

Minutes of the Meeting of Alderbury Parish Council
held on Monday January 8th 2024 at 7.30pm
The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall



Present: Councillors Elaine Hartford (Chair) (EH), Michael Considine (MC) – from 7.40, Mike Dent (MD), John Fuller (JF), Michael Huntley (MH), Mel Lawrence (ML), Barry Sloan (BS), Alex Wilkinson (AW)

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

Public open time

- A resident asked about the parking restriction changes needed at Woodlea Grange. A recent football tournament had brought chaos. It was judged cars are speeding. Residents were assured a 20mph speed limit is coming, together with double yellow lines and other traffic safety measures. Richard Britton continues to help chase WC for the outstanding TRO.
- A resident suggested a flooding map of the village could be useful.
- A resident complained about the flooding on the path behind Woodlea Grange.
- 2 residents talked about multiple incidents of ASB around Woodlea Grange.
- There was a report of youths throwing logs into the road.

6553. Reports

a Wiltshire police: PC Murphy

- i** Is aware of several reports of ASB in the village and encouraged everyone to report them even after the event, so that a log is formed. Some young people have been identified and are working with agencies to support their behaviour
- ii** Eggs were reported stolen
- iii** There was a one-vehicle collision on Witherington Road which resulted in police attendance and other motoring infringements being noted
- iv** A van light was stolen at Firs Road, but not enough information is available to take further action. Similarly a jet wash.
- v** Power tools stolen from Southampton Road is being investigated.
- vi** The incident of logs being thrown into the road was reported and is being followed up
- vii** Alderbury does remain one of the safest villages around. With the spate of thefts though, there will be a targeted response.

b Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton

Expressed his support for the removal of the 5-year land supply requirement. He feels this will reduce appeals granted by the inspector

6554. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Diprose.

6555. Declaration of Councillors' Interests and dispensations

There were none

6556. Casual vacancy

a 1 candidate gave a brief presentation

The **PROPOSAL** to co-opt Peter Jenks was seconded and **APPROVED**

Mr Jenks (PJ) signed his declaration of acceptance of office and immediately joined the council. The Chair thanked him for coming forward.

b The clerk will update the advertising and new posters will be displayed for the one remaining vacancy. Approach the school about adding to their weekly report. **ACTION: clerk**

6557. Minutes

The [minutes of the meeting held on December 12th 2023](#) were **APPROVED** and signed by the chair.

6558. Review the action log

- a The gate on Longford land near the cemetery has not been repaired **ACTION: clerk to chase**
- b John Kirby has looked at the tree on Avon Drive and does recommend some work on it to tidy it up. There is a difficulty that the tree is circled by Open Reach cables. There also is a TPO number on it. **ACTION: clerk to contact Open Reach and Shane Verrion for further advice.** He went on to look at the oak on the circle of grass opposite and recommended the tree officer be asked to visit it for a health assessment as he noticed signs of disease **ACTION: clerk to contact Shane Verrion**
- c Cllr Jenks will try to find out who owns the aggressive horses in a field used frequently by dog owners **ACTION: PJ**
- d Cllr Wilkinson asked for the moss on the basketball court to be removed. **ACTION: clerk to ask Hurdcott**

6559. Playground, recreation ground, The Pavilion and youth activities

- a At the playground the wet pour has been laid, the painter has made a start and the minor repairs have all been completed. The painter has volunteered to remove the decaying finials on the junior multiplay **ALL AGREED**
- b Councillors agreed that they do want to put aside money in the budget for youth activities in 2024. They asked WCllr Richard Britton to work with Karen Linaker and the Community First team to survey young people in the village to find out what they may like. Cllr Fuller suggested that a regular programme is more likely to be effective than pop-ups, so perhaps there could be use of reserves money to fund a pilot project after the survey. **PROPOSAL** to earmark £1,000 in the 2024/25 budget was **AGREED. ACTION: JF & RB to suggest next steps**
- c **The PROPOSAL** to set aside a part of the recreation ground for dog exercise was **REJECTED by a majority.** The clerk was asked to write in The Fountain reminding residents they are free to exercise their dogs at the Oakwood Grove amenity area. **ACTION: clerk**

