richard Clewer to continue as Leader of the Council with Cllr Laura Mayes as Deputy Leader,
- He explained changes to the Area Board grants. Parish Councils were no longer eligible for funding.
- The Community Area Transport Group (CATG) had been renamed Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Grants (LHFIG) and the budget and remit expanded to include rights of way. The Southern Area Board's budget was £45k. Roll-forwards of unspent funds would also cease from 2022/23.
- The high rate of national inflation was likely to place a significant strain on the Wiltshire Council budget with overspends expected. Richard explained that nearly 65% of all Wiltshire Council funding was absorbed by adult social care and children's services and that the squeeze was likely to be felt most keenly in the non-statutory service areas.

Councillor Fuller – In the Chair

6157. Election of Chair 2022/2023

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hartford be elected as Chair of the Council for 2022/23

Councillor Hartford – In the Chair

6158. Election of Vice Chair 2022/2023

RESOLVED: That Councillor Fuller be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for 2022/23

6159. Apologies for absence

All councillors were present.

6160. Declaration of Cllrs Interests and dispensations

Cllr Huntley declared an indirect interest in the matter set out under minute 6169 below and remained in the meeting and spoke (but did not vote) on the matter.

6161. Council meeting minutes

RESOLVED: that the [minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5th April, 2022](#) are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6162. Village Maintenance update

Cllr Hartford updated the Council on the following matters:

- The footpath between Junction Road and Firs Road was now overgrown. Councillor Lawrence undertook to take this up with the footpath volunteers to see if they could help.
- The gardening group were preparing to plant out the summer bedding in the village troughs and planters. Members agreed this should be completed before the Best Kept Village Competition judging got underway.
- A close boarded fence at Oakwood Grove open space was being replaced with a post and rail fence and native hedging. Members welcomed the news.
- There was a missing white post at The Green at a point where the junction verges have been eroded by vehicles. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Wiltshire Council to seek a replacement.
- The new post for the speed indicator device at the southern end of the village had been installed and the solar cell had been fitted by Hurdcott Landscapes ready for the relocation of the device.
- Defibrillator batteries and pads had been changed.
- The Best Kept Village entry had been submitted and the [2022 entry](#), [village report](#) and [maps](#) were now all now online.
- Cllr Lawrence reported that the wildlife volunteers had started to plant up the raised bed at the Community Resource Hub with native and bee-friendly wildflowers – annual and perennials.

6163. Southampton Road Allotments

The Council noted that the sale in Autumn 2021 of the allotment land by the Longford Estate had caused uncertainty for the allotment holders. John Turley was present and provided [a statement on behalf of allotment holders](#). Following his statement Mr Turley presented [a petition signed by 24 allotment holders](#) to the Chair of the Council.

The Clerk responded on behalf of the Council indicating the Council's support for the principal objectives agreed by the allotment holders – namely the retention of the existing site, access and car park. The Clerk stated that in his opinion, the allotments were not protected by statute as they were privately owned, and the allotment use had been permitted on a temporary basis only. Cllr Britton supported this view. The Clerk agreed to seek legal advice from the National Association of Local Councils on this point. Mr Turley explained that due to the uncertainty, tenants were now reluctant to invest in the improvement of their plots. He also drew attention to a memorial shed that had been purchased through donations and erected to honour the memory of the site's first warden Keith Whitmarsh who died suddenly in 2017. The clear preference was to stay on the existing site. Negotiations needed to begin urgently.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the new owners of the allotment land:

- (1) Confirming that the Council will be seeking the retention of the allotments in their current position, with car parking and access;
- (2) Confirming that the Council will explore whether it would be possible to acquire the freehold;
- (3) Requesting a variation of the licence to provide 12 months' notice to vacate the land;
- (4) Seeking details of development timeframes

6164. Future of the Three Crowns

At the request of Councillor Hughes the Council considered the future of the Three Crowns in Whaddon. The owners and occupiers of the Three Crowns were present and stated that the pub was no longer viable as a business and that two planning applications would be coming forward shortly setting out future plans for the site. This had followed protracted negotiations with Wiltshire Council's enforcement officer.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

6165. Grant Application: Alderbury Village Hall

The Council considered [an application for funding](#) towards the cost of a new dishwasher submitted by the Village Hall Committee.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £750 be awarded to Alderbury Village Hall Committee towards the cost of a commercial dishwasher.

