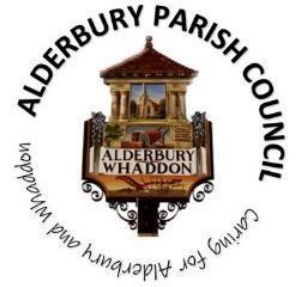


**Minutes of the Meeting of Alderbury Parish Council
held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.30pm
The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall**



Present: Councillors John Fuller (JF) - Chair, Michael Considine (MC), Mike Dent (MD), Kim Diprose (KD), Michael Huntley (MH), Peter Jenks (PJ), Mel Lawrence (ML), Barry Sloan (BS), Alex Wilkinson (AW)

In attendance: Wiltshire Council councillor Richard Britton (RB), Liz Holland (Clerk) and 20 members of the public.

Public open time

- Many residents came to raise objections to the proposed development at Kiln Close to be discussed at 6574a. As councillors did not dispute any of these, they are acknowledged in a report attached to these minutes (which forms part of the official record) listing these as passed on to the planning authority by the parish council. See item 6574a. Cllr Fuller urged everyone to put their own objections on the planning portal.
- A resident spoke of concerns regarding the development plans on the land at Southampton Road in the context of continuous small developments being allowed in the village. When will this ever stop? Is any notice ever taken of local views? They referenced the loss of amenity when the football club ground was moved and placed behind locked gates. How many more green spaces will be lost? They referenced the traffic problems already experienced by existing residents. They raised concerns about house prices being adversely affected by the growth.
- A resident reminded the council their own tree policy calls for automatic objection to applications where tree clearance takes place ahead of planning permission.

6569. Reports

- a** Wiltshire police: PC Murphy sent apologies and sent a written report which will be presented in full in The Fountain. Attention was drawn only to his comments that several key people in WC and the police were getting together to consider next steps in tackling ASB in the village.
- b** Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton
 - i** WC's budget will be voted on next Tuesday. Amendments have been tabled by the opposition including restoring the £75,000 funding to Visit Wiltshire to be discussed tonight at 6581.
 - ii** The hedge between the school play area and the new play area is to be removed. It was deemed to have no ecological value
 - iii** The directors of the business at The Lime Yard have been engaging with neighbours to assess noise following objections to their recent planning application.
 - iv** Asked about the felling licence granted at Kiln Close after the trees had already been removed, Cllr Britton said no such licence was ever needed as the trees were not protected.

6570. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Hartford.

6571. Casual vacancy

The clerk reported that no formal application to join had been received. There is one expression of interest which she will now pursue.

6572. Declaration of Councillors' Interests and dispensations

There were none

6573. Minutes

The [minutes of the meeting on 8th January 2024](#) were **APPROVED** and signed by the chair.

6574. Planning

- a. [PL/2023/11012 Land Adjacent to Kiln Close, Whaddon](#) . Councillors **OBJECT** to this application. They expressed many of the same views as residents earlier and these are summarised as a report at the end of these minutes. Cllr Britton was asked if he will call this application in to committee if officers recommend approval. He said he would.
- b. FLA public meeting arrangements – arrangements were amended to hear residents as part of a parish council meeting. An extraordinary meeting will be called if required but dates remain uncertain so no action currently. **ACTION: clerk to cancel booking for 9th April and to advise residents via Facebook and website**

6575. NOTED the action log

6576. Playground, recreation ground, The Pavilion and youth activities

- a. Repairs ordered are all complete and the paintwork is particularly effective.
- b. Cllrs Fuller and Britton said that the next step for 2024 youth activities plans is still to do the door-knocking exercise and Cllr Britton has submitted an application for the money for this to be approved at the area board meeting on 22nd. There is also talk of a youth bus, but this has been tried before. Money from the PCC may be available. **ACTION: update from RB when available**
- c. [REPORT from the Hub working group](#)
 - i. Met the cubs and beavers who are interested in options at The Pavilion – perhaps for storage
 - ii. Scouts still may be
 - iii. Exclusive use will not be granted
 - iv. A useful conversation with a former builder has helped formulate the specification of the work needed so, once that is drawn up, look for builders. It is hoped to have something to present for the APM. **ACTION: JF**
 - v. Working group do not want to do the repair on the table tennis table ahead of a wider plan for the area **AGREED**

6577. Highways

- a. **NOTED** receipt of Traffic Regulation Order for Firs Road & Clarendon Road
 - i. Cllr Fuller gave a further update – the drainage work on Firs Road has been improved. The request that the developer contribute towards the costs of additional safety features was turned down. We may pursue LHFIFG funding to help later.
- b. **NOTED** receipt of [footpath diversion order ALDE16](#)

6578. Finance

- a. **NOTED** the [bank reconciliation at 31.1.24](#) which was signed by Cllr Fuller
- b. **NOTED** the [budget monitoring report at 31.1.24](#)
- c. **APPROVED** the [schedule of payments and invoices received](#)

