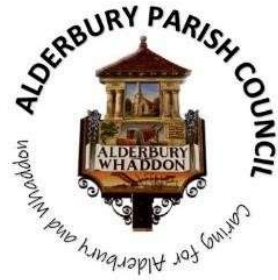


**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting
held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7.30pm
The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall**



Present: Councillors John Fuller (JF) Chair, Mike Dent (MD), Elaine Hartford (EH), Mike Huntley (MH), Mel Lawrence (ML), Barry Sloan (BS), Mike Sneddon (MS), Alex Wilkinson (AW)

In attendance: Liz Holland (Clerk), WC Richard Britton (RB) and 6 members of the public

Public open time

- A resident said he feels replanting of trees around the village is neither adequate or appropriate to mitigate the losses.

179.24 ACCEPT reports from

- a. PC Kelvin Ramsey – his [written report](#) was read
- b. WC Cllr Britton reported
 - i. The WC 2025/26 budget is expected to pass on 25/2.
 - ii. The same day the Gypsy & Traveller Plan is due for adoption. It has made controversial progress to this point so further objections are expected.
 - iii. The Q3 forecast of the year end deficit is £1.7 million. Small enough to be manageable
 - iv. A Highways team is coming to look again at ALDE20 on 24/2 with a view to investigating drainage options. Cllr Fuller thanked Cllr Britton for his perseverance on this issue.
 - v. The 2 planning appeals are still undecided with no date for a decision (3 Crowns & Kiln Close)

180.24 Apologies for absence were **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs Diprose and Roberts for the reasons given

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

182.24 The [minutes of the meeting held on January 14th 2025](#) were **APPROVED** and signed

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

184.24 Planning
[PL/2024/10108 Waleran Close](#) No objections

185.24 Matters of community interest

- a. **Green Dragon**
 - i. **UPDATE**
 - Jason Jordan (JJ) sent his apologies but had updated Cllr Fuller before the meeting:
 - a. They have found a temporary manager
 - b. The pub will be closed for a number of months whilst necessary work is carried out
 - c. Cllr Fuller had advised JJ to publicise this information on Facebook and other channels
 - The survey results are starting to come in. Very high response rate – approx. 600 already. The Council asked that these be submitted for their consideration at the March meeting **ACTION: agenda**
 - b. **NOTED** the registration of The Three Crowns as an asset of community value
 - c. **NOTED** the report from the Southampton Road allotments meeting 25/1. Noting the SRAA have not yet signed the management agreement, some Councillors expressed unease about any further discussions and stressed the importance of not allowing SRAA matters to dominate a disproportionate amount of the Parish Council's time.
 - i. **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** recommendations from the clerk
 1. Cllr Lawrence agreed to join a working group with Cllr Hartford and the clerk to look at matters raised by the meeting **ACTION: clerk to arrange meeting**

- d. **NOTED** the update on arrangements for the annual parish meeting 27.3.25
 - i. **PROPOSAL** to deliver leaflets advertising the meeting (quote from Speedyprint £55 for printing) **AGREED** by a majority vote **ACTION: clerk to arrange delivery areas**
- e. Community training for defibrillator use is likely to be through St John's Ambulance (free) and be in conjunction with West Grimstead. **PROPOSAL** to make a donation was **ACCEPTED**
- f. **NOTED** a report on the meeting discussing removal and crossroads work to the historic Whaddon rail Bridge that forms part of the village circular walk. In particular:
 - i. councillors will have a chance to comment on the specifics when a planning application is submitted.
 - ii. the bridge itself cannot be saved and removal is the most cost effective option
 - iii. there will be an official diversion of the footpath through neighbouring fields but it is unlikely to be a bridleway as at present
- g. **DISCUSSED** next steps on preparing drainage maps. Cllr Dent expressed frustration at how he gets passed between WC's flood working group and the EA & that maps seemed to date from the 1970s and are no longer entirely relevant. Cllr Britton conceded there is a 'disconnect' between the drainage team and planning. It was noted there are only 2 officers for the whole of Wiltshire. If we can acquire the maps, it is hoped they can be updated to show where flooding currently occurs. Cllr Wilkinson asked if Parish Online may have some relevant information. **ACTION: RB to feed back to Cllr Khan at WC, clerk to chase maps & investigate PO**

186.24 Highways

- a. ALDE 20 - See above (public time)
- b. Folly Lane/Lights Lane junction – the traffic surveys have been requested
- c. Firs Road – the roads on the new estate have not been formally adopted from Vistry and WC is chasing their final requirements including marking the build-outs & erecting bollards
- d. The **PROPOSAL** to request LHFIG agree signage for the guide hut at a cost to the Parish Council of up to £200 was **ACCEPTED ACTION: clerk to submit request**

