

**Minutes of the Meeting of Alderbury Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
at 7.30pm in The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall.**



**Present:** Councillors Elaine Hartford (Chair) (EH), Kim Diprose (KD), John Fuller (JF), Adam Hughes (AH), Mike Huntley (MH), Mel Lawrence (ML), John Ridd (JR), Barry Sloan (BS)

**Absent:** Cllr Frances West

**In attendance:** Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton (RB), 2 x PCSOs, Liz Holland (Clerk), and 2 members of the public.

**Public question time**

- A resident reported continued problems with overflowing drains along Southampton Road. The concern is this is more than blocked drains and is a result of development in the village and tree felling. The clerk was asked to contact Graham Axtel (GA) at Highways to have the drains cleared, preferably following a visit to the village to assess the problems. The council will review the benefit of that before recommending any further action. **ACTION: clerk, future agenda for review**
- A resident asked about the need for hedges to be clipped. Cllr Hartford said that where these block rights of way, they should be. The clerk was asked to include dates for bird nesting season in The Fountain and remind everyone they cannot legally prune then. **ACTION: clerk**
- A resident asked about the planned X-ray of the oak tree at Oakwood Drive. **ACTION: clerk will find out what has been done on this already & chase what needs doing**

**Wiltshire Police**

- Reported a quiet month in Alderbury
- Announced the imminent retirement of PC Pete Jung. His replacement starts very soon

**Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton**

- Wiltshire Council had considered its draft budget and will be recommending a 2.99% increase to general fund expenditure with a further 1.99% social care levy applied.

**6318. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Considine

**6319. Declaration of Councillors' Interests and dispensations**

There were no declarations

**6320. Council meeting minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that the [the minutes of the meeting December 5<sup>th</sup> 2022](#) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. **ACTION: clerk to send a copy for signing**

**6321. Village Maintenance Update**

The Council received the following update from the Chair, Cllr Hartford:

- The road refuge near The Three Crowns has been reported and dealt with by the parish steward
- The cemetery gate has been fixed and the invoice for £249.00 is included on this agenda
- The parish steward has made a start on filling potholes and will be back to do more
- The Christmas tree has been taken down
- Flooding persists at Witherington Road near the junction with Tunnel Hill. **ACTION: clerk to report to Highways**
- The crown lift and bramble clearing in the cemetery are still outstanding **ACTION: EH to contact Daniel Nurse**

- Noticeboards **ACTION: clerk to find costs for 4 replacements which will be non-magnetic, have a cover but no lock, be of a size to fit 4x2 A4 pages, Feb agenda**

**6322. [Planning Application PL/2022/09587](#):** Variation of condition 4 on 20/09964/FUL to allow the first floor of the annex to be used as short-term holiday let in addition to ancillary use - Willow Bank, Oak Drive, Alderbury. **ALL AGREED** – object: this application was supported originally ONLY BECAUSE it was declared for ancillary use. **ACTION: Feb agenda to discuss the principle of change of use applications – should the council have a policy?**

**6323. Budget & Precept 2023/24**

Councillors were invited to an informal discussion on 3<sup>rd</sup> January to review the proposed budget in more detail and consider future use of reserves

**PROPOSAL: to demand a precept of £56,939.86 ALL AGREED ACTION: clerk to contact WCC**

It was noted this is an expected £2.52 pa rise on a band D property.

Councillors asked for a future agenda item to review and set reserves **ACTION: Feb agenda**

There will be an informal discussion on projects and spending and building reserves on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The clerk will distribute a summary of ideas ahead of the meeting.

**6324. Alderbury and West Grimstead Primary School - Traffic Issues**

Councillors debated a number of ideas in response to the proposed Highways changes on Firs Road. They noted a petition signed by 175 people supporting the installation of a zebra crossing near the school. **ACTION: The clerk was asked to**

- Request clarification from Paul Shaddock Highways, (PS), whether any traffic calming measures are still due to be provided along the new section of Firs Road that runs along the boundary of the school and past the football club and new guide hut (as originally indicated on the planning documents)**
- Inform PS his proposals in an email dated 30/12/22 are a good basis for further discussion but need extending to the new pupil entrance**
- Inform PS that consideration needs to be given to the safety of children/adults crossing the road at the crossing where the footpath on the south side of the road ends, including the petition requesting a zebra crossing at this point**
- Ask PS for a meeting with him to discuss further (as he offered). Invitees – AH, KD, JF, MH, the football club, the head of Alderbury and West Grimstead Primary School, Laura Reeves (representing the petitioners)**

**6325. Silver Street Shelter**

Cllr Hartford had received a number of complaints about the misuse and abuse of the Silver Street shelter. This is a parish council asset on Longford estate land. She spoke to residents and tried to enforce rules by a notice in the shelter. This has proved ineffective. **PROPOSAL: Use of the shelter as a point for the free exchange of goods will be stopped immediately. No alternative will be provided. ALL AGREED.** The following actions were agreed:

- Cllr Hartford will talk to the Longford estate to gain their agreement ACTION: EH**
- Clerk to word a sign to go in the shelter advising people they cannot use it to donate/dump goods and that those who do can be reported to the police. ACTION: clerk**
- Cllr Hartford will advise residents that any fencing will be temporary to help enforce the new rules but will be removed as soon as possible ACTION: EH**
- PCSOs to be asked to patrol the area ACTION: clerk**

**6326. It was RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments and invoices be approved subject to further investigation of one of the Idverde invoices.

**6327. Reports from Outside Bodies/Councillors**

- The closures proposed for Southampton Road to allow the resurfacing in February will cause problems for school pickups. Cllr Hughes will liaise with Highways and other interested parties for a resolution. **ACTION: AH**

- b. The village hall is reviewing its wifi provision
- c. The proposed changes to Highway markings at Clarendon Road are in line with those asked for by the parish council, with the exception that the double yellow line should taper round the corner of Old Road not cut across it. **ACTION: clerk to advise PS**
- d. Cllr Fuller will liaise with WCC planning to confirm that the solar panels planned for the village hall are permitted development **ACTION: JF** The clerk was asked to make 'solar panels' a standing item on future agendas. **ACTION: agenda**

**6328. Correspondence** – the Clerk had no correspondence to report.

**6329. The Fountain magazine** – it was agreed that the Clerk would submit a report based on these minutes.

**6330. Dates of future meetings** – members [agreed the proposed calendar of meetings for 2023.](#)

The Chair closed the meeting at 21:30

*REPORTS REFERRED TO IN THESE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE*

[APC documents](#)

Signed as a correct record

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Chair

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Date