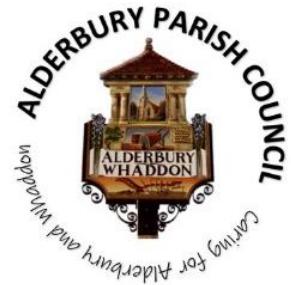


**Minutes of the Meeting of Alderbury Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
at 7.30pm in The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall.**



**Present:** Councillors Elaine Hartford (Chair), Kim Diprose, John Fuller, Mike Huntley, Mel Lawrence, Darren Mernagh and Barry Sloan,

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

**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II : 1926 - 2022**

Before the commencement of any business  
Alderbury Parish Council observed two minutes silence to  
mark the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth



**Public question time**

Ken Carley

Reported that the Council's hedges had been cut back very severely and it would be better to leave them to grow taller to provide habitat for birds and mammals.

Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton

- Date of the [Southern Area Board](#) had been moved to 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, Whiteparish.
- Wiltshire Council's financial situation was better than previously feared with measures now approved to address the expected £12m deficit. This had released £235k for investment in the Parish Steward scheme and would be used to create a team to tackle jobs beyond the scope of the existing crews.
- The resurfacing of Southampton Road between the Green Dragon and Whaddon was now scheduled to start on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Members of the Council thanked Richard for his work lobbying for this project.

PC Pete Jung, Wiltshire Police

- Reported that it had been a quiet month following actions taken to address the spate of non-domestic thefts in the village. There were no significant matters to report.
- Following an announcement by the Home Secretary, a police officer would visit every victim of domestic burglary. Pete confirmed that this was his usual practice in any event.
- An additional PC was joining the Neighbourhood Policing Team, and this would mean a more visible presence in the village.
- The Chair reported that the local Speedwatch team had recorded a vehicle travelling at 53mph in the 30mph zone. Pete explained that if a vehicle was caught speeding on two occasions by the Speedwatch team then a visit would be made to the offender.
- Alex Wilkinson from Silverwood, reported that the Highway Police had been at the school discussing traffic issues with parents.

**6252. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Michael Considine (illness), Adam Hughes (childcare) and John Ridd (work).

**6253. Declaration of Councillors' Interests and dispensations**

Councillor Diprose declared an interest in the matter set out under minute 6262 below and did not speak or vote thereon.

**6254. Council meeting minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that [the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022](#) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**6255. Village Maintenance Update**

The Council received the following updates from the Chair, Cllr Hartford.

- A large Beech tree at the Recreation Ground had been inspected by the Council's grounds maintenance contractors and may be diseased, the tree would be kept under observation but may need to be felled if it is dead.
- The Wiltshire Tree Officer had inspected the old oak on Oakwood Grove Open Space and found a significant growth of bracket fungus. Prolific growth of bracket fungus can be a sign of disease and he had recommended a specialist radar survey to ascertain its current health. The inspection would be booked from the recommended specialist.
- Oak trees at the Recreation Ground were now drooping over the picnic benches and required the lower limbs lifting. The Clerk would check if these trees were subject of protection orders and if so, to make an application for the works and ask Tree Menders to carry out the works as soon as possible.
- Tree saplings from the hedge around the swings in the Recreation Ground were now growing vigorously and would need to be cleared from the area to prevent risks to users of the equipment.
- The last remaining pane of glass in the bus shelter at the Southampton Road/Grimstead Road junction had been smashed. The Clerk would place an order for the repairs.
- Ivy growing on the wall of Hurstbourne House in Southampton Road was now obstructing the pavement. The Clerk would send a letter to the occupier asking for this to be cut back.
- Despite letting a contract, the work to repair the fences at the Recreation ground and Old Road had still not been completed. The Clerk would chase up with the selected contractor.
- Cllr Sloan reported that the grit bins needed topping up before Winter sets in. The Chair agree to contact Marcus Lights to check reserves and arrange the top up.
- Cllr Sloan reported that one of the gate posts at the Cemetery was rotten. The Clerk would ask the fencing contractor to add this to the schedule of fencing works.

**6256. Vacancy for Councillor**

Following the resignation of Ken Bath, the Returning Officer for Wiltshire had been notified of the vacancy on the Council, and this was advertised on 29<sup>th</sup> September. An election to fill the vacancy would be held if ten electors from the Parish write to the Returning Officer by 19 October 2022 asking for an election. If an election was not requested by that date, then the vacancy must be filled by co-option as soon as possible. In that event, the Council would advertise for people interested in serving as a councillor and select from suitable applications received.

**6257. Recruitment of Clerk**

Following two years in post, the Parish Clerk had formally resigned to accept a Partnership with the [Local Government Resource Centre](#). Steve's last working day would be Tuesday 27th December 2022 and he would assist the Council to recruit a new Clerk. He had also offered to provide training and mentoring for the new clerk after his formal departure from the role.

**RESOLVED:** That the HR Working Party (Cllrs Hartford, Fuller, Lawrence and Mernagh) be authorised to oversee the preparation of the advertisements, new contract and to make all arrangements for the recruitment of the new Clerk.

