

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting  
held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 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), Elaine Hartford (EH), Michael Huntley (MH), Mel Lawrence (ML), Colin Roberts (CR), Barry Sloan (BS), Alex Wilkinson (AW)

**In attendance:** Liz Holland (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

**Public open time**

A resident pointed out that the wildflower buffer zones near hedges are being destroyed – better to keep what we have rather than replant. Also the pond at Matron’s College has dried up. Ticks are very prevalent **ACTION: clerk asked to note this in The Fountain**

**80.24 ACCEPT reports from**

- a. PC Kelvin Ramsey submitted a written report:
  - i. Highlighted the reduction in ASB in the village
  - ii. Advised residents of the increased risk of shed burglaries
- b. WC Councillor Richard Britton submitted a written report:
  - i. Two of Wiltshire Councillors have become new MPs, both are Liberal Democrats.
  - ii. We approved the appointment of Lucy Townsend as Chief Executive of Wiltshire Council starting August 19th. The starting salary for the Chief Executive post is £180,000 pa
  - iii. We approved the Gypsy and Traveller Plan to go to a Regulation 19 public consultation until mid-October. There were many members of the public present to speak to this matter – all expressing reservations about specific site allocations and, in some cases, the lack of communication between the council and landowner.
  - iv. There was an interesting debate arising from a Member’s Motion on the increasingly aggressive practice of some Housing Authorities to persuade tenants to move in order to release the property for sale into the open market. The council vigorously condemned this practice, reducing as it does the availability of social housing in the County. I am pleased to say that Selwood Housing (where I was a non-executive director for nine years) was noted as being a stand-out exception to this trend.
  - v. I have again chased the RoW and drainage teams for progress on ALDE20 and I expect to have news on the Three Crowns shortly.

**81.24 Apologies for absence:** there were none but apologies from Cllr Richard Britton were noted.

**82.24 RECEIVE** Declarations of Councillors’ Interests and Dispensations relating to matters on this agenda - there were none

**83.24 APPROVED** [the minutes of the meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024](#) and **AGREED** with one change at 76.24 – to read 5 people from the community **ACTION:clerk**

**84.24 REVIEWED** the action log – Cllrs Fuller and Wilkinson had completed a line-by-line review with the clerk prior to the meeting.

**85.24** Councillors considered advertising for the current casual vacancy which has arisen. Advert in The Fountain, notices on the boards, social media platforms, school newsletter. A deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September will be noted. **ACTION: clerk**

**86.24 Finance**

- a. **NOTED** the bank balances [and bank reconciliation statement at 31.7.24](#) which was signed by Cllr Fuller

- b. **NOTE** the [accounts for the quarter ending 31.7.24](#) The clerk was asked to provide more details about the electricity charges. **ACTION: clerk**
- c. **APPROVED** the [schedule of payments and invoices received](#). The clerk was asked to contact Simon's cleaning about removing graffiti from bus shelters. **ACTION: clerk**
- d. Councillors **CONSIDERED** a [grant funding request from Carers Support Wiltshire](#). They would like more information about how this service benefits people in Alderbury which can be provided on the application form. **ACTION: clerk**

#### 87.24 Village maintenance issues

- a. **REPORT new issues from Cllr Hartford**
  - i. Get a quote for new posts around the Green including for materials other than wood **ACTION: clerk**
  - ii. Hurdcott reported the fraying on the basket swing but councillors remain happy this is not a key safety issue
  - iii. The verge near the amenity area has been cut back but the overhanging hedge belongs to a house on Oakwood Grove
  - iv. Mr Fencing have removed the broken fence post at the recreation ground
  - v. Collapsing wall on Southampton Road. **ACTION: AW to provide photos, clerk to contact BT Openreach**
- b. **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a quote for fencing & other repairs at the village hall **POSTPONED** as quotes not in

#### 88.24 Playground, recreation ground, The Pavilion and youth activities

- a. The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a [quote for repairs and painting](#) was **POSTPONED** as quotes are not in
- b. The Community Hub WG report was **NOTED**. Quotes are in for the MUGA goal but not for the surfacing needed. WG have the authority to spend from reserves on this item.

