



Aldworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 7.30pm on Zoom

Minute ref: 010/160322/vPCM

Members Present: Cllr. Tim Chapman, Cllr. Donna Roach, Cllr. John Clark

Members Absent: Cllr. Kate Walters, Cllr. Nick Williams

Officers Present: Mrs Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)

In Attendance: 2 members of public.

Meeting Start Time: 19.31pm

Meeting End Time: 21.12pm

- 120/22 Cllr. Chapman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Kate Walters and Cllr. Nick Williams; these were accepted by the Council. Quorum was achieved.
- 121/22 There were no declarations of interest from any members, nor the Clerk. There were no requests for dispensation.
- 122/22 One member of public raised their concern regarding the recent correspondence from Chris Vidler at West Berkshire Council about potential measures to make the B4009 through Westridge Green safer. After meeting face to face, with several actions agreed, his recent email implied these would no longer be going ahead. Examples were the speed monitoring at Westridge Green and the absence of 'sharp bend' signs between Aldworth and Westridge Green. It was advised that this would be discussed during item 12 on the agenda. As no declarations were received, there were no representations to be made.
- 123/22 Our District Councillor, Alan Law, was not in attendance and a report had not been received.
- 124/22 The minutes of the planning recommendation meeting were read and **approved** as an accurate record. Cllr. Chapman will sign them when we next meet face to face.
- 125/22 There were no matters arising and the clerk confirmed that all actions generated from the meeting had been **completed**.

126/22

The planning application for Bower Farm ref: 22/00347/FUL was reviewed, and the plans were shared on-screen. The following comments were made:

- a) The proposed siting does not lie within the current curtilage of farm buildings.
- b) As we are situated in an AONB, care should be taken to use trees and hedging to screen off the new sheds.
- c) The trees around the water tower should be retained.
- d) The farm has more than doubled incapacity and use over the last 15 years, with main access to the farm being along Ambury Road. Haw Farm in Yattendon introduced a new access point to reduce farm traffic, which has worked. Could this be considered here with direct access from the B4009?
- e) Farm traffic concerns were raised for the centre of the village and Ambury Road.
- f) West Berkshire Council had received correspondence from the Ramblers' Association, requesting that footpath ALDW/5/1 be kept clear of all farm machinery by the access to the calf sheds

Considerations were also submitted by a member of public which were viewed by all members present.

A vote of **no objection** was recorded but some conditions will be added to the Parish Observation Sheet, and these were:

- 1) A hedge should be planted all the way around the proposed site to help preserve the AONB.
- 2) The trees around the water tower must remain in situ.
- 3) At some point in the future a new access to Bower Farm should be created to limit the farm traffic in the centre of Aldworth and Ambury Road.
- 4) Clear access along footpath ALDW/5/1 should be maintained at all times.

The Councillors present recommended that the Clerk submit the Parish Observation Sheet stating the above conditions, in line with the temporary Scheme of Delegation in place.

127/22

The planning application for Westridge Manor ref: 22/00434/HOUSE and 22/00435/LBC2 for the addition of French doors to the kitchen extension was reviewed, and the plans were shared on-screen. A vote of **no objection** was recorded, and the clerk will complete the Parish Observation Sheet under the recommendation of all members present, in line with the temporary Scheme of Delegation in place.

128/22

The recent playground inspection report was reviewed. Small maintenance issues would be resolved in-house. The replacement sign to give the address and emergency numbers was **approved** by all present at a cost of £105.91. The initial quotation for the replacement safety surface has come in at £20,397.00 ex VAT. We do not have the funds available to action this, nor are any grants available, at present, which might help us achieve this amount. It was **agreed** not to proceed with the full replacement. The clerk will discuss the cost of fixing only the areas that are sinking, and present a revised quotation at the May meeting.

129/22

The involvement of the Pangbourne Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) was discussed. It was **agreed** that, rather than send a dedicated councillor to each meeting, the agenda would be circulated, and if an item on there was relevant to Aldworth Parish then a Councillor would attend and report back.

- 130/22 Several useful comments have been received via the online Jubilee Survey we recently ran. It was **agreed** to have the Beacon lighting at Bower Farm on Thursday 2nd June, and we would need to involve Cllr. Kate Walters with the preparation for that. It was considered to ask the Bell Inn if anything could be provided in the village prior to the beacon lighting at 9.45pm. The clerk will set up an open meeting at the Bell Pub and invite residents to attend to work out plans for the evening and source help from volunteers. The church has kindly agreed to change its Sunday Service on 5th June to an 11am Jubilee Praise service. The plan is for residents to attend the service, and then go on to the cricket ground for a bring-your-own picnic.
- 131/22 After what was thought to be a successful meeting with Chris Vidler from West Berkshire Council (Senior Highways Engineer) about improving road safety on the B4009 through Westridge Green, we were all disappointed to receive an email stating that a speed limit review would not be entertained. Concerns were raised that other promises had not been fulfilled, such as the speed monitoring devices and the review of signage from Aldworth to Westridge Green. It was **agreed** to write to Chris Vidler, Cllr. Alan Law and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, with evidence of the recent accidents, the promises made and the lack of support we have received. The clerk will prepare a draft letter and circulate via email for amendments to be made before final submission.
- 132/22 The Risk Assessment for the parish was reviewed and **approved**. It will be signed when we next meet face to face.
- 133/22 Clerk's Report
- a) The February Finance report was shared, and we are maintaining a good position.
 - b) NALC have issued the pay award for 2021 / 2022 and all members present **approved** the small increase in hourly wage and the subsequent back-pay of £56.04 to cover April 2021 to February 2022. March pay will be calculated at the new rate.
 - c) The action log was reviewed, and several items were discussed. With regard to the Lost Ways campaign, there is no longer a deadline for submitting requests, we still do not have the 10 evidence forms required to submit the application. A revisit to the advertising of this will be actioned. General maintenance of the white village entrance gates is needed. We spent money on painting them and cutting back the vegetation, but they do need to be looked after. A litter pick has been scheduled for Sunday 10th April at 2pm. Volunteers are to meet at the Village Hall and will be issued with hi-vis vests, grabbers, and bags. The clerk will design a poster to advertise this and prepare the risk assessment and signing documentation. Potholes continue to be a problem, particularly along the B4009, near the Four Points (trenches at the edge of the road) and between Westridge Green and Aldworth. It was **agreed** that we are continuously being ignored and all potholes will be re-logged on the WBC portal. The pavement between The Glebe and Bell Lane that was cleared of moss and vegetation is now looking in need of a sweep. It was suggested that a letter is drafted to the owner of Whiwhistles, requesting that they might consider doing this on a regular basis to help the residents of The Glebe and others who use the footpath. It was considered that in the future we budget for 'odd job' maintenance and liaise with Mike Buckle to help us as required.
 - d) No correspondence has been received that requires discussion at this meeting.
 - e) Both the Data Protection fee of £35.00 and the £34.47 fee from West Berkshire Council for the bin emptying was **approved**.
- 134/22 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 21.12pm.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Complete 2 x Parish Observation Sheets	Clerk	✓
2	Order the new playground sign	Clerk	✓
3	Circulate the NAG agenda when received to allocate a councillor if needed	Clerk / All	
4	Set up an open meeting for Jubilee Prep	Clerk	
5	Draft report re the speeding concerns at Westridge Green	Clerk	
6	Add Clerk back pay to March Salary	Clerk	
7	Re-log all potholes on B4009	Clerk	