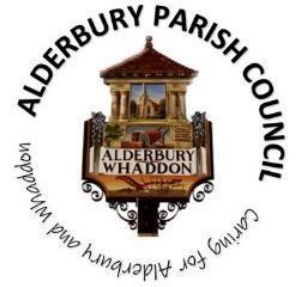


Minutes of the Meeting of Alderbury Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30pm in The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall.



Present: Councillors Elaine Hartford (Chair) (EH), Michael Considine (MC), Kim Diprose (KD), John Fuller (JF), Mike Huntley (MH), Mel Lawrence (ML), John Ridd (JR), Barry Sloan (BS), Alex Wilkinson (AW)

Cllr Mike Dent joined from 8pm

In attendance: PC Alexander Heath and Simon Ward, Liz Holland (Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

Public open time

- A resident spoke of the need for the parish council to set an example and schedule all its tree and hedge work out of the nesting season. He said the emphasis must be on preventing the loss of trees. Replacement comes a poor second

6491. Reports

The Chair opened this section inviting councillors to extend condolences to Cllr Richard Britton who has recently lost his wife. She offered the chance to sign a card

a Wiltshire police: PC Alex Heath

- An incident of criminal damage on Old Vicarage Road. No suspects identified
- Anti-social behaviour on Rectory Rd – suspect identified and has been spoken to by police
- Theft at the Canal Lane shop. No suspects identified
- A dog hit by a car was taken to the vet but there was no microchip to identify the owner
- Youths kicked a door on Avon Drive but no damage was caused. Enquiries are ongoing
- A driver was caught doing 86mph on the A36
- Enquiries are continuing regarding traffic incidents involving a BMW

b Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton's report was read by Cllr Hartford

- The consultation on the local plan has begun and he urged all councillors to comment
- He reported on Richard Clewer's recent visit to Alderbury. Cllr Clewer spoke of the sound base of Wiltshire Council's finances. He answered questions on a range of topics
- Cllr Britton expressed some reservations that the savings required by WC to balance the budget could be met
- Cllr Britton appreciated the vote of thanks offered at the meeting from an Alderbury resident – and reminded everyone 'he has not gone yet'!

6492. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Hughes

6493. Declaration of Councillors' Interests and dispensations

Cllr Sloan will not vote on item 6521 as he is introducing it

6494. Councillor co-option

Following confirmation from Wilts Council that no election had been called it was **PROPOSED** Cllr Hartford & **SECONDED** Cllr Sloan to co-opt Mike Dent with immediate effect. **ALL AGREED.** He signed the acceptance of office and joined the meeting

6495. Minutes

The **PROPOSAL** to amend the minutes at item 6478 was **AGREED**. The amended [minutes](#) of the meeting held on September 4th were **APPROVED** and will be signed by the chair.

6496. Matters arising not on the agenda

The clerk was asked to add 'investigate improved signage at the recreation ground' to the action log. **ACTION: clerk**

6497. Finance

- a **NOTED** the renewal of the insurance cover to 30th September 2024. BHIB were chosen £1,229.36
- b **NOTED** the [bank balances and bank reconciliation statement](#) Cllr Fuller signed the bank reconciliation
- c **NOTED** the [budget monitoring report and year-end forecast](#) at 3.10.23
- d **The PROPOSAL to AGREE** any virements or spending from reserves necessary to make payments proposed at 6497e – there were none
- e **APPROVED** [the schedule of payments and invoices received](#)

6498. Village maintenance issues

- a **REPORT** on new issues from Cllr Hartford
 - i The fencing at Grimstead Road is still in place. Cllr Hartford brought this up directly with WC Corporate Director of Place Parvis Khansari at the WC event in Alderbury, who said he would look into it.
 - ii There are complaints from someone who regularly visits a grave in the cemetery of damage to ornaments left there and mowing. Cllr Hartford will speak again to the contractors who have already had instruction on this matter. **ACTION: EH**
 - iii Gate post for the recreation ground are on order
 - iv Cllr Fuller has fitted a padlock to the bar gate at the recreation ground but it needs further work. **ACTION: JF**
 - v Reports of damage to a sign at Spider's Island will be reported on MyWilts. **ACTION: clerk**
- b **The PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a quote for litter bin emptying in the village was awarded to Hurdcott Landscaping

6499. Allotments

- a. Cllr Wilkinson reported on behalf of the working group. Their [report](#) had been published. He acknowledged that the parish council should be held to account for its actions and its inactions but there is no place for rudeness. He noted that the working group was taking action to write to allotment site neighbouring properties about overhanging trees. **ACTION: clerk**
 - i. **The PROPOSAL to AGREE** the re-written constitution to go forward for consideration by the SRAA committee was **AGREED**. It was recognised that this may not give enough time for it to be adopted at the SRAA's forthcoming AGM. **ACTION: clerk to send a red-lined copy to the SRAA**
 - ii. **The PROPOSAL** to buy 2 signs advising users of the need to take care when at the site (wording TBA by working group), estimated cost up to £50 each was **AGREED**. **ACTION: working group**
 - iii. **PROPOSAL to AGREE** the [next course of action re car park safety](#) Cllr Wilkinson began by urging councillors to reach a conclusion on this matter, whilst acknowledging it is complicated. He strongly recommended any course of action be accompanied by work to agree a bi-lateral/management agreement between APC & the SRAA to formalise roles and responsibilities. A variety of views set out in the table presented to the council were heard.
 - 1. Safety is important
 - 2. There may be a need to close the car park if it becomes unsafe
 - 3. Set up a working group to explore repair options
 - 4. Look into grant funding
 - 5. The SRAA should be asked to contribute financially alongside Formula Land and APC