6166. Forward Plan

The Council received [the draft Forward Plan](#) for 2022/23

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the objective relating to the allotments in Southampton Road be amended to make clear that negotiations will begin in May 2022, rather than 'be concluded;'
- (2) That the Clerk liaise with the Southern Wiltshire Community Engagement Manager regarding the possibility of support to provide youth activities in the summer holidays;
- (3) That replacement noticeboards be included in the plan;
- (4) That the Council's wish to become a climate friendly village be included in the plan, subject to a future report by the Clerk; and
- (5) That the Clerk explore the feasibility of installing solar panels on the Village Hall.

6167. Councillor responsibilities and appointments to outside bodies 2022/23

RESOLVED: that the [schedule of councillor appointments](#) be approved.

6168. Council Subscriptions

RESOLVED: that the following subscriptions be approved:

- Council for Protection of Rural England £36
- National Association of Local Councils (including Wiltshire ALC) £774
- Information Commissioner £35
- Society of Local Council Clerks £251
- Corporate Governance Institute (ICSA) £150

6169. Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Council confirmed the appointment of Lightatouch until 2025.

6170. Review of Banking Arrangements

RESOLVED: that Lloyds Bank be retained for the ensuing year.

6171. Review of Insurance Arrangements

RESOLVED: that Came and Company be retained as the Council's insurance brokers for 2022/23.

6172. Council Policies and Procedures.

RESOLVED: that [the policies and procedures currently listed on the Council's website](#) be reconfirmed for 2022/23

6173. End of Year – Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

In accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and proper practices set out in the JPAG Practitioners Guide, the Council:

RESOLVED:

- (1) that [the Statement of Internal Control](#) be approved;
- (2) that the matters set out in [the Internal Auditor's report](#) be noted and the [Annual Internal Audit Report \(AGAR\)](#) be adopted;
- (3) that [the Annual Governance Statement \(AGAR Form 3 Section 1\)](#) be approved;
- (4) that [the Accounting Statements for the Year ending 31st March 2022 as certified by the RFO \(AGAR Form 3 Section 2\)](#) be approved and signed by the Chair;
- (5) that [the Statement of Variances](#) be approved;
- (6) that [the End of Year Bank Reconciliation Statement](#) be approved; and
- (7) that the [Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited AGAR](#) be approved and published by the RFO on the dates specified in [the Confirmation of Dates Statement](#).

6174. Budget Monitoring Report Month 1

The Council noted [the budget monitoring report to 30th April 2022](#)

6175. Bank Reconciliation and Balances 30th April 2021

The Council noted [the bank reconciliation and balances to 30th April 2022](#).

6176. Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED:

- (1) that [the schedule of payments](#) be approved; and
- (2) that the Clerk seek clarification from Idverde about the litter bin at Junction Road that has been inaccessible throughout 2022.

6177. [Planning Application PL/2022/01624](#)

Temporary change of use from what is currently open grassland, previously used as Alderbury FC sports pitches to a parking area for the sales centre of the approved development outline ref 17/04301/OUT, reserved matters ref PL/2021/04201 - land Off Firs Road, Alderbury, SP5 3BD

RESOLVED: that the Council raises no objection to this application provided the land is reinstated at the end of this temporary permission.

6178. [Planning Application PL/2022/02766](#)

New dwelling with associated drive, carport/garage and garden amenity space (As approved under planning ref 20/07065/FUL with revised access position) - Resubmission of PL/2022/02035 - land rear of Caynton Lawns, Oak Drive, Alderbury, Wilts, SP5 3AJ

RESOLVED: that the Council objects strongly to this application for the following reasons:

- (1) The proposed access is located near the end of a private track lying within the curtilage of the adjoining property 'Mere' and leading exclusively to the two properties at 'Treetops'.

The track is unsurfaced, is only 2.5m wide, and too narrow for access by emergency, refuse or other service vehicles. It cannot be widened as this land is not within the boundary of the site. The extra traffic generated by the proposed 4-bedroomed house including delivery and business vehicles will greatly increase vehicle movements along the track. In addition, the proposed entry access point for the new development provides inadequate visibility for road users approaching from north, and vehicles egressing the site will have inadequate sight lines to the north. This will significantly increase road safety risks. The application can make no accommodation for this within the current boundary line. The Council considers the proposed access to be unsafe as it will increase highway safety risks to an unacceptable level and should be refused in accordance with Policy 61 (ii) of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015.