6579. Village maintenance issues

- a. **NOTED** a list for the gully clearance team had been submitted
- b. Councillors were updated on recent actions regarding the footpath ALDE 20 (between Junction Road and Firs Road)
 - i. Cllr Dent wrote to David Canty at Longford Estates and Cllr Hartford spoke to him. Clerk was asked to write chasing a response and to ask for a meeting on site. **ACTION: clerk**
 - ii. WC are not engaging
 - iii. School will support a wetland area to allow water to drain off the path onto their land
 - iv. Some water seems clear – suggests groundwater not surface flooding
 - v. Cllrs Dent & Fuller will continue to monitor

- c The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a [quote for the cemetery footpath repairs](#) was **ACCEPTED by a majority vote** after an objection from two councillors that value for money was not properly being sought.
- d The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a [quote for repainting](#) the white railings and for repainting the telephone box was **REJECTED** and **AMENDED to a PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a quote for repainting the white railings only **ACCEPTED**. Cllr Wilkinson asked that the whole area around the old phone box be looked at with a view to a more general tidy up. **ACTION: future agenda**

6580. Environmental Issues

A report on the [tree warden scheme](#) was **NOTED**

6581. Councillors discussed a response to an appeal from Visit Wiltshire. Councillors acknowledged the financial pressure WC is under. **ACTION: clerk to write in support, citing their argument for match funding and their value to Alderbury plus ask for further information about how the Visit Wiltshire website is promoted.**

6582. The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** [the recommendations from a report on Alderbury cemetery](#) was **AGREED with an AMENDMENT** to recommend that fees are reviewed annually

6583. The **PROPOSAL to ADOPT** [the co-option policy](#) was **AGREED** with the following amendments:

- a Discussion of candidates and voting will exclude the public unless otherwise proposed
- b Candidates will be asked to submit a written application using a standard form

ACTION: clerk to make amendments and draft application form

6584. Communication with residents

- a The Annual Parish Meeting was discussed and Climate Action Planning (Great Green Bedwyn) will be given 15 minutes plus Q&A. This item to precede the recreation ground discussion. Clerk was asked to move the Chair's report nearer the top. **ACTION: clerk to amend agenda and arrange speakers and tables**
- b The Fountain – the clerk was asked to thank residents who came to express views on Kiln Close and to write an explanation of where planning responsibilities lie. **ACTION: clerk**
- c Facebook
 - i Volunteers needed for footpath maintenance and environmental work
 - ii Update on FLA meeting plans

6585. **Correspondence** – to consider correspondence received since publication of the agenda.
Nothing to report

6586. Dates for next meetings

- a March 13th Wednesday
- b April 11th Thursday
- c May 13th Monday Annual Meeting of the Council
- d May 22nd Wednesday Annual Parish Meeting

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

Item 6574a – objections submitted reference PL/2023/11017 Land adjacent to Kiln Close

1. This is clearly an **overdevelopment** of the area. References by the applicant to a previous application are irrelevant as the number of dwellings has increased from 1 to 4.

2. This development will be **out of keeping** with the area. This is not a road which lends itself to multiple dwellings. The proposed properties, unlike their immediate neighbours, will be close to each other with small gardens.
3. It is well known that railway embankments were originally built up of waste materials from other sites. The chance of **toxic contamination** is very high. We believe this will be true of the soil as it is moved, but also in air contaminants which will be released during the process which may spread over a large local area. It is likely that part of the original build up was from nearby rail depots (at the time) and is highly likely to contain asbestos.
4. Already parking and access can be difficult. There are occasions when the **refuse collection vehicle cannot get into** Kiln Close, meaning elderly residents have to drag their bins to the end of the Close. This will only get worse and will be a constant problem through any construction work. Councillors are also concerned about access for emergency vehicles.
5. Alderbury Parish Council has a **tree policy which this development breaches** on several fronts including the pre-clearance of the site and the overall loss of trees to the village. No plan to reinstate trees is evident.
6. Whilst accepting the owners had a legal right to fell trees and associated undergrowth, the community is outraged that this happened. Given the position and age of the vegetation, it was clearly home to many plants and animals and provided a much needed corridor for movement between habitats. A subsequent licence application is considered cynical and reduces trust in this developer.
It is essential that any measure of bio-diversity gain is measured from the time before this clearance. Clearly the density of the build on the site will not allow for a 20% gain.
7. All development in Alderbury exacerbates **traffic build up on the A36**. Where there is no significant gain to housing stock and no immediate need for Alderbury to be required to take more houses, this development will add to that traffic problem whilst providing very little other gain.
8. There is a widely held view that the railway embankment is a **heritage asset**. It has been part of Alderbury for many years and an important landscape feature for the village.
9. This site has provided protection for neighbouring residents from light pollution and excessive noise from the A36. There is a clear **deterioration in amenity for these neighbours**.
10. Councillors heard from residents that water previously held by the vegetation on the embankment now flows more freely onto the road. There are clearly **flooding** consequences from the removal of so many trees and plants.
11. The development as proposed will create an **incongruent relationship** between it and existing houses on Southampton Road.
12. Many more people will be **adversely affected** by this development than the small benefit gained from providing just 4 more houses.

Signed as a true record

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Chair

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Date

