



Aldworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 9th November 7.45pm at Aldworth Village Hall

Minute ref: 006/091122/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Tim Chapman, Cllr. Donna Roach, Cllr. Kate Walters, Cllr. Nick Williams, Cllr. John Clark
Members Absent:	0
Officers Present:	Mrs Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	2 members of public.
Meeting Start Time:	19.48pm
Meeting End Time:	21.16pm

- 070/22 Cllr. Chapman welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies had been received and all members were present. Quorum was achieved.
- 071/22 One declaration of interest was received from Cllr. Walters regarding item 7c on the agenda.
- 072/22 There were no questions or comments from members of the public regarding items on the agenda. Cllr. Walters advised that as she lived at Bower Farm (item 7c) she would be able to give further background information if required.
- 073/22 The minutes of the previous meeting dated 3rd October 2022 were read and approved as an accurate record. Cllr. Chapman signed a copy for the file.
- 074/22 The following matters arising were discussed:
- The potholes logging by both the Council and residents are still being dismissed by WBC as not meeting the criteria for fixing. It was **agreed** that it was not safe for members of the Parish Council to go out and measure the potholes and take photographic evidence. The winter weather would further exacerbate the condition of the highway, and the issue would need to be logged repeatedly until the potholes are repaired. It was agreed that an article would be placed into The Leaflet, advising residents on how they could support us with logging the road defects and the sizing requirements.

- The footpath / disabled access to the recreation ground, which runs along the side of Bell Lane has been assessed by Cllr. Walters and the Clerk and would be discussed during item 9 in this meeting.

All outstanding actions had been completed.

075/22 Two Section 137 Grant requests had been received and the council **agreed** the following:

- Annual donation to WBC Library Services to the value of £100.00 was **agreed** by all members present. The Clerk would process the payment via BACS.
- A contribution of £200.00 was **agreed** for the West Berkshire Cost of Living Crisis to help local families in need this winter. This will be match funded by the Greenham Trust. The Clerk would process the payment via BACS.

076/22 The following planning application were reviewed and discussed, and the council **agreed** the following:

- Planning Application Ref: 22/02408/FUL for Kiddington House surface dressing of existing track. After reviewing the consultations already received from several departments it was **agreed** to **object** to this application on the grounds that the proposed hard-surface material of molten bitumen with granite chippings rolled into it would not be in keeping with the woodland setting in an AONB. There might also be drainage issues. The Clerk would reiterate points that the Public Right of Way team and the Highways team had already raised in this respect and submit the Parish Observation Sheet to WBC.
- Planning Application Ref: 22/02534/HOUSE for 3 Hungerford Green proposed outbuilding. After reviewing the plans and looking at the scale of the outbuilding it was **agreed** to state **no objections**. The Clerk would submit the Parish Observation Sheet to WBC.
- Planning Application Ref: 22/02635/FUL for Bower Farm for a Section 73a variation of condition regarding the calf housing shelters. It was advised that when built these were 8m closer to the farm and this variation sought approval for the modified location. It was **agreed** that there were **no objections** to this variation. A further retrospective planning application was received on the day of this meeting for Bower Farm, but we were unable to discuss this at this meeting. A short planning meeting would be held in the next couple of weeks to discuss this.

077/22 Having recently discovered that the village defibrillator located outside the Bell Pub was not currently working it was **agreed** that a new one should be purchased and placed at the Village Hall. This defibrillator would be looked after by the Parish Council and Guardians would be sought to help with the regular maintenance and checks of the equipment. It was also **agreed** that this defibrillator would be added to all the apps and online records so a wide range of emergency services would be aware of its existence. This would not be intended as a replacement for the one at the Bell, but as an additional one, close to the Recreation / Cricket Ground. The Clerk had received a £300 grant from the London Hearts charity, and it was **agreed** to use Parish Council funds to pay the outstanding balance of £1,211.00. The Clerk would write to the Village Hall Trustees to get approval for installing this on the outside of the building, and work with the charity regarding delivery timescales.

078/22 Cllr. Walters and the Clerk had met recently at the footpath / disabled access that starts at the top of Bell Lane and leads down towards the village hall / recreation and cricket ground / children's play area, as we had been informed it was not accessible

to anyone with mobility issues, wheelchair users / scooter users and even prams and pushchairs. Our survey confirmed that the slope from Bell Lane to the top of the footpath was very steep and difficult to get up. T L Contracting were approached to offer a solution and they have put forward a solution, and they had put forward two suggestions for replacements: one for a gravel path, and the other for a resin one. Some excavation would be required to reduce the gradient of the slope. The resin path had been quoted at £17,913.06, and the gravel one at £11,733.08. The Council did not have adequate funds to meet either of these quotations, but the Clerk had sought the following grants thus far:

- Agreement in principle for £3,000 from Cllr. Alan Law (Members' Bid December 2022)
- Agreement in principle for £2,866.54 from the Parish Plan Grant Scheme

These grants would total £5,866.54 leaving a balance of £5,866.54 to seek. Connecting Communities Berkshire (CCB), and independent charity which had some grants, and the Clerk had made contact to pursue some support from them. The Parish Council had a small pot of reserves to make up any shortfall, but not into the thousands. It was **agreed** to proceed with the replacement footpath if permission had been sought from key stakeholders for the work, and we could seek funding to help us reach the target. The Clerk would write to Yattendon Estates, WBC, VH Trustees and close neighbours to seek permission.

