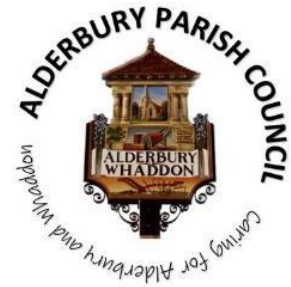


**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.30pm**

The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall



Present: Councillors John Fuller (JF) Chair, Mike Dent (MD), Elaine Hartford (EH), Mike Huntley (MH), Mel Lawrence (ML), Colin Roberts (CR)

In attendance: Liz Holland (Clerk) and 15 members of the public.

Public open time

- A resident asked if more can be done about trees in Grimstead Road becoming dangerously big. This has been reported on MyWillts by the clerk and residents are encouraged to do the same. It is not PC land.
- With the possible loss of The Green Dragon and The Three Crowns, a resident asked about the PC taking on setting up a h/pub based at the village hall.
- It was reported that the pond at Matron's College Farm has disappeared.
- It was reported that the road surface at The Copse is deteriorating. The resident was advised to report the matter on MyWillts as this is not a PC matter.
- A resident asked about the road sweeper coming down Grimstead Road. Cllr Hartford said she will ask via the parish steward.
- The longstanding hole on Grimstead road was brought up. Cllr Hartford said she has mentioned it to a Highways officer at WC who was recently in the village.

112.24 The **PROPOSAL** to co-opt Trudy Nazer with immediate effect was **POSTPONED. ACTION: agenda**

113.24 ACCEPT reports from

- a. PC Kelvin Ramsey submitted a written report:
 - i. They are aware of the advert recently on Alderbury Facebook page where a private company are advertising their services to police the streets. They have liaised with the individual behind the advert and are watching it closely. It is nothing to be concerned about and the police have pointed out how safe Alderbury is.
 - ii. Overnight on 28th September several vans were broken into on Spider's Island as well as another on Sparkes Drive and Firs Road. Investigations are ongoing but it is believed to be a crime series linked to a group who target different areas for a night and then move on.
 - iii. The Mobile Police Station will be in Alderbury on WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2024 outside the Primary School 7:30pm – 9pm. John and Kelvin would like to meet as many residents as possible. **ACTION: clerk to ask if a more central location can be found**
- b. WC Councillor Richard Britton submitted a written report:
 - i. The council finished the first quarter of the financial year with an overspend of £8m – mostly in Adult Social care. That's around 1.5% of the total discretionary budget.
 - ii. The new government's housebuilding target for Wiltshire is 3,500 pa – up from 2,000 pa
 - iii. The decision to submit the Draft Local Plan to the Sec. of State will be taken by Cabinet this week and will go to Full Council on 15th for ratification. The Draft LP will be examined under the existing National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) early next year by an Inspector who will consider whether it is "sound and legally compliant".
 - iv. The rules for calculating the housing land supply have changed and has reduced Wiltshire's figure to 3.85 years compared to the calculation used in the Draft Local Plan of 5.9 years.
 - v. At the Planning Committee which considered the Land at Wagtails application we were told that National Highways would only be concerned about the impact on the A36 if the

development was for 200 houses or more. In the context of the Local Plan's Transport Topic Paper (in preparation) I have raised the question that surely the traffic impact of 200 houses delivered in 20's, 30's and 50's is the same as 200 delivered in one hit. Therefore, National Highways ought to be concerned about further incremental growth in Alderbury.

- c. Phil Spooner on footpaths in Alderbury – he is stepping down during next year but Mike Sneddon (MS) has agreed to be the new coordinator. MS asked if the Council would be interested in joining a working group with The Longford Estate (LE) to look at improving access to land Longford owns between Avon Drive and Firs Road. This is much used by school children, as well being popular with residents more widely. LE have indicated they would be interested in opening a discussion. **ACTION: agenda, clerk to ask LE if more information is available beforehand**

114.24 Apologies for absence were **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Wilkinson, Diprose and Sloan

115.24 **RECEIVE** Declarations of Councillors' Interests and Dispensations relating to matters on this agenda – There were none

116.24 **APPROVED** [the minutes of the meeting on September 9th 2024](#)

117.24 **REVIEWED** the action log and maintenance schedule – Cllrs Fuller & Wilkinson had completed a line-by-line review with the clerk prior to the meeting. The only question was on the future of The Green Dragon as a pub.

- a. The Longford Estate, who own the freehold, were represented by Jason Jordan who updated the meeting on their thinking. It is not an easy problem to solve, as the building has many drawbacks making it difficult to run the pub on a viable financial basis. He said LE would wish to find a solution which will work for the whole community but it must work for the Estate, too. They are mindful that it is the only pub in the village. Asked if there will be opportunities for village consultation, he said 'no'. He will continue to attend PC meetings though, to let residents know what is happening. **ACTION: agenda**

118.24 **Finance**

- a. **NOTED** the [bank balances at 30.9.24](#)
b. **NOTED** the [reserves at 30.9.24](#)
c. **NOTED** the [accounts at 30.9.24](#)
d. Councillors made a list of matters which may be included in budgeting for November:
i. A community development company to bid for The Three Crowns
ii. A pilot scheme to share a youth worker
iii. Improve the heating in The Pavilion
iv. New email and Microsoft services
v. Footpath projects (as above)
vi. New Christmas lights

The clerk was asked to update a previous 3 year plan for the November meeting **ACTION: clerk, agenda**

