

ALDERMASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th August 2020

Due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions the meeting was held via Zoom video-conference.

Councillors Present: Mr D Shirt - Chairman
Mrs S Crawford – Vice Chair
Mrs A Faulkner
Revd J Manley
Mr R Smith
Mrs A Woodley
Revd Jane Manley

In attendance: PC Leanne Taylor
PC Piers Ambler
District Cllr D Boeck
Mrs C McGarvie – Clerk

97/20 Open Forum

PC Leanne Taylor and PC Piers Ambler, members of the Hungerford and Downlands policing team, introduced themselves. They explained that the Hungerford and Downlands team cover a large rural area with many parishes including Brimpton, Aldermaston, Padworth, Chieveley and Hungerford. PCSO Sarah Preston is the local point of contact and the Sergeant is Andy Murray. It was agreed that a face to face meeting including Brimpton, Wasing and Padworth Parish Councils would be useful in 2 to 3 months' time assuming that coronavirus restrictions have eased further. Mr. Shirt noted that anti-social behaviour and speeding are the two main concerns in the Parish. Cllr Boeck asked to be included in any future communication and invitations for neighbourhood policing events etc. Mr. Shirt to ask PCSO Sarah Preston to add Cllr Boeck to her mailing list.

Action : DS

98/20. Apologies for absence

Mr. O Hinton gave his apologies.

99/20 Declarations of Interest

None

100/20 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

100.1 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July were agreed as a true and accurate record. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a future date.

101.2 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

76.4 Cycle path from Aldermaston Wharf to Aldermaston

The Parish Council are waiting for West Berkshire to install new signs at the ends of the cyclepath and for more information about the proposals for access at Frouds Lane.

West Berkshire Council have concluded that there is not enough room along the highway for a footway along Frouds Lane and have therefore sent letters to the two land owners to ask them for their thoughts on land purchase/leasing.

In addition, West Berkshire Council are finalising the design for the proposed footway/cycleway adjacent to Wasing Lane. Once this is completed, they will contact the land owners associated with the proposed scheme to gauge their views.

ACTION: WBC

94.1 Fisherman's Lane ditch

There is an outstanding problem with loose dirt around an electrical cable. The latest update is that SSE have raised a job request to get the cable moved. West Berkshire Council have confirmed that the cable still has not been moved. SSE say it was on hold due to lockdown and will be rescheduled. WBC continue to chase.

ACTION:WBC

129.5 The Street, Aldermaston house numbering

An issue regarding house numbering in The Street has been raised by a resident and West Berkshire Council. Clerk sent an email to West Berkshire Council on 20th January challenging claims made about the numbering of the hairdressers but has not received a response. West Berkshire Council have stated that the issue is now with their legal team but due to high workload a response is taking longer than anticipated. No response as yet. Clerk has sent another chasing email.

ACTION: WBC

142.3 Aldermaston Wharf lifting bridge opening times

Mrs Woodley has previously raised a concern about the Lifting bridge at the wharf and the fact that it has been opened at 7.15am when there is a lot of commuter traffic. West Berkshire Council have stated that after reviewing traffic data they are minded to change the times that the bridge can't be opened to 7.30am to 9am and will consult with the Canal trust on this proposal.

West Berkshire Council also stated that the consultation on a replacement bridge revealed that most consultees wanted it to be replaced with something similar.

ACTION: WBC

41.4 Thatcham Neighbourhood Police Team

The PCSO, Sarah Preston, has confirmed that Aldermaston is now covered by the Hungerford and Downlands team. Inspector Alan Hackett arranged for two representatives of the team to join the meeting.

Action : Clerk

49.2. Footpath ALDE 12

The damaged bridge has been repaired and the footpath reopened.

49.4 Weight restriction Red Lane

West Berkshire Council had agreed to move the 7.5T weight limit restriction on Red Lane and indicated that it was in the works programme for 2019/2020. Clerk has contacted the Highways department and they have confirmed that it is now in the 2020/2021 works programme but there is no date for the work yet.

