



Aldworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 13th July 2022, 7.45pm on Zoom

Minute ref: 003/130722/VPCM

Members Present: Cllr. Tim Chapman, Cllr. Kate Walters, Cllr. John Clark

Members Absent: Cllr. Nick Williams, Cllr. Donna Roach

Officers Present: Mrs Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)

In Attendance: 1 member of public.

Meeting Start Time: 19.55pm

Meeting End Time: 20:29pm

037/22 Cllr. Chapman welcomed all to the online meeting. The Clerk had tested positive for Covid, hence the swift transition from a face-to-face meeting to an online meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllr. Williams and Cllr. Roach which were **accepted**.

038/22 A declaration of interest regarding GreenFest 2022 was **received** from the Clerk.

039/22 There were no questions or comments from members of the public. The Clerk **advised** that she is currently overseeing the management of the 'Transport' Zone for GreenFest 2022 but was not on the main planning or funding committee. This should not cause any concern with the generic funding request received from the funding committee.

040/22 The minutes of the two previous meetings (11th May – Annual Meeting and 27th May – Planning Meeting) were read and **approved** as an accurate record. They will be signed when we are next able to meet face to face safely.

041/22 There were no matters arising from the minutes of either meeting. The Clerk went through the actions and **advised** the following:

11th May 2022 – All actions have been **completed**, except for adding the SID training to a future meeting agenda (this will be arranged later this year) and the Well Survey with Grant request. The Clerk was unable to secure a quotation for a survey of the well as all local companies declined to quote due to the depth of the well and the specialist equipment needed. This resulted in us missing the deadline for the Members' Bid via Cllr. Graham Law. Cllr. Williams has been supporting the Clerk with

seeking alternative quotations but is not present today to give an update.

27th May – No outstanding actions.

- 042/22 The Action Log was **reviewed**. Some older items need to be chased up with WBC which the Clerk will action. Most outstanding recent actions were progressing well and near completion.
- 043/22 A Section 137 Grant Request was **received** from GreenFest 2022, which is an eco and sustainability event that is taking place on Saturday 10th September in Hampstead Norreys. They are seeking financial support from all parish councils to help with the cost of speaker fees and equipment hire. Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Williams attended the previous GreenFest in 2019 and were complimentary about the purpose, layout and educational messages that the public received. It was **agreed** to offer a donation of £50.00 via The Good Exchange which would be match-funded, totalling £100.00. The Clerk will process the donation via BACS.
- 044/22 The Winter Highways Plan from West Berkshire Council was **reviewed** by searching for all entries that mentioned Aldworth and Westridge Green. The plan for road treatment was **agreed** as accurate, but it was noted that there was no mention of Aldworth Road from the Coombe Road junction in Compton past Woodrow's Farm, and down to the Four Points Pub. This road can be very slippery in wintry conditions, and it was agreed to email the West Berkshire Team to request this be added to the plan.
- 045/22 The following policies were **reviewed** and **approved**:
- 1) Temporary Scheme of Delegation Policy – **approved, review in November**
 - 2) Grant Awarding Policy and Procedure – **approved with no change**
 - 3) Councillor Code of Conduct – **approved**
- The Clerk will add these to the website.
- 046/22 The Clerk submitted the June Finance Report and advised that we remain in a good position financially.
- Three questions had been submitted via email from a member of the public and presented to the Council:
- 1) Would it be possible to upgrade the Dog Waste Bin at the Cricket Ground to one with a foot pedal to open it, rather than using your hands?

Answer – We will investigate the cost of the foot pedal bins and assess whether they will be easier to damage through over-use or overly vigorous pressure on the pedal. Vandalism would be another consideration. The size (capacity) of the pedal bins seems to be very large, which may present an issue with smells prior to emptying. The council will be presented with options at the next meeting before a decision is made.
 - 2) There does not appear to be any disability access to the Village Hall / Cricket Ground when the gates are locked. Can this be rectified?

Answer – Yes, there is disability access to the Village Hall / Cricket Ground from the Hungerford Green end of Bell Lane. The step-free track runs along the side of the

playground and cricket nets and was added when the Village Hall was built as part of the design and access statement.

- 3) There are a lot of road signs that are currently obscured by vegetation. Can you fix this?

Answer – This is managed by West Berkshire Council and all residents are able to log requests for them to maintain the roads and verges in the district. The Clerk was able to advise the meeting about the challenges the maintenance team had faced since No Mow May, which resulted in a delay maintaining the greens and verges, but there was a large backlog so this may take some time. Residents are reminded that they can log any issues in the parish via the online portal here: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem>

- 4) Parsonage Green was not cut for a long time and left to grow slightly wild, which looked great! Is there any chance we can keep it like this?

Answer – Sadly not, due to the location of Parsonage Green and the requirement for traffic to use it to join the B4009, it is vital this is kept short to allow clear visibility splays at all sides of the green.

047/22 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 20:29pm.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Continue chasing up old actions on the log and update the more recent ones	Clerk	
2	Process the s137 grant payment to GreenFest 2022	Clerk	✓
3	Email Andrew Gatland from West Berkshire Council regarding Aldworth Road (Coombe Road to Four Points) being added to the Winter Service Plan	Clerk	✓
4	Upload revised policies to the website	Clerk	✓
5	Research pedal-opening Dog Bin ready for next meeting	Clerk	
6	Respond to the resident with answers to their queries	Clerk	✓