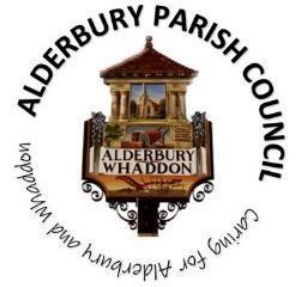


**Minutes of the Meeting of Alderbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm in The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall.**



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

**In attendance:** Wiltshire Council councillor Richard Britton (RB), Liz Holland (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

**Public open time**

- A resident queried the conclusions of the report on the oak at the amenity area. He felt the damage recorded did not merit the severe action proposed.
- A resident asked about whether the road sweeper will be coming back to Eyres Drive & about the need for grass cutting on the verge there. She also said she has written directly to Leader of WC Richard Clewer about the dangerous trees near her house. **ACTION: ML is investigating the ownership of the piece of land in question & will report back. EH will contact the parish steward about the road sweeping.**

**6414. Reports**

- a** Wiltshire police – a written report from PC Harry Murphy was read by the chair covering:
- i at St Mary's Church – a grave was damaged, suspect named
  - ii at Village Stores – a shoplifting occurred, suspect named.
  - iii on Rectory Road – a fight happened between a group of youths, the victim sustained a broken nose. Suspect(s) have been identified.
- b** Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton
- i The lime yard at Grimstead Road seemed only to re-open briefly. No further action planned.
  - ii The repairs needed to Light's Lane are not scheduled for this financial year (but are in next year). RB will continue to press for this to be brought forward.
  - iii WC has produced a commentary on it's lack of a 5-year land supply plan but how that may be mitigated by the fact that WC is exceeding its housing targets anyway. This appears optimistic but RB has doubts this argument will carry weight with a Planning Inspector.
  - iv Picnic in the Park was a brilliant event. RB was joined by the whole council in thanking Cllr Barry Sloan and his team for this fantastic day.

**6415. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors West and Huntley

**6416. Declaration of Councillors' Interests and dispensations**

There were none

**6417. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> were **APPROVED** and signed by the chair.

**6418. Matters arising not on the agenda**

- a UPDATE** on the casual vacancy – 2 expressions of interests have been received in writing by the clerk. WC will announce soon after 9<sup>th</sup> June if an election has been called. If there is none, councillors can co-opt at the July meeting. Both people interested will then be invited to speak to the Council at the July meeting. **ACTION: clerk, July agenda**

- b The action log was updated.
  - i The clerk outlined the legal advice she has received from the NSALG about the lease of land from FL and to the SRAA and this will be summarised and presented for consideration at the July meeting to agree next steps. **ACTION: July agenda**
  - ii The clerk reported she will be presenting a report and recommendations on future playground equipment inspections and repairs to the July meeting. **ACTION: July agenda**

#### 6419. Village maintenance issues

- a **REPORT** on new issues from Cllr Hartford
  - i A tree branch fallen onto the recreation ground will be removed by Hurdcott **STILL OUTSTANDING**
  - ii There is a particularly severe pothole on Lights Lane which the clerk needs to report on My Wilts **ACTION: photo and exact location needed then report (clerk)**
  - iii The Alderbury sign approaching from Pitton will need work
  - iv The fencing around a drain at Grimstead Road is still in place because the drain has not been repaired **ACTION: clerk**
  - v The clerk was asked to write to the village hall committee to ask them to tidy up the damage at the front of the building **ACTION: clerk**
  - vi The ownership of a piece of land on Clarendon Road needs investigating **ACTION: clerk will need further details of exact location**
  - vii The Explorers cleaned the road signs and had been thanked

6420. The **PROPOSAL** to allow the installation of a seat in the cemetery (made from recycled materials) was **APPROVED**. **ACTION: EH & JF to agree exact location**

#### 6421. Trees

- a The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a quote for work on the oak tree was **AGREED** with the successful bid coming from Tree Technique. The clerk plus Cllr Lawrence will work with them to see if the work can be done more slowly than originally proposed. **ACTION: clerk to contact all companies who quoted to let them know and arrange a site meeting with Tree Technique**
- b **UPDATE** on TPOs requested – nothing to report
- c **DISCUSS** other actions, particularly lobbying.
  - i Cllr Britton offered to write to WC asking them if the local plan review, currently underway, will likely include any new, tighter policies to protect trees. Assuming this will be 'no', he will go on to refer the matter to John Glen, MP. This was welcomed by councillors. **ACTION: RB.**
  - ii The parish council will re-consider a proposal submitted by Cllr Hughes some time ago which would codify their future responses to planning applications where damage to the environment preceded the application. **ACTION: AH to provide draft to the clerk, future agenda**
  - iii The clerk will look into the role of the tree ombudsman **ACTION: clerk**

