



Aldworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting

Tuesday 16th August 2022, 7pm at The Bell Public House (Village Hall unavailable)

Minute ref: 004/160822/PCPM

Members Present:	Cllr. Tim Chapman, Cllr. Donna Roach, Cllr. Kate Walters, Cllr. John Clark
Members Absent:	Cllr. Nick Williams
Officers Present:	Mrs Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	1 member of public.
Meeting Start Time:	19.02pm
Meeting End Time:	19.49pm

- 048/22 Cllr. Chapman welcomed all to this planning meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Nick Williams and were accepted. Quorum was achieved.
- 049/22 There were no declarations of interest to report, nor any requests for dispensation received.
- 050/22 There were no questions from members of the public regarding any item on the agenda, nor any representations from any members declaring an interest.
- 051/22 The minutes of the full council meeting on 13th July 2022 were read and approved as an accurate record. Cllr. Chapman signed a copy for the file.
- 052/22 It was noted that the following issues required logging on the Portal with West Berkshire Council:
- 1) Vegetation overhanging road signs / speed limit signs
 - 2) Speeding vehicles on the B4009 between the Four Points and Bell Lane
 - 3) Potholes (B4009, Westridge Green, Streatley)
 - 4) Disintegrating road edge along Parsonage Green
 - 5) Overgrown Hungerford Green impeding visibility at Bell Lane junction
 - 6) Overgrown grass 'triangle' on the B4009 at Westridge Green, at the last turn-off to the right when heading in the Streatley direction.

The Clerk will log the above issues with West Berkshire Council, as will Aldworth residents. The Action Log will be updated. All actions have been completed, and

the Action Log is updated when new information is received from West Berkshire Council.

053/22

Planning application ref: 22/01746/MDOPO from Stonewater Housing regarding the modification of the Section 106 Agreement from 1997 was reviewed and discussed. The Clerk had printed out the original S106 agreement and the Cover Letter which explained the amendments. After much discussion it was **agreed** that no member present, nor the Clerk, had the legal knowledge or understanding to make a concrete decision. It was **agreed** to return the Parish Observation Sheet with the following comments:

Support or Object? = **Object**

Reasons:

- 1) We are unclear of the motives of Stonewater Housing for the proposed amendments. It is not clearly stated why this amendment has been put forward in any available document. Without understanding the motives, we are unable to determine whether there might be any implications for the tenants (current or future).
- 2) We are unqualified to interpret the legal language used in the proposed amendment. The standard three-week turnaround during the summer holiday has meant we have been limited in accessing support to understand the terminology.
- 3) We would be willing to seek external advice in helping us interpret and understand the amendments to the schedules; however, we would need more time to explore this and investigate fully.

The Clerk will contact the Solicitor for the proposed amendment requesting answers to the above and forward the response to the Councillors. It was discussed as to whether anyone knew a lawyer who would consider advising on the amendments, but no names were put forward confidently. The Clerk will monitor the Planning Portal for other responses from consultees and keep the Council updated.

054/22

It was **agreed** to purchase a wooden stake from Wickes for the Jubilee Cherry Tree at a cost of £3.90, along with a couple of tree ties. GR agreed to help the Clerk install the stake.

055/22

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk shared the email from the SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments) advising that we could consider to opt out of the Limited Assurance regime and proceed to seek our own external auditor. As we currently do not have an income of over £25,000, we are exempt from an external audit, so it was **agreed** to remain with the SAAA, rather than opt out.

056/22

Correspondence received and comments:

- 1) Consultation on the draft Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Licensing Policy: it was **agreed** not to respond, as Newbury taxi services do not frequently serve Aldworth.
- 2) The Clerk advised that the line-painting at the Bell, and the road edge of Parsonage Green, have been re-logged with West Berkshire and copied to Cllr. Alan Law, who has responded requesting that this be looked at.
- 3) A survey has been received from the Justice Department about unpaid work / community payback. The Clerk has completed the survey with options for assistance, but the rural location and lack of pavements might hinder the uptake of this.

- 4) The Lost Ways campaign for the footpath in Westridge Green is making excellent progress. The recent article in The Leaflet has created a new surge in requests for maps and forms and the Clerk is posting out forms and collating them ready for preparing the formal request to West Berkshire Council.
- 5) The SLCC is running a Finance Summit virtually on 7th September. It was **agreed** to pay 50% of the cost of the training session with East Ilsley Parish Council (£22.50) for the Clerk to attend.

057/22

A member of the public advised that the road surface at The Glebe had disintegrated further, and asked if the Parish Council would log it with West Berkshire Council. It was **agreed** that we would, and the resident would do the same. It was also raised that just past the Bell Lane junction, heading towards Westridge Green, the road narrows enough to make passing difficult if a car meets a larger vehicle (van, lorry, farm vehicle etc.) Traffic calming measures were discussed but due to the requirement of large agricultural vehicles needing access (i.e. combine harvesters) it would be very difficult to add chicanes as this would impede their access. Signage advising right of way was discussed but again, the addition of further signage in rural areas was being limited by West Berkshire Council. It was also queried whether the drainage pipe was installed at Westridge Green, but this was unknown. The Clerk will chase for an answer.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked those present for attending and the meeting closed at 19.49pm.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Log all current village issues on the WBC portal and add to the Action Log	Clerk / Residents / Councillors	✓
2	Submit comments to Planning Department and seek answers to the questions raised with the amendment	Clerk / Councillors	✓
3	Purchase stake and tree ties and install by the Jubilee tree	Clerk / GR	✓
4	Send £22.50 to East Ilsley Parish Council for the Finance Summit	Clerk / Councillors	✓