Action : WBC

82.3 Repair to fence in Maida's way. The Residents Association have indicated that it is not their responsibility to fix the fence. West Berkshire Council have also confirmed that the fence is not their responsibility and have written to the landowner requesting that it is fixed.

89.1 Dog bin in Winkworth Lane

A request was made for a dog waste bin at the end of Winkworth Lane. An approximate cost of a bin would be £113.52 (excl VAT) assuming it could be attached to an existing post.

Tadley Town Council are not willing to empty a new bin as part of their rounds. Clerk to contact the resident that requested the bin to explain that the Parish Council would be willing to purchase a bin but only if a way could be found to empty it at reasonable cost.

Action: Clerk

89.2 Footpath ALDE9

Mrs Woodley reported that the stile at the start of ALDE9 in Wasing Lane is broken and the path is overgrown. Clerk has reported to West Berkshire Council reference 186385. The vegetation has been cleared and the gate has been added to their work schedule.

Action: WBC

89.3 Speeding

Cllr Boeck agreed to ask Padworth and Beenham Parish Councils if they would support the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device jointly with other parishes in his ward. Brimpton Parish Council have already indicated that they would be interested in purchasing a SID jointly with neighbouring parishes. No update on this.

Action : DB

90.7 Review of Conservation Area.

A local resident has agreed to participate in the group so there are now 5 volunteers for the working group, which completes the team.

95.2 Mrs Woodley reported that the tree on the grass in front of the Forsters needs cutting back as it is overhanging the path. Mr Shirt offered to look at the tree and cut back the branches himself if possible.

Action : DS

95.6 Chestnut tree on the area of grass in Swan Drive.

The diseased tree has now been removed and West Berkshire Council will replace it but as they have a lot of requests for tree planting there may be a long delay.

95.7 A resident has asked whether the speed camera road markings can be refreshed along the A340 in the Street.

Clerk raised a case ref 186780 and West Berkshire Council have agreed to refresh the markings when they are next in the area with a lining crew but this is a low priority.

102/12 Planning

102.1 To note receipt of new applications and make comment

20/01529/LBC2 – 1 Forsters Farm Court. Wooden double glazed window replacement
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections.

20/00625/LQN EB Beverages Limited Unit 31-32, Easter Park,

License request: Sale of Alcohol (off the premises) Monday to Sunday from 09:00 to 18:00
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections.

19/02265/FULD – Land south of Maida's way, erection of four dwellings. Appeal
APP/W0340/W/20/3252506. Parish Council objected in October 2019

The Parish Council agreed via email to send the following response to the planning inspectorate (due to time constraints and the planning portal being down) .

QUOTE In refusing the applicant's original application the Case Officer presented objections that were consistent with our views and prevailing planning rules, and we do not see any arguments or changes put forward in this appeal to change our position.

The issue of being outside the settlement boundary obviously still stands, the Maidas Way access and the estate style both remain inappropriate, and the arguments put forward by the applicant regarding additional building in the DEPZ are unpersuasive. One of the arguments in the Statement of Case is that the application for housing on the land south of Maidas Way is 'similar' to the Rosebourne development which was granted permission in the DEPZ, but this fails to appreciate that

housing puts different pressures on the emergency services because people need to be re-homed as well as evacuated in the event of a radiological incident at AWE. Furthermore, we believe that WBC planning officers should take into account that nearby Aldermaston Manor already has an established legal right to house many more people in the village in the future which should be reflected in any calculations of population density and the ability of emergency responders to be able to cope, as well as the ability of local roads to be able to absorb traffic generated by any new developments.

Finally, in arguing in favour of building outside the settlement boundary the Statement of Case states that Appeal Site is sustainably located thanks to a local bus service amongst other things. We would like to point out that the local service is in fact infrequent, mid-week and links only to Tadley and Thatcham. There are no direct buses to major centres such as Reading, Basingstoke or Newbury so the service is unlikely to replace the private car as future residents' primary source of transportation. UNQUOTE

20/01412/OUTMAJ – Stacey developments. Section 73 application variation of 19/02410/OUTMAJ The Parish Council agreed, via email not to comment.