#### 89.24 Highways

- a. All parties continue to chase action on ALDE20. As Graham Axtell (WC) is part of the team needed to resolve this matter, clerk was asked to write and find out who will be covering his work. **ACTION: clerk**
- b. The SID spec has been agreed and will be ordered. The funding from the LHFIG for a post and socket has been agreed, subject to SAB approval.
- c. The TRO covering Firs Road and Clarendon Road has been signed off but work associated with it has not yet been scheduled.

#### 90.24 Environmental issues

- a. Spider's Island tree planting project
  - i. Councillor Lawrence reported that she and Caroline Niven had been to the site and drawn up an outline plan for the planting. She is confident she has the support needed to make the project a success. A neighbouring property has agreed to 'house' the water butts needed. **PROPOSAL** to ask WC to give permission for the planting without APC needing to take on ownership ie WC will continue to maintain the land surrounding the planting. **AGREED ACTION: clerk**
  - ii. **UPDATE** on WC clearing vegetation – this is no longer wanted
- b. **PROPOSAL** to support a funding bid for
  - i. a water tank **AGREED**
  - ii. trees (to be specified) for the Oakwood Amenity area **REJECTED**
  - iii. trees (to be specified) at Spider's Island **AGREED**
  - iv. **AND** to give permission to plant them **AGREED** subject to ownership being properly established

#### **ACTION: ML**

**NOTED** that signage acknowledging the funding will be needed, if successful. **PROPOSAL** that further decisions on this matter be delegated to Councillors Fuller, Wilkinson and Lawrence was **AGREED**.

**PROPOSAL** that a funding bid for trees on Oakwood Grove amenity area be made separately after consultation with neighbouring residents. **ACTION: ML, clerk to draft a letter**

- c. Trees – **PROPOSAL** to introduce a maintenance log to be maintained by the tree wardens was **POSTPONED** until after a tree report has been commissioned and assessed. **ACTION: future agenda**

**91.24 Planning**

- a. [PL/2024/06901 Variation of conditions at Alderbury Farm Cottage](#) **NO OBJECTIONS**

**92.24 The PROPOSAL to ACCEPT [new fees at Alderbury cemetery](#) was AGREED.**

**A PROPOSAL** to delegate authority to the clerk to raise fees annually by approximately RPI with a 3 year review by full council was **AGREED with one against.**

**93.24 The PROPOSAL to ADOPT the [disciplinary procedure](#) was AGREED**

**94.24 Communication with residents**

- a. Respond to [matters raised by residents](#)
- i. The matter of speeding – clerk will invite correspondent to join the speed watch team and explain the speed device is shared fortnightly with another village. Also note the existing SID and one on order
  - ii. The matter of the choice of trees at the Oakwood Grove amenity area – see 90.24 b above
  - iii. The future of The Green Dragon – **ACTION: agenda, clerk to invite The Longford Estate to attend**
- b. **Comms working group**
- i. **NOTED** their report
  - ii. **PROPOSAL to AGREE** any recommendations  
The draft policy was reviewed and the following comments were made
    - a. Reference to ‘abuse’ is too prominent, please revise
    - b. Further encouragement of participation in meetings & explain the rules governing this
    - c. Remove the right to block Facebook accounts
    - d. Rewrite the direct correspondence paragraph**ACTION: WG, agenda**
- c. **The Fountain magazine** – ticks, ASB reduction, TRO and include details of the 20 mph zone to being introduced, how to get a key for the noticeboards, positive feedback from the Best Kept Village report. **NOTED CR will review draft**
- d. **Facebook** – all will be asked to contribute to a list of standing items which the clerk can write any week **ACTION: clerk**

**95.24 Date of next meeting: ordinary meeting 9<sup>th</sup> September**

The meeting closed at 21:20

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

SIGNED as true record (Chair)