- e. **APPROVED** the [schedule of payments and invoices received](#)

119.24 **Village maintenance issues**

- a. Cllr Hartford reported:
i. The graffiti remover is not very effective
ii. A panel missing from the bus shelter near the village hall is in the garage and can be replaced should any other repairs be needed elsewhere
iii. Mr Fencing will fix the latch at the pedestrian gate to the recreation ground
iv. An abandoned vehicle has been reported to the police, but they say they cannot act as it is on private land
v. There has been another reversing accident at the house on the corner of Folly Lane/School Hill. **ACTION: RB**
- b. Councillors **CONSIDERED** the [results of a 6 month reduction in mowing at The Fountain Green next to the war memorial](#). A **PROPOSAL** to return it to the previous mowing schedule was **AGREED** by a majority of 5 votes for, 1 against.

- c. The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a quote for fencing repairs at the recreation ground

*A **PROPOSAL** to discuss this in closed session was **AGREED** on the basis of commercial sensitivity. The public were asked to leave at the end of the meeting. The minute is presented here to maintain the agenda ordering.*

Cllrs Dent and Huntley were authorised to make the final decision. **ACTION: MD, MH**

- d. The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a quote for work needed to drainage strips in the village hall car park and to the recreation ground bar gate lock: £680 was **AGREED**
- e. The **PROPOSAL** to amend Hurdcott's mowing schedule to [include verges on Eyre's Drive](#) was **REJECTED**. The Council stated that their policy is to not increase the amount of mowing they take on unless by exception.

120.24 **Playground, recreation ground, The Pavilion and youth activities**

- a. The Pavilion working group reported that it had agreed the MUGA goal and surfacing contract.
- b. The **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** a quote
 - i. For repairs to the basket swing: £495 + VAT **AGREED**
 - ii. For repainting the cradle swings: £572 +VAT **AGREED**
- c. **The PROPOSAL** to remove the wasp nest was **REJECTED**. Clerk to ask Hurdcott to clear the debris which has accumulated there. **ACTION: clerk**
- d. Cllr Fuller **reported** from the Youth Partnership Forum. Plans are continuing for a joint youth worker providing services over a number of parishes. Costs for this will need to be in the budget for next year but some costs may be incurred this year, too.

121.24 **Highways**

- a. ALDE20 - WC Rights of Way have been awaiting the return to work of Graham Axtell from Highways who is in a phased return to work. RB has reminded him of this outstanding issue.
- b. The SID has been delivered and needs commissioning. **ACTION: clerk**

122.24 **Environmental issues**

- a. Cllr Lawrence updated councillors on the [Spider's Island project](#)
 - i. Councillors **DISCUSSED** the addition of a scrape pond. **AGREED** subject to the clerk confirming with the insurers. **ACTION: clerk**
 - ii. The **PROPOSAL** to formally adopt the whole area from WC was **AGREED**. **ACTION: clerk**
 - iii. **CONSIDER** quotes for grounds maintenance at the site. As a second quote was still outstanding, Council authorised Cllrs Fuller and Lawrence with the clerk to make a decision. **ACTION: JF, ML, clerk**
- b. The **REPORT** from WC's [Local Nature Recovery Strategy seminar](#) was **NOTED**

123.24 **Planning**

- a. **RESPONSES were AGREED to**
 - i. [PL/2024/08695 Deer Leap, Old Road](#) – work to trees in a conservation area. Councillors will follow the advice of the tree officer.
 - ii. The Three Crowns
 - 1. [PL/2024/08551](#) The Three Crowns: Change of Use for Class E(b) Sale of food and drink for consumption (Mostly) on the premises to Class C.3 (Dwelling) together with alterations and extension of accommodation, alteration to form access including surrounding land **OBJECT** on the grounds it is contrary to the general provisions within the NPPF which promote retention of community assets and specifically to WC's core policy 49. It is known that, when offered for sale, an offer for the premises near or at the asking price was rejected, so the application fails on the 'not commercially viable' test, too. A previous application PL/2022/03851 to vary the use was supported by the parish council and approved by WC but also never put to the commercial test.

2. [PL/2024/09007](#) The Three Crowns: listed building consent for above **OBJECT** following above
 3. [PL/2024/08550](#) The Three Crowns: Variation of Schedule 1 of 19/11302/CLE to enable retention of mobile home for the period of 3 no. years **NO OBJECTION**
- b. **NOTED** the response to [PL/2024/ 05291](#) Land at Kiln Close – resubmitted previous objections raised for applications at this site

124.24 The **PROPOSAL to ALLOW** a nativity scene in the shelter at Silver Street was **AGREED** subject to safety considerations to be notified to the church

125.24 **NOTED** the SRAA AGM on 17th October APC. Cllr Hartford will attend for APC.

126.24 **Training**

- a. **NOTED** a decision by the HR group to allow clerk training on using social media 2nd October £30 (SLCC)
- b. **CONSIDER** a request from the clerk for an 'election special' training course 27/11 £40 (WALC). **AGREED**

127.24 **Communication with residents**

- a. Respond to [matters raised by residents](#) All matters had been dealt with in the meeting
- b. **The Fountain magazine** – Spider's Island, MUGA, canal path
- c. **Facebook** – as clerk chooses

128.24 **Date of next meeting:** ordinary meeting Wednesday 13th November

The meeting closed at 21:25

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

SIGNED as true record (Chair)