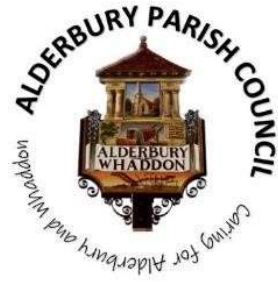


**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm
The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall**



Present: Councillors John Fuller (JF) Chair, Kim Diprose (KD), Elaine Hartford (EH), Mike Huntley (MH), Mel Lawrence (ML), Colin Roberts (CR), Barry Sloan (BS), Mike Sneddon (MS)

In attendance: Liz Holland (Clerk), WC Richard Britton (RB), Jason Jordan (JJ) from the Longford Estate (LE) and 11 members of the public

Public open time

- A resident asked if the PC would consider allowing installation of a pétanque court on the recreation ground should the Green Dragon close. **ACTION: agenda**
- A resident asked if it would be possible to add reflective paint on the chicanes along Firs Road and into Pembroke Gardens to improve their visibility at night. She also said the chicane near the school is causing parking problems.
Cllr Fuller said, once the no parking restrictions are in place, the football club will open its car park to relieve parking issues at the school
Cllr Britton commented at 161.24b (i)
- With the pending 20mph speed limit for Firs Road, a resident asked if a speed limit on Pembroke Gardens can be imposed
Cllr Fuller said this will be up to the developer
Cllr Britton commented at 161.24b (i)
- A resident encouraged councillors to carefully consider all decisions to remove trees – emphasis needs to be on preserving the ones we have. He said flooding is now a major risk to trees.
- A resident said his survey of residents' views about the future of the Green Dragon was now available for the Council to review if they chose to support it (see below 167.24 (ii))
- A representative from Alderbury Guides came to ask if signage to the guide hut can be added from Southampton Road. **ACTION: clerk** She also said their plot is impacted by flooding. She believes this is caused by the new school playing field having inadequate drainage.
Cllr Fuller said the drainage issue was still in dispute with the developer **ACTION: JF to provide further details to RB**

161.24 ACCEPT reports from

- a. PC Kelvin Ramsey – his written report was read
 - i. A horsebox was broken into on Marshmead Close and tools stolen from within, the forensic examination did not return any results.
 - ii. Two off-road motorcycles were stolen from barns at Castle Lane. The investigation is ongoing.
 - iii. Two prolific burglars from the Southampton area were arrested and remanded in custody for the very types of crimes above and will be interviewed for multiple crimes from Wiltshire.
- b. WC Cllr Britton reported
 - i. The LHFIC contractor, Milestone, has a backlog of around 400 projects across the county, with Firs Road being one of them. No date for its completion can therefore be estimated. Any new projects (eg reflective paint on chicanes) would go to the bottom of that long list. He suggested he asks the chief Highways engineer to talk to the developer about this, as the chicanes were part of the planning permission. She could also ask about the speed limit signs on the estate. **ACTION: RB** Cllr Sloan asked how projects are prioritised? RB said that is done centrally so the local LHFIC has no input.
 - ii. No progress to report on ALDE20 but he will persevere

162.24 Apologies for absence were **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Dent and Wilkinson for the reasons given

163.24 RECEIVE Declarations of Councillors' Interests and Dispensations relating to matters on this agenda – there were none

164.24 The [minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2024](#) were **APPROVED** and signed

165.24 REVIEWED the action log and maintenance schedule – Cllrs Fuller & Hartford had completed a review with the clerk prior to the meeting. No further questions.

166.24 Planning

- a. **NOTED** amended [protocol for engaging with developers](#) **ACTION: clerk to ask agent acting for the developer at land east of Wagtails to come to a meeting**
- b. **AGREED** attendance at the WC planning committee to discuss Kiln Close 16/1/25 – Cllr Hartford will speak for the Council, supported by 3 residents **ACTION: EH**

167.24 Matters of community interest

a. **Green Dragon**

i. **UPDATE** from The Longford Estate (LE) Jason Jordan (JJ) reported:

- o This is difficult issue for the LE
- o Site has a number of problems which would need addressing eg layout, number of covers it can handle, parking, toilets etc.. It is a big investment.
- o General business climate for this industry is challenging, particularly in the light of increases to the minimum wage and employer's NI
- o Pub of this type needs a minimum turnover of £12k per week to be viable and this one is considerably less than that
- o LE is seriously looking at a way forward, but has had no success so far attracting an existing operator to take it on
- o When the current tenant leaves very shortly, it is hoped that there will be only a brief closure before installing a temporary manager with LE taking on all the financial risk. This will allow LE a period for assessment BUT this plan still needs to be agreed

Cllr Fuller thanked him for engaging with the PC

Cllr Hartford thanked him and asked about land adjacent to the pub. Does LE own it? JJ: no, but land behind that is theirs, but would only be room for 12 cars

ii. **PROPOSAL**

- o To allow a resident who wishes to conduct a survey of what residents want to confirm that APC supports the survey being undertaken. **REJECTED**
- o For the clerk to post the survey on Alderbury Residents Facebook group **WITHDRAWN ACTION: clerk will post on Facebook that the PC is very interested to hear the results of a survey being conducted inviting residents for their views, and will write to the resident conducting the survey to ask him to share the results**

b. **Southampton Road allotments**

- i. **The PROPOSAL to AGREE** a [change to eligibility for Southampton Road allotments](#) was **REJECTED** as proposed. A **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** the wording "*3. Priority will be given to new applicants who live within the Parish of Alderbury; applicants who live in the neighbouring parish of West Grimstead will be added to the waiting list, but with a lower priority. If tenants move out of these areas, they lose the right to have an allotment and must hand it back to the SRAA for reallocation.*" was **AGREED ACTION: clerk to inform the SRAA**

c. Arrangements for the annual parish meeting 27.3.25

- i. Clerk will lead **ACTION: clerk**
- ii. Refreshments to be served
- iii. Only speakers will be from the PC
- iv. Local organisations to be invited to have a table
- v. Shorter meeting than last year

d. **The PROPOSAL** to support community training for defibrillator use was **AGREED**. RB observed that West Grimstead may wish to collaborate. **ACTION: MH, clerk**