6560. Finance

- a. **NOTED** the [bank reconciliation at 31.12.23](#) which was signed by Cllr Fuller
- b. **NOTED** the [budget monitoring report at 31.12.23](#)
- c. **AGREED** to vire £770 from insurance: £200 accounting software, £150 clerk travel, £180 rates, £240 electricity AND vire from pavement work £200 to litter collection
- d. The **PROPOSAL to AGREE the [budget 2024/25](#)** was discussed in the context of the monetary increase which would result to Band D housing in the village. The version known as 2nd Draft #2 in column N of the accompanying worksheet, resulting in a precept of £66,307 was **AGREED.** After allowing for other income this is budgeted expenditure of £68,307.
- e. **The PROPOSAL** to set the precept for 2024/25 was **AGREED** - £66,307 will be requested resulting in a £7.34 increase per annum for a band D property.
- f. **APPROVED** the [schedule of payments and invoices received](#)

6561. Communicating with residents

- a. It was **AGREED** that any public meeting to elicit views from residents on the expected planning application from Formula Land will be organised by the clerk and chaired by Cllr Britton, with APC councillors taking no other part, except to help publicise the event. Councillors are encouraged to attend to hear the views expressed. The clerk and RB will decide if Formula Land should be invited to make a presentation.
- b. **The Fountain** – agree key themes
 - i. Update on the Formula Land application
 - ii. PC areas for dog walking
 - iii. How to contact the police
 - iv. How to comment on planning applications

6562. Village maintenance issues

- a Cllr Hartford reported that
 - i Our gate from the cemetery needs work and she will ask Mr Fencing to have a look at it
ACTION: EH
 - ii The path from the car park through the cemetery needs gravel **ACTION: clerk (with further advice)**
 - iii The manger on Waleran Close may need moving
 - iv The new guide hut looks great
 - v The clerk was asked to get a quote from Caloo for the repairs needed to the table tennis table **ACTION: clerk**
 - vi There may be a need to buy additional Christmas lights for 2024 **ACTION: future agenda**

Cllr Considine left at 9.20

- b The flooding on the footpath behind Woodlea Grange has a multitude of causes. It does seem to need a culvert under the path taking water from the ditch off-site (before the fencing begins).
ACTION: RB, JF, clerk to agree next steps Everyone must continue to put pressure on WC footpath team to come and look and get on board with other repairs and improvements needed. They will have the enforcement powers needed.
- c Councillors discussed an email from a resident complaining about the mulch pile at Oakwood amenity area. All **AGREED** no further action is needed and the clerk will write to that effect.
ACTION: clerk

6563. Environmental Issues

- a **The PROPOSAL** to accept the freehold of land at Spider's Island for the planting of a tiny forest should WC require this for the project to go ahead, was **POSTPONED** pending further enquiries. The clerk to ask WC if they will first deal with the existing trees on the site. **ACTION: clerk, future agenda**
- b **NOTED the** annual [footpath report](#) and the clerk was asked to write to thank Phil Spooner and his volunteers for their work
- c **NOTED the** [groundwater flooding report](#)

6564. **Planning** **NO OBJECTIONS** to [PL/2023/07186 Oaklands, Clarendon Road: erection of a log cabin](#) with a recommendation for a condition that the building remains an ancillary dwelling

6565. APM

There will be one environmental speaker and time set aside to consult on plans for the community hub development. The village hall would like to present a report. **ACTION: clerk to organise**

6566. **RECEIVE REPORTS** from Councillors representing Alderbury Parish Council on outside bodies
There were none

6567. **Correspondence** – to consider correspondence received since publication of the agenda.

- a The flooding on Witherington Road is dangerous **ACTION: RB to investigate what is planned**

6568. Dates for next meetings

- a Provisional date for public meeting booked Wednesday 7th February **NOW KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED**
- b Full Council: February 13th

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

Signed as a true record

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Chair

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Date