#### 6422. Annual Parish Meeting

- a **REVIEW** the event – all agreed it was a successful and well-supported event
- b **AGREE** the [draft minutes](#) for publication on the website & for summary in The Fountain **ALL AGREED**
- c The **PROPOSAL** to set up a working group to narrow down options from [residents' suggestions](#) was **AGREED**. Cllrs Fuller, Ridd and Considine volunteered to join the clerk. **ACTION: clerk to set up a meeting later in the month**

6423. **DISCUSS** a reply to [Forrester Sylvester Mackett](#) about land at The Farthings, Oakwood Grove. **ACTION: clerk to write back to say the PC has no comments**

#### 6424. Playground

- a **REPORT** on inspection training: Clerk attended on 10<sup>th</sup> May. A useful day but there are no changes since Cllrs Fuller and Hartford attended some time ago.
- b **DISCUSS** [latest inspection](#) (LH 16/5). Nothing other than low risk matters were identified. There is a great deal of painting that does need doing at some point.
- c **AGREE** next inspection – Cllr West in June, Cllr Huntley in July

#### 6425. Finance

- a **End of Year – Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**
  - i) The **PROPOSAL to APPROVE and SIGN** [the end of year bank reconciliation statement](#) was **AGREED**
  - ii) The **PROPOSAL to NOTE** the internal audit report ([for AGAR](#) & [letter from Lightatouch](#)) was **AGREED**
  - iii) The **PROPOSAL to APPROVE and SIGN** the annual governance statement, [Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return](#) was **AGREED**
  - iv) The **PROPOSAL to APPROVE and SIGN** the accounting statements in [Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return](#) was **AGREED**
  - v) The **PROPOSAL** to issue the public rights statement for the period 9th June 2023 to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 was **AGREED**
- b) **APPROVE** the [schedule of payments](#) **ALL AGREED**

#### 6426. Planning

- a Change of use of land at Old Rectory House, Lights Lane <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z00001AaznH> **OBJECT with reasons**
- b Extension at Overton House, Southampton Road <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z00001AcAue> **NO OJECTIONS**
- c Tree & hedge work at Alderbury House, Tunnel Hill <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z00001AbLTE> **NO COMMENT refer to the tree officer**
- d Fence at 4, Avon Drive <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z000019rxQc> **OBJECT with reasons**

#### 6427. Projects

- a Additional SID – Councillors agreed metrocounts on Clarendon Road and near Waleran Close **ACTION: clerk to apply**
- b War memorial – Cllr Huntley has applied for funding and is awaiting a decision
- c Spiders Island – Cllr Lawrence, the clerk and Alex Wilkinson met a WC officer on site to discuss possibilities including a community garden, an orchard or a tiny forest. Important to get local support and leadership for this. **ACTION: bring attention to this in The Fountain (clerk)**

#### 6428. RECEIVE REPORTS from Councillors representing Alderbury Parish Council on outside bodies

- a The PC grant application to the Southern Area Board for Youth activity provision was approved

#### 6429. Correspondence – to consider correspondence received since publication of the agenda.

- a A resident had asked what is happening about trees felled into the pond alongside the Matron's College Farm development. Cllr Hartford said she remains confident these will be cleared and will reply to the resident. **ACTION: EH**
- b The ALDE16 footpath diversion is still on the list for official approval by WC. In the meantime, the landowner is in the process of making the necessary improvements to the path and plans to have it open by early July.

c The internal auditor, Lightatouch, is resigning with immediate effect for personal reasons

**ACTION: clerk to find and recommend a new auditor**

**6430. The Fountain magazine** – to agree the key themes for the next article. The clerk was asked to bring to particular attention:

- a Picnic in the Park
- b Thanks for turning up for the APM. We are taking your ideas forward
- c Volunteers needed to support the existing environmental initiatives in the village including the community orchard and footpath maintenance
- d Proposals for a new project at Spider’s Island and volunteers to be involved

**6431. Dates for next meetings**

- a. an ordinary meeting of the council July 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30 in The Fountain Room
- b. a provisional date for an ordinary meeting on August 7th

The chairman closed the meeting at 21.35

*REPORTS REFERRED TO IN THESE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE or from the clerk on request*

Signed as a true record

.....  
Chair

.....  
Date