6. Adequate is good enough, taking account of the potentially short term need for a car park in this location. Matting or tree bark may be all that is needed.
7. APC should accept responsibility and resolve the tension between councillors and the SRAA committee
8. If people are able-bodied enough to walk down to the allotments they could be deemed fit enough to stay safe in the car park
9. Whilst APC has reserves, some of the quotes would take a significant proportion of them, whilst benefitting only a small number of residents
10. The Chair invited the SRAA representative to speak for 3 minutes. He said he has prepared a letter which will be sent to all councillors to ensure the history is not forgotten. The SRAA has, at its expense, repaired the plot site gate. The SRAA considers parking on the road to be both dangerous to them and to other road users and does not afford them the promised facility (ie by the licence) to bring cars with equipment and supplies to a safe and nearer place.

A **PROPOSAL** was made:

- If the SRAA advises the car park is unsafe, APC will close it temporarily. APC continues to reserve the right to make this decision for themselves at any time
- 2 -3 councillors will form a working group to look into the car park repair options
- Once potential costs are established, the working group will meet with a representative from the SRAA to discuss next step and present a recommendation to the council.

The proposal was **AGREED** with 9 in favour and 1 abstention

Cllr Fuller agreed to organise the working group.

Cllr Ridd asked it be recorded that he strongly objected to the amount of council time that had been given over to this matter

b. The **PROPOSAL** to reimburse the clerk for an allotment H&S webinar £30 was **AGREED**.

6500. The projects working group reported from their 14th August meeting. Cllr Ridd took the council through their written [report](#). Subsequently, the group visited the Pavilion and agreed it was likely that money would need to be made available to renovate it. They had instructed the clerk to get a surveyor/builder in to look at options. **ACTION: clerk** They also agreed there would be no further demands made of the football club to make good once the front steps had been done. There had been calls for better pathways through the recreation ground which could improve access for buggies, frames, wheelchairs etc. It was recognised that a wider consultation with the community will be needed, as no immediate use for The Pavilion has been identified. Cllr Wilkinson will arrange a Facebook poll as a starter on this. **ACTION: AW**

6501. The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** [a quote for the wet pour repair needed at the junior swings](#) was **AGREED** with the contract awarded to Vita Play. They will also be asked if they can do the area identified in the recent RoSPA report as needing work, up to £4,000. The clerk was asked to distribute the RoSPA reports to all councillors. **ACTION: clerk**

6502. Planning

a. **RESPONES**

- i. PL/2023/08240 7, Bracken House - reduction of oak with a TPO
<https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z00001BDAPM/pl202308240> **Follow the advice of the tree officer**
- ii. PL/2023/07607 Alderbury House, Tunnel Hill - remove landscape features
<https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z00001C3B0f/pl202307607> **Support**
- iii. PL/2023/ 07836 – tree work in a conservation area
<https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z00001C3d2yAAB/pl202307836> **Support**

b. Cllr Hartford attended the premises licencing hearing relating to Hole Farm. Official confirmation will follow, but the permissions sought were granted to the applicant. Councillors thanked the Chair for going to represent them.

6503. The PROPOSAL to allow a crib scene in in the wooden shelter at the top of Silver Street during the Advent/Christmas season was **AGREED**. The clerk will write to the organisers including a recommendation that they give due consideration to, in particular, child safety as people may be stopping in the road. **ACTION: clerk**

6504. Highways

- a. The clerk will write in support of [TRO various roads, south-east of Salisbury and New Forest north area](#) (prohibition of heavy commercial vehicles) order 2007 **ACTION: clerk**
- b. **UPDATE** on Firs Road road improvements **POSTPONED** as the meeting with interested parties is Thursday 5th October. **ACTION: agenda**

6505. Trees & Environmental issues

- a. Work at the oak at Oakwood Grove is complete. Cllr Wilkinson reported he found the contractors polite and considerate and thought they had done a great job, leaving the site clean and tidy.
- b. The clerk will write in support of the [proposed TPO order on the land owned by Formula Land](#)
- c. Cllr Lawrence said the cubs had been in touch about getting involved in environmental projects in the village and she hopes to agree where they can help

6506. REPORTS from Councillors

- a. A wreath will be purchased and Cllr Fuller has volunteered to represent the Council at the memorial service
- b. Plans are going ahead to have a Christmas tree as usual
- c. Other NTR

6507. Correspondence – NTR

6508. The Fountain magazine – the clerk will write based on the meeting and include a report from Cllr Clewer's visit

6509. Dates of next meetings

- a. 2023
 - i. Ordinary meeting Wednesday 1st November
 - ii. Extraordinary meeting Tuesday 21st November
 - iii. The December meeting has been rescheduled and will now be Tuesday 12th December in The Fountain Room
- b. Dates for 2024 were **AGREED**. **ACTION: clerk to book The Fountain Room and put dates on the website**

Monday 8th January
Tuesday 13th February
Wednesday 13th March
Thursday 11th April
Monday 13th May
Tuesday 11th June
Wednesday 10th July
Thursday 8th August
Monday 9th September
Tuesday 8th October
Wednesday 13th November
Thursday 12th December

The meeting closed at 21:35