

Minutes of
The Annual Parish Meeting for Alderbury & Whaddon
Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 7.30pm in Alderbury Village Hall



Chaired by: Councillor Elaine Hartford (former Chair of Alderbury Parish Council)

Others in attendance: Local organisations with information stands, Wiltshire Council councillor Richard Britton, PC Kelvin Ramsey and PCSO John Taylor, Liz Holland (Clerk) and approximately 30 members of the public including other parish councillors

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fuller

Welcome from the Chair

Presentation – Cllr Hartford presented a certificate to Jane Copley to recognise the many years of service she has given to the village producing The Fountain newsletter

Report from PC Kelvin Ramsey and PCSO John Taylor:

- A reorganisation within Wiltshire police means that the 'patch' previously supervised by PC Harry Murphy has now been split in half, resulting in additional resource
- There are plans being discussed to bring the mobile police station out to villages like Alderbury
- Advised residents to report all crimes using 111 but never hesitate to use 999 for a crime in progress or any emergency
- Emphasised the need for the police to share intelligence – the public play a vital role in this and all crime should be reported
- Wiltshire police have launched a rural crime campaign
- Promoted the police's social media sites to keep up-to-date

Wiltshire councillor Richard Britton (RB) addressed the meeting:

- Said that being a local representative is his number one priority
- He does, though, have a number of additional roles within WC including chairing the pension fund oversight board
- He represents about 4,500 people in 8 villages
- Each village usually has one significant issue he gets involved with – currently the footpath near the school (designated ALDE 20) in Alderbury. This is complex due to the many parties involved. A possible way forward has, though, been identified.
- Over the years he has seen anti-social behaviour come and go. Whilst it is a problem in the village currently, it may well fall off naturally
- Planning decisions and enforcement always make up a big part of his work. Whilst the application at Southampton Road has gone quiet currently, the application at land East of Wagtails is imminent
- He is particularly pleased with the outcome of the lease for the new pre-school building, with which he was closely involved
- He still does a regular speed watch stint with Elaine Hartford and the team in Alderbury
- He praised the strength of Alderbury PC and thanked Elaine Hartford for all her work for the village including her long years as Chair. The audience joined him in a round of applause.

Questions from the audience:

- Anti-social behaviour (answered in conjunction with the police and Cllr Wilkinson)
 - There are thought to be fewer than 10 participants. 3 of them have been spoken to by the police very recently. There is support from WC to look into the provision of youth activities in the village

- Firs Road (answered in conjunction with the police and the clerk)
 - There are no plans for pinch points but there will be double yellow lines and other parking restrictions and a 20mph speed limit. Still awaiting approval of the Traffic Regulation Order by WC. The police confirmed similar traffic issues can be found at most schools. PCSO John Taylor comes regularly but rarely sees anything of concern to him. An arrangement to use the FC parking is imminent.
- Parking issues related to the football tournaments including a later question about who to contact when chaos ensues (answered in conjunction with the police and clerk)
 - It is unlikely the road markings will be in place before the next tournament in July. However, it is hoped that the school field will be available in July (it was too wet last time). The police agreed that residents can call 111 if they are completely blocked in
- Can 'no idling' signs be installed?
 - Cllr Lawrence agreed this can come to an PC meeting **ACTION: agenda**
- Flooding at Witherington Road
 - A vactor was booked but was itself overwhelmed by the amount of water and could not help! The ditch owned by the Longford estate needs clearing. There is a fundamental issue of the presence of springs which are now 'ferocious'

Chair Elaine Hartford thanked Cllr Britton.

Presentation and Q&A: Tackling the climate emergency in small communities - Sylvia Wyatt from Great Green Bedwyn. Materials supporting this presentation are available on request from the clerk.

The Chair read a report of the actions of the parish council during the past year. This is available from the clerk upon request.

The Chair of Alderbury Village Hall read a report.

Presentation and Q&A from the parish council's working group for development of the Recreation Ground

- Cllr Alex Wilkinson presented plans, which are at an early stage, for consideration by the audience.

Questions from the audience:

- Will use of the refurbished basketball court be chargeable?
 - No
- There are some concerns from neighbours near the proposed position of the football goal (written correspondence previously received)
 - This will be a MUGA style goal with high and wide netting to stop the ball so far less danger of the ball coming into people's gardens
- Are there to be any recreation facilities at Pembroke Garden?
 - These have already been provided by the developers and are not maintained by the PC
- Will there be football matches on the recreation ground?
 - No, and there will not be 2 goals to create a pitch, just the one in the current plan
- Does a shelter encourage young people to congregate?
 - This is not necessarily a bad thing as one aim is to discourage their current misuse of other equipment and bus shelters etc.
- There are gaps in the hedge on the Southampton Road side of the recreation ground.
 - Some have been filled already and the PC are looking at fencing needs throughout the area.

The meeting closed at 9.20

Liz Holland
Alderbury Parish Clerk
17.06.2024