- (2) The proposed access by virtue of its narrow width and lack of passing places, pedestrian refuges and turning areas presents a danger to pedestrians, cyclists and other road users and is therefore contrary to Policy 61 (i) of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015.
- (3) The proposed access by virtue of its narrow width and lack of passing places and turning areas is inadequate to serve delivery and service vehicles and is therefore contrary to Policy 61 (ii) (e) of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015.
- (4) The proposed access will involve cutting through a bank and the removal of mature hedgerow. This will have a harmful impact upon the landscape character of the narrow rural lane and involve the loss of valuable natural habitat. Therefore, the Council considers this application should be refused in accordance with Policies 50 and 51 (i) of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015.
- (5) The LPA must satisfy itself that the access proposed can be achieved without third party consent.

6179. [Planning Application PL/2022/00203](#)

Demolition of the existing conservatory. Conversion/extension of the existing dwelling. Pruning of a Magnolia tree - The Pippins, 56 Old Road, Alderbury, SP5 3AR

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

6180. [Planning Application PL/2022/02929](#)

Conversion of garage roof space to living accommodation ancillary to the main house, to include the insertion of a dormer on the West elevation – The Field House, Southampton Road, Alderbury SP5 3AG

RESOLVED: that, provided the LPA is satisfied that overlooking due to the design and position of the roof fenestration, will not be detrimental to the enjoyment of privacy of neighbouring properties, Alderbury Parish Council raises no objection to this proposal subject to the following condition:

The building hereby permitted shall be for the ancillary domestic use of the occupiers of Field House only and shall not be used, let, licensed, rented or sold-off separately.

6181. Reports from Outside Bodies

- (1) Cllr Huntley thanked the Council for its grant towards the cost of the new dishwasher and reported that the Village Hall Committee was seeking to install Wi-Fi boosters to improve broadband in the building.
- (2) Cllr Fuller reported on the outcome of a stakeholder meeting to address safety concerns at the school in Firs Road. The road surfacing works were now underway following a slight hold-up due to the poor sub strata. The new school pedestrian access has now been agreed and this

will improve safety of children entering and egressing the site. A speed ramp will be provided to slow traffic speeds and a 20mph speed limit is being investigated for the whole length of Firs Road. He reported that Vistry Homes Ltd had been working with the Football Club with a view to completing the club car park but that details were yet to be confirmed. Cllr Fuller stated that Vistry had indicated that the part of the site behind the football pitches to the south was part of a drainage scheme. The requirement for this car parking had not been part of the approved plans. He reported that with one or two minor issues the site supervision was now in place and operating effectively and liaison between the school and the developer was positive. Several other issues had been raised including a request for a copy of the final approved biodiversity plan.

RESOLVED: That Alderbury Football Club be invited to the next meeting to discuss progress with the club house and car park.

6182. Correspondence

The clerk reported as follows:

- (1) Two requests for permission to hold BBQs at the Village Hall

RESOLVED: That BBQs be permitted on the hard standing area between the social club and the recreation ground fence and away from properties in Rectory Road subject to the provider's undertaking a risk assessment and complying with all health and safety requirements

- (2) A request for permission to site an additional takeaway food van in the village hall car park during the week. Members noted that the existing fish and chip van was now only visiting the village twice a month and could see no problem with another provider subject to no objections from the village hall committee.

RESOLVED: That no objection be raised to the proposal for another takeaway food van visiting the car park subject to:

- (a) Permission of the Village Hall Committee
- (b) Restricted to one evening per week, preferably Thursday, Friday or Saturday
- (c) Provision for collection of litter and a requirement that the site is left as found
- (d) No external generator or music to be played
- (e) Siting of the vehicle on the hardstanding between the Social Club and the Recreation Ground fence and away from properties in Rectory Road
- (f) A one-month trial

6183. The Fountain magazine

It was agreed that the clerk submit a report based on these minutes and mentioning the need to avoid cutting hedges during the bird nesting season.

6184. Dates of future meetings:

The Council noted the following meeting dates:

- Thursday 9 June
- Monday 4 July 22
- Tuesday 2 Aug 22 (provisional)
- Tuesday 6 Sep 22

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.32pm

Signed as a correct record

.....
Chair Date