



Aldworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 7.30pm at Aldworth Village Hall

Minute ref: 003/210721/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Tim Chapman, Cllr. Donna Roach, Cllr. John Clark Cllr. Nick Williams
Members Absent:	Cllr. Kate Walters
Officers Present:	Mrs Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	2 x Members of Public
Meeting Start Time:	19.43pm
Meeting End Time:	21.14pm

- 039/21 Cllr. Chapman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were **received** and **accepted** from Cllr. Kate Walters. Quorum achieved.
- 040/21 Cllr. Roach advised that as a resident of Westridge Green she had been **involved** with prior discussions and the consultation process regarding item 7 on the agenda.
- 041/21 There were no comments from the members of public present on the agenda. The Council were happy with the involvement Cllr. Roach has had regarding the wildflower proposal for item 7.
- 042/21 The minutes from the Planning Meeting on 16th June 2021 were read and **approved** as an **accurate** record. Cllr. Chapman signed and initialled the hard copy for the file.
- 043/21 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Planning Meeting on 16th June 2021.
- 044/21 Cllr. Alan Law was not present at the meeting and no report had been received.
- 045/21 Graham Burfoot made a presentation before the council on the subject of a potential wildflower meadow on the green at Westridge Green. He explained the consultation process, all elements of the suggested new scheme for the village green. There was a very strong majority of residents supporting the proposal. It would require Yattendon Estates to cut the meadow once per year in August, with the resulting 'arisings' offered to residents. The meadow would be created in the middle of the green,

retaining sight lines for traffic, cyclists and pedestrians. The Council suggested that the Highways Team at WBC be involved. The clerk had previously emailed them but there had been no response as yet. It was hoped that we might have received some clear guidance on key considerations from WBC prior to this meeting. The clerk will continue to chase and share the information with the councillors and Graham Burfoot. The safety of volunteers maintaining the meadow was queried, and it was agreed that Graham Burfoot would need to involve Yattendon Estates as the land owners to see if this could be managed via their own public liability insurance. A risk assessment, training and signed consent from the volunteers would be needed if this proposal was to be achieved. Having listened to Graham's proposal and voted, the council were **happy to support** the wildflower proposal, but the land would remain the responsibility of Yattendon Estates and the Parish Council **would not be seeking to take over the responsibility** for the green from the estate. Three councillors supported the proposal and one did not; **the majority was to support**. The clerk will send Graham the email address for the Yattendon Estates Manager so he can make direct contact.

The clerk was in receipt of a pack of wildflower seeds as part of an initiative with Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust for their wild verges campaign. This was passed to Graham Burfoot in case he wished to this particular mix of seeds on the green - but only if agreement were reached with Yattendon Estates.

- 046/21 Item 8 on the agenda (maintenance contract of Westridge Green) is now **void** based on the decisions made above and **might no longer be required**, pending the outcome of further consultation.
- 047/21 We have received notification from Cllr. Alan Law that our Members' Bid Application for 50% financial support with the purchase of a new Parish Noticeboard from West Berkshire Council has been **approved**. The clerk went through the options and the following was agreed: colour = light oak, text = Aldworth Parish Council. Total cost is £1,484.44 with £92.22 shipping fee, totalling £1,576.66. There would be £315.33 VAT which will be claimed back at the end of the financial year. Once the invoice has been received from Greenbarnes Noticeboards, the clerk will request payment of £856.02 from WBC as their contribution. Installation is estimated at £250 and will be discussed at the September meeting as expected delivery of the new noticeboard is October 2021.
- 048/21 It was **agreed** by all members present to go ahead with the **purchase** of a new dog waste bin for the village. The new bin will cost £218.95 which includes the 40-litre bin in dark green with gold dog logo, and a 2-metre steel post and clips for installation. The VAT of £43.79 will be claimed back at the end of the financial year and shipping is free. The bin will be installed by CJM services at a cost of £90.00 and Triangle Management will empty the bin twice a month at a cost of £9.50 per visit. The exact location of the new bin is under review. It was proposed to be placed on Ambury Road, past Bower Farm near the Ridgeway but the clerk will seek confirmation from Cllr. Walters and share the location via email for ratification.
- 049/21 Three quotations have been received for the repair and re-paint of the Village Gateways. After reviewing the pricing, **all were in favour to proceed** with Robert Torpey who has quoted 3 days' work @ £150.00 per day, with the cost of the paint on top. Cllr. Roach will work with the clerk to schedule the job, and confirm the total cost of the materials.
- 050/21 The Local Flood Risk Management Plan received from WBC was **reviewed** and it was noted there was no mention of the flooding seen this January in Ambury Road. It was

agreed to write to Stuart Clark at WBC advising him of the chaos from earlier in the year with photographic evidence of the devastation and asking what needs to be done to ensure this does not happen again. The clerk will keep all councillors informed of his response.

- 051/21 The draft Highways Winter Service Plan for 2021 / 2022 was **reviewed** and all present were **happy** with the plan.
- 052/21 The Boundary Commission for England has advised that it has been proposed to create a new 'Mid Berkshire' constituency to provide an additional seat in Parliament. This would see Aldworth moving into 'Mid Berkshire' sharing a constituency and MP with Tilehurst and Reading West. Concerns were raised that by placing us with more urbanised areas we would lose the support more rural areas require and the differences would not be understood. Cllr. Roach and the clerk will **draft** some comments and considerations to share with the councillors via email for ratification prior to the deadline for comments on 2nd August 2021.
- 053/21 The Action Log was reviewed and will be updated by the clerk; most outstanding issues are covered in this meeting.
- 054/21 The clerk gave an update of our current financial status. No transactions had left the bank account since the end of June, but with the purchase of the new noticeboard and dog bin, plus the clerk's salary, there will be transactions at the end of July. No other issues or correspondence to report.
- 055/21 There were no further questions or comments from members of the public.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked those present for attending and the meeting closed at 21.14pm.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Send email address of Yattendon Estates to Graham	Clerk	✓
2	Advise grounds maintenance contractors we are not proceeding with grass cutting for Westridge Green	Clerk	✓
3	Purchase new Parish Noticeboard from Greenbarnes	Clerk	✓
4	Purchase new Dog Waste Bin from Roadware	Clerk	✓
5	Advise Stuart Clark @ WBC of the flooding issues at Ambury Road	Clerk	✓
6	Cllr. Roach and Clerk to draft comments for the Parliamentary Boundary review	Cllr. Roach / Clerk	✓