**6258. Solar Panels – Alderbury Village Hall**

Cllr Fuller reported that the technical survey of the Village Hall for the solar installation was now scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> October. This would identify the most suitable scheme and the costs involved – this would be reported to the Council in November. Cllr Fuller had contacted the Social Club to examine the option of splitting the energy input between the Village Hall and the Club. The Council supported this approach. The Village Hall Committee had endorsed the scheme and the Chair of the Committee was now fully involved with the project.

**6259. Junction of Folly Lane and Lights Lane**

The affected owner reported repeated damage to his property caused by large vehicles turning from Folly Lane into Lights Lane. The Council then considered his request for the implementation of a 'no left turn' sign at this difficult junction. This would need to be approved by Wiltshire Council's, Southern Area Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group, and the Council would be required to meet 25% of any costs involved. Councillor Britton advised the Council to consult the Area Highway Engineer prior to submitting a formal application for funding to assess the options available.

**RESOLVED:** That the clerk write to the Area Highway Engineer asking for an assessment to be undertaken at the junction.

**6260. Wildlife Friendly Alderbury – Projects 2022**

Cllr Lawrence reported that consultation with residents adjoining Oakwood Grove Open Space, explaining the Council's plans to plant native hedgerows around parts of the perimeter will get underway in the following week. Planting was scheduled for the first weeks of November. Quotations were being sought for the supply of hedging whips, trees, mulch, and rabbit guards. The Woodland Trust had been contacted about the possible supply of free plants and an order had been placed. She explained that the scheme would preserve the pathway at the top of the bank from the gate at Southampton Road. The scarification and seeding of the wildflower meadow in Waleran Close was now scheduled for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am. She further reported that a member of the Wildlife Volunteers had offered to provide an area of wild planting adjoining Silverwood, where Wiltshire Council had removed diseased trees. The Council fully supported this idea and thanked the volunteer for his kind offer.

**6261. Southampton Road Allotments**

The Clerk reported that the Council had submitted its response to Formula Land (Alderbury) Ltd welcoming the proposed retention of the existing allotments and requesting the transfer of the freehold interest of the allotments, access, and car park. At the date of publication, no response had been received. The Council agreed that it was now important, that all matters relating to the acquisition of the freehold, its terms and extent were conducted by the Council as licensee. The Council would continue to consult and engage with tenants to reflect their wishes in any final agreement reached with the developers, however as all liabilities and obligations would rest with the parish council, this was a matter for the Council itself to decide.

**6262. [Planning Application PL/2022/07121](#): Installation of Air Source Heat Pump outdoor unit at the back of the new extension - The Old Cottage, Castle Lane, Whaddon, SP5 3EQ**

**RESOLVED:** Alderbury Parish Council supports measures to reduce carbon emissions in the village. Addressing climate change is a priority for the Council. In terms of planning policy, design and location, this application has no adverse impacts and should be supported.

**6263. [Planning Application PL/2022/07321](#): Demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of one replacement dwelling – Alderbury Farm Cottage, Witherington Road SP5 3DL**

**RESOLVED:** Alderbury Parish Council raises no objection to this application subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That an independent ecological assessment is undertaken to determine the presence of protected species, particularly bats, and the implementation of any recommendations arising therefrom.
- (2) The replacement of any trees removed during the development with semi-mature native species to be approved by the Wiltshire Arboricultural Officer

**6264. [Planning Application PL/2022/06411](#):** Relocation of approved dwelling and garage (21/00636/VAR) design changes to fenestration including the chimney stack (part retrospective) and the creation of an access through adjacent woodland - Old Rectory House, Lights Lane, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 3DS

**RESOLVED:** Alderbury Parish Council raises no objection to this application subject to the following condition:

Prior to the commencement of any construction activity for the revised access, the following shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority:

As specified in, and in accordance with the recommendations of the arboricultural assessment undertaken by Hellis Solutions Ltd in July 2022:

- (1) An arboricultural method statement;
- (2) A tree protection plan; and
- (3) A schedule of arboricultural supervision

This is to avoid any detrimental impact on the woodland setting and rural character of the village and to avoid the loss of important ecology and habitat.

**6265. [Planning Appeal PL/2021/07940](#)** - Snowflakes, Rectory Road, Alderbury

**RESOLVED:** That Alderbury Parish Council maintains its previous objections to this application and further expresses its concerns about the potential impact on a tree recently subject to a preservation order.

**6266. Budget Monitoring Report – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (Month 6)**

The Council noted [the budget monitoring report](#).

**6267. Bank Balances and Bank Reconciliation – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Council noted [the bank balances and bank reconciliation statement](#).

**6268. Reserves – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Council noted [the reserves statement](#) and agreed to move CIL funds into the Village Hall Solar Scheme reserve to bring this to £20k

**6269. Accounts for Payment**

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

**6270. Reports from outside bodies.**

There were no reports.

**6271. Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that Salisbury Live had requested financial support to stage an event in the village to coincide with the Coronation of King Charles III. The Council welcomed the suggestion and requested that a grant application be submitted setting out the arrangements with a breakdown of costs involved.

**6272. The Fountain magazine**

It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a report based upon the matters set out in these minutes and include promotion of the Christmas Lights Switch-on event.

**6273. Dates of future meetings**

The Council noted the following meeting dates: Thursday 3 November; Monday 5 December

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.11 pm

Signed as a correct record

.....  
Chair

.....  
Date