102.2 To note receipt of any approvals/refusals/withdrawals –
see Appendix A below

102.3 To note any updates on planning enforcement

a) Padworth Sawmills –

- The 12 months' notice for removal of the timber heap at the site expired in July 2019 and the Environment Agency are now considering what legal action to take.

Environment Agency have responded to say the case is with their legal team.

It has been reported that there is work ongoing on site and there are concerns that the increase in ground levels could be causing flooding to neighbouring land.

There was a large fire on site on 11th May. Mr. Shirt has contacted the Environment Agency who were already aware of the fire and have said that this will be taken into account when the case goes back to court. Mr Shirt has also informed the Environment Agency about concerns regarding the water run-off from site but has not received a reply yet.

Mr. Smith has raised concerns about noise from the site which are being investigated by Environmental health team at West Berkshire Council.

Mrs Faulkner reported that there has been increased lorry movements recently.

No further updates.

- b) Land adjacent to Torre House – The planning enforcement notice timed out. Mr. Shirt has emailed the planning enforcement team to raise the Parish Council's concern about this but no reply has been received as yet.

There is some doubt about whether the time for enforcement has actually expired as the site was thought to have been unoccupied at one time which would have reset the 10-year time limit.

Cllr Boeck reported that West Berkshire District Council regret that there was a lapse in oversight of the site at a busy time for the enforcement team which was in part due to human error. The Enforcement team have investigated what went wrong and have changed their reporting processes and work management system to avoid a future occurrence. Mr. Shirt to request a response directly from the enforcement team and to ask how the Parish Council can communicate more effectively with them in future.

Action : DS

103/20 Highways and Footpath matters

No new issues

104/20 Parish Environment

104.1 To consider plans for the recreation ground including fitness equipment quotes

Mr Shirt and the Clerk met with one supplier and a quotation is expected in the next few days. Clerk has an appointment with another supplier on 12th August. It was agreed that three quotes should be obtained.

It was agreed to purchase two picnic benches at a price of £1130.04 excluding VAT. Clerk has obtained one quote for installing the benches but this is considered high and Clerk will seek a comparative quote.

It was agreed to purchase two 8 x 6 goal posts at a price of £768.32 excl VAT. Clerk has obtained a quote for installing the goalposts but it is considered to be high and Clerk will therefore seek a comparative quote.

It was agreed that the Skate Ramp will not be refurbished or replaced at this time but will be monitored for further deterioration. At such time that it does need to be replaced the plan would be to move it to the other side of the recreation ground.

104.2 Update on refurbishment of bench on the Loosey

It was decided that the bench would only be repaired at an estimated cost of £50. The contractor has been asked to do the work but there is no date for completion yet.

104.3 To discuss the project to purchase a new village sign

The member's bid grant application for half of the cost of the project was successful. The Good exchange application has been shortlisted by two funders. It was agreed to await the outcome of the Good Exchange application before proceeding with the project.

104.4 To consider quotations for repair work for the Lockup

The conservation officer has said that she has no objection in principle to the proposed repair work but that a Listed Building Consent would be needed. The contractor has provided a drawing of the proposed work and can provide all the required documents for the listed building consent application for the quoted price.

It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter of intent to the contractor so that work can begin on the Listed building Consent.

Action : Clerk

104.5 To discuss repairs to the fence at the recreation ground

Clerk has received one quote for repair work to the fence at the recreation ground and will seek another quote before the next meeting.

Action : Clerk

105/20 Consultation documents requiring consideration

105.1 LGA Member Code of Conduct consultation , <https://www.local.gov.uk/code-conduct-consultation-2020> BALC's recommendation is that the changes are supported by Parish & Town Councils.

It was agreed not to make a comment on behalf of the Parish Council.

105.1 Consultation on the government's planning white paper to include reform of the Community Infrastructure Levy. It was agreed to wait for the formal consultation request from NALC (National Association