



Aldworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th March 2023, 7.45pm at Aldworth Village Hall

Minute ref: 010/150323/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Tim Chapman, Cllr. Donna Roach, Cllr. Nick Williams, Cllr. John Clark
Members Absent:	Cllr. Kate Walters
Officers Present:	Mrs Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	1 member of public.
Meeting Start Time:	19:47pm
Meeting End Time:	20:59pm

- 116/23 Cllr. Chapman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Walters and quorum was achieved.
- 117/23 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests or other non-registerable interest by members, nor the Clerk.
- 118/23 There were no questions or comments from the member of public present, nor were there any representations put forward from any member.
- 119/23 The minutes of the Planning Recommendation Meeting that took place on 20th February were read and **approved** as an accurate record. Cllr. Chapman signed a copy for the records.
- 120/23 Three of the actions generated at the Planning Recommendation Meeting on 20th February that have not been completed will be discussed in this meeting (see item 8 and item 11). There were no other matters arising.
- 121/23 The Clerk to Streatley Parish Council shared with us a proposed traffic regulation order to restrict the waiting, loading, parking and residents parking along the High Street. As a neighbouring parish, we have been offered the chance to give any comments or feedback. It was **agreed** that the proposal suggests a marginal improvement to the flow of traffic during the day and that there were **no objections** to the plans. The Clerk will share those thoughts with the Traffic and Road Safety Team at West Berkshire Council.

- 122/23 The annual playground inspection took place on 1st March 2023 and the report was shared with the council prior to the meeting. Main areas of concern were the rotting wood on parts of the timber that forms the gate and perimeter fencing and some general wear of the wooden play equipment. It was **agreed** that quotes would be obtained to replace all affected timber, including any repair / replacement needed for the latches and springs and that Mr Buckle will be asked to clean the equipment with the anti-fungal treatment we purchased last year. The quotes for the replacement timber will be reviewed at the May meeting.
- 123/23 The new defibrillator is now installed on the outside of the village hall, between the main entrance and the children's play area. Our Insurance Company have advised that we are covered up to £5,000 on our existing policy for the device so there is no additional premium. A number of people have come forward to become 'guardians' of the defib which is excellent news (thank you to all!). They will take it in turns to perform the weekly checks required. The clerk requested that the council purchase a waterproof notebook to be kept inside the cabinet for recording these weekly checks. This was **approved**, with the cost being approximately £8.99 on Amazon. A few new posters will be put up in the hall to advise people of the location of the device and perhaps a policy needed to be drafted so as to inform Hall Hirers / Users about this additional device located on site. The Clerk will seek a suitable policy (or document) and add to the agenda for the May meeting.
- 124/23 The Parish Risk Assessment Document was updated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. The defibrillator was added and the bin emptying sections were amended to account for the additional dog bin and the new contract with Triangle. All members present **approved** the Risk Assessment for 2023 / 2024 and a copy was signed by Cllr. Chapman for the records.
- 125/23 The Clerk has received confirmation from the TV Licensing company that Village Halls are able to show the coronation in public without a TV license. The whole village photo is booked and the platforms will be set up on the morning of Sunday 7th May. The Church will hold a 11am Praise Service and the photo will take place at around 12.30pm. There will be a 'bring your own / bring and share' lunch in the hall following on from the photo. It was **agreed** to purchase a King Charles III cardboard cut-out as we did for the Jubilee at a cost of £50.00 from Amazon. The Clerk will set up the 'working party' to fine tune the celebrations.
- 126/23 The Clerk's report is summarised below:
- Due to the short timescale of claiming the Members' Bid from Cllr. Law (by 31st March) it was agreed to write to Alan and Jo Naylor to inform them we would not be able to claim. The FCC Communities Foundation have written to advise that we have been awarded a grant of £5,866.54 towards the access path and that we would need to pay the £630.00 'third party' payment within 28 days. With the project currently on hold, it was **agreed** to write to them to advise of the challenges we are currently facing. It was **agreed** to ask T L Contracting for some visual aids for design, plans, scale, photos of existing work so we could get an idea of what they plan to do in case we can re-visit it. Hopefully we can re-look at this in May.
 - The finance reports for February and March were shared with the council prior to the meeting. Current status is good, but we are in receipt of grant money that we cannot spend (access path) and this will need to be re-allocated to another project.

- The Clerk is joining the Local Government Pension Scheme from 1st April 2023 (as agreed at the meeting in October 2022) and this has been budgeted for. The Statements of Policy about Exercise of Discretionary Functions has been prepared (based on the SLCC model) and this was **agreed** by all members present. Cllr. Chapman signed the document, and it will be sent to The Berkshire Pension Fund prior to the start of April.
- The Clerk gave all members present their nomination forms for the upcoming election and advised that the deadline for submission was 4pm on Tuesday 4th April.

127/23

Cllr. Williams raised the following as a 'matter for future consideration':

- Transferring the ownership of the Village Hall over to the Parish Council;
 - ❖ It was thought that Yattendon Estates would have to formally change the ownership with Land Registry
 - ❖ There was concern that if the Parish Council took over ownership, would this mean they could no longer apply for grants to help with future improvements? It was originally set up with 'trustees' due to the limitations on village halls under PC ownership.
 - ❖ The management committee would stay in situ so the PC would not have to concern themselves with hall bookings and day to day management
 - ❖ Cllr. Williams will speak with James Hole (Yattendon Estates) to find out next steps and report back

128/23

Questions from the member of public present:

- During the recent icy spell, the salt in the grit bin at The Glebe had solidified meaning it could not be used for its intended purpose. It was **agreed** to purchase a new salt bin and scoop from Glasdon at a cost of £120.61 + £7.74 and use money from the Parish Plan Grant already received. Cllr. Chapman will fill the new bin with salt ordered last year. Cllr. Williams will assist in removing the old bin.
- Due to the recent very heavy rainfall the Westridge Green bend towards Streatley on the B4009 was badly flooded. It is likely the ditch / gullies were full, and we would request WBC to blast the drains for us.
- Potholes remain a very real hazard around the parish, in particular the deep rut past Manor Barn gate which is currently full of water and various potholes along the B4009 between Aldworth and Westridge Green. These will continue to be logged by the council and residents who spot them.

With there being no further business to discuss, Cllr. Chapman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at 20:59pm.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Source quotes for the repair of the timber at the playground for May Meeting	Clerk	
2	Request Mr Buckle to use the cleaner purchased last year on the equipment	Clerk	
3	Seek a defib policy for the hall users / hirers and present to May meeting	Clerk	
4	Purchase KCIII cut-out for Coronation Party	Clerk	
5	Arrange 'working party' meeting at the Bell to arrange the weekend plans.		
6	Seek design / photos from T L Contracting re the access path for the May meeting		
7	Set up the LGPS	Clerk	
8	Buy new salt bin an scoop and place at The Glebe	Clerk / TC / NW	
9	Request WBC drain blast at Westridge Green by the flooded bend	Clerk	