168.24 Highways

- a. See above (public time) for the Council's **RESPONSE** to [matters reported on Firs Road](#)
- b. **UPDATE** on ALDE20 – nothing to report
- c. **UPDATE** on Lights Lane/Folly Lane junction – a useful meeting of WC engineer Rhiann Surgenor, LE and councillors has suggested a course of action possibly to start with a traffic survey. RB reported from the LHF1G that they will need more information before supporting any scheme. The LE hedge has been cut back but needs further tidying. **ACTION: JF, clerk**

- 169.24 Village maintenance issues**
- a. **REPORT** new issues from Cllr Hartford – nothing new to report
 - b. **REPORT** new issues to Cllr Hartford for inclusion on the parish steward’s list – Cllr Lawrence asked if Highways or the Environment Agency could be asked to carry out a full drainage survey of the village? RB replied he would talk to the director in charge of such matters to find out if there was any possibility
ACTION: RB
- 170.24 Environmental issues**
- a. **UPDATE** on the Spider’s Island project – everything is in place to go ahead. Trees have been ordered.
 - b. **CONSIDERED** [recommendations from the tree report working group](#). As there were a number of recommendations, councillors **AGREED** to set up a working group to assess immediate priorities and obtain quotes for the next meeting **ACTION: ML, JF, clerk, agenda**
 - c. **PROPOSAL** to **ACCEPT** the [recommendations of the PICUS report](#) on an oak tree on Avon Drive **ACCEPTED in PART** – clerk to get a quote for the work recommended to the tree itself, the parking restriction recommendations will be looked at further. Cllr Britton will find out about whether areas can be designated as ‘no parking for business purposes’ and the clerk will look into if the Council has any powers to prevent parking on verges it owns and how to enforce that. **ACTION, agenda, RB, clerk**
 - d. **UPDATE** from the footpaths working group – there had been 2 useful meetings involving Cllrs Diprose, Dent, Fuller and Sneddon plus Jason Jordan from LE. Group will wait for ideas from LE about the land near the canal. **ACTION: JJ**
- 171.24 Finance & IT**
- a. **UPDATE** on [the forward plan](#) – 2 amendments **AGREED**: carry out a housing needs survey to be moved to actions, change to Oakwood Grove. Suggestion to distinguish between what a PC *chooses to do* and what it is *required to do*. Final layout to be agreed **ACTION: clerk, agenda (for adoption)**
 - b. **PROPOSAL** to form a working group consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and clerk to consider changes to the council’s current IT arrangements **AGREED ACTION: JF, AW, clerk**
 - i. If b. agreed above – **PROPOSAL** to increase budget spending for IT in 2025/26 by approximately £750pa **AGREED**
 - c. **NOTED** the [bank balances at 31.12.24](#)
 - d. **APPROVED** the [schedule of payments and invoices received](#)
 - e. **NOTED** [the accounts at 31.12.24](#)
 - f. **The PROPOSAL** to **AGREE** [earmarked reserves](#) **AGREED** with new reserve created for replacing the posts at The Green
 - g. **The PROPOSAL** to **ADOPT** the [budget with expenditure of £72,365](#) for April 2025 - March 2026 **AGREED unanimously**. In addition to 2025/26, councillors understood that they are agreeing a further 2 year £5k commitment to a youth worker if that scheme goes ahead.
 - h. **PROPOSAL** to [set the precept](#) at £70,345 **AGREED unanimously ACTION: clerk to inform WC**
- 172.24 The playground, recreation ground, The Pavilion and youth activities** – the MUGA goal has been installed, and the basketball court refurbishment quote has been received. this money will be spent from reserves as previously agreed. **ACTION: Hub working group.**
- 173.24 Policy working group**
- a. **PROPOSAL** to **ACCEPT** the following as recommended by the group:
 - ii. [Financial Regulations – ADOPT revised regulations](#) **AGREED**
 - iii. [Co-option policy – AGREE wording of change](#) as directed by councillors **AGREED**
 - iv. The Emergency Plan
 1. [RE-ADOPT with updated contacts](#) **AGREED**
 2. **INSTRUCTED** the clerk to review further to better understand the commitments required of the parish council **ACTION: clerk**
 - v. **ADOPTED** the Civility Charter **ACTION: clerk**
 - b. **The PROPOSAL** to form a working group to rewrite the tree policy was **AGREED ACTION: ML, MS, clerk, future agenda**
- 174.24 Reports & consultations**
- a. **NOTED** the opportunity to respond to [WC’s Local Transport Plan consultation](#) (closing date 24/1/25)
- 175.24 The Fountain magazine** – to include precept decision, how we spent money last year, SSE vulnerable customers sign-up
- 176.24 Date of next meeting** - Wednesday 12th February 2025

177.24 PROPOSAL to close the meeting to the public to discuss a matter of commercial sensitivity
POSTPONED

178.24 CONSIDER options for mowing at Spider's Island **POSTPONED**

The Chair thanked all those present for their interest & the meeting closed at 21:42

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

SIGNED as true record (Chair)