187.24 Village maintenance issues

- a. **REPORT** new issues from Cllr Hartford
 - i. Reiterated her request that new posts for the Green be costed as these continue to deteriorate
 - ii. Bus shelter cleaning had to be chased but is all done satisfactorily now
 - iii. She has met a new litter picking volunteer
 - iv. The hedge at Lights Lane/Folly Lane has been fully cut back by the Longford estate as requested
- b. **REPORT** new issues to Cllr Hartford – graffiti on the Hub **ACTION: EH will try to remove**
- c. **AGREED** repairs for the bench on Waleran Close
- d. **PROPOSAL to AGREE** a maximum amount to be spent on bench repairs and picnic table repairs **AGREED** up to £120 Waleran Close bench & up to £600 on picnic tables. Money to be spent from reserves. Cllr Fuller has asked resident Guy Gibbs to do the work and he will give his time for free.
- e. The **PROPOSAL** to purchase an additional grit bin for near the school entrance on Firs Road – authorise the clerk to spend up to £450 was **AMENDED** to allow the clerk to spend more if a better quality (leak-proof bin) can be purchased **AGREED ACTION: Clerk to arrange purchase**

188.24 Environmental issues

- a. **UPDATE** on the Spider's Island project – trees are planted and will be mulched this weekend. Bench has been delivered but needs siting and a plaque. Guttering and water butts are fitted. Cllr Lawrence thanked the volunteers who helped her with the planting. Cllr Fuller thanked her for her leadership of this project. **ACTION: clerk to submit claim form**
- b. **The PROPOSAL to AUTHORISE** the tree action working group to agree recommended remedial work not to exceed £2,500 in 2024/25 and not to exceed £2,500 in 20205/26. This includes £1,500 form reserves in the year 2024/25 **ACTION: clerk to arrange quotes**
- c. **UPDATE** from the [footpaths working group](#).
- d. A TPO has been issued for a tree on Rectory Road. It was done very quickly and there was not an opportunity to add it to the agenda. **ALL AGREED** no objections

189.24 Finance & IT

- a. The **PROPOSAL to ADOPT** [the forward plan](#) was **ACCEPTED ACTION: JF to present at the APM**
- b. **The PROPOSAL TO ACCEPT** a recommendation from the working group reviewing the council's current IT arrangements: current estimate of costs will be within the 2025/26 budget. Set up costs of between £300 - £400 will be met from reserves this financial year was **ACCEPTED** by a majority vote. **ACTION: working group to decide next steps for implementation & arrange training as required**
- c. **NOTED** the [bank balances at 31.1.25](#) and the Chair signed the report _____

d. **APPROVED** the [payments schedule](#)

190.24 The playground, recreation ground, The Pavilion and youth activities

- a. The basket ball netting will be installed this week
- b. The next phase is a new table tennis table and pyramid climbing frame. Vita Play have been asked to quote for these.
- c. There is a funding bid at the Area Board 13/2 for youth activities provision in the village

191.24 Policy working group

- i. **PROPOSAL to ACCEPT** the [Dignity at Work policy](#) **ACCEPTED ACTION: clerk to sign the Civility Pledge on behalf of the Council**

192.24 The May elections will be publicised on all APC's platforms. The clerk will prepare a paper of key dates and her role for the March meeting **ACTION clerk, agenda**

193.24 The Fountain magazine – to include the Civility Charter including timing, noticeboard procedures reminder, May elections, thanks to footpath volunteers by name, Green Dragon, APM, Guy Gibbs thanks

194.24 Dates of next meetings

- a. Thursday 13th March 2025 ordinary meeting
- b. Thursday 27th March Annual Parish Meeting

195.24 The PROPOSAL to close the meeting to the public to discuss a matter of commercial sensitivity **and** a matter of a personal nature was **AGREED**

196.24 CONSIDER options for mowing

- a. at Spider's Island **AGREED** Hurdcott to mow the outside and John Peters to mow the area around the trees and maintain the undergrowth at the far end of the land when required
- b. at Waleran Close **AGREED** John Peters to mow the wildflower section & Hurdcott to mow the other areas
ACTION: clerk to issue and/or amend contracts for both areas based on pricing information received

197.24 PROPOSAL to issue a certificate to recognise an outstanding contribution to the community at the annual parish meeting was **ACCEPTED**

The meeting closed at 21:40

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

SIGNED as true record (Chair)