079/22

The Clerk prepared a draft budget and shared with all Councillors prior to the meeting. As with all budgets, several assumptions about potential expenditure have been made, but the following items were discussed and **agreed**:

- NALC / SLCC had agreed the annual pay award for Clerks, dated from 1st April 2022. Back pay will be calculated from 1st April 2022 to 31st October 2022 and paid in the November salary. The pay award for 2023 / 2024 had been estimated at a similar rise for budget purposes.
- It was agreed to enter the Clerk into the Local Government Pension Scheme, and this had been added to the budget.
- WBC had advised that their current waste management contract expired at the end of December. They had been out to tender, and had awarded the new contract ready to start on 6th January. The prices had dramatically increased, so an alternative needed to be sought. For our single dog waste bin, which WBC empties, the cost would increase from £26.11 per annum to £177.34 per annum. If the additional costs of the dog waste bin on Ambury Road and the litter bin on Bell Lane were taken into account (both serviced by 'Triangle Waste Management'), we would be looking at an overall waste management bill of £450.94. The Clerk had contacted 'Triangle' to ask if they could take over the bin at the cricket ground, and they had confirmed that they could, at a cost of £330.60 for all three bins, thereby saving us £120.34. All members present **agreed** to moving the waste contract over to 'Triangle' from 6th January 2023.
- The Clerk reported that she might need a new laptop soon (still using the very old one). The cost of a replacement had been added to the office equipment budget code.
- The training budget had been increased to allow councillors access to more courses to help us achieve the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation Level.

The Clerk would continue to amend the budget between now and January, when the final version would be presented for sign-off. As of the date of the current meeting, we looked set to request a £12,000 precept.

080/22 The Clerk gave a brief report that covered the following:

- Current Account as of 31st October = £10,866.85.
- It was mentioned that a training session for Planning Enforcement was being run by WBC on Zoom at 2pm on 23rd November or 6pm on 30th November. Councillors were encouraged to attend.
- As mentioned in 079/22 the Clerk's back pay would be added to the November salary.

081/22 Questions or comments received from members of the public:

- It was asked whether Aldworth Parish Council could invest in a 'Tommy' silhouette statue, the silent soldier from the Royal British Legion for Remembrance. Previously, a statue had been donated yearly to Aldworth by East Ilsley Parish, but having our own might be preferable. The proposed location for the statue would be Parsonage Green, and it could be stored securely at the Village Hall when not in use. It was **agreed** that we would be unable to purchase this in time for this year, but we would discuss this during the next financial year.
- It was advised that when cricket was played at the recreation ground, general litter was often placed in the dog waste bin, filling it up too quickly. It was proposed that a new litter bin be purchased, and placed next to the dog bin to make it clear which litter should go in which bin. It was **agreed** to add the cost of a new litter bin to the budget and to request that 'Triangle' take on the emptying from the summer.
- It was reported that the pavement between The Glebe and Bell Lane was again covered in tree debris and vegetation making the surface slippery and dangerous. It was **agreed** to log this again on the WBC portal to ask them to clear it.
- It had been noted that some residents' hedges along footpaths and highways were not being properly maintained. It was **agreed** to write directly to the households concerned, and to include the information from the WBC leaflet on 'hedge maintenance for residents' in our village publication.
- The car park floodlight at the Four Points pub was dazzling a number of drivers, owing to its raised angle. It was **agreed** to have a quick word with the owners to see if the angle could be adjusted or alternative lighting installed.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked those present for attending, and the meeting closed at 21.16pm.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Send article to The Leaflet on logging potholes and highways problems, along with the dimensional criteria for repairing potholes	Clerk	
2	Process S137 payments	Clerk	✓
3	Send all Parish Observation Sheets to WBC	Clerk	✓
4	Order new Defibrillator and seek approval from VH Trustees	Clerk	✓
5	Footpath revamp – start the process and continue grant-seeking	Clerk	✓

6	Prepare final amendments to the budget ready for the January meeting.	Clerk	
7	Councillors to attend Planning Enforcement Training	All	
8	Log pavement between The Glebe and Bell Lane re tree debris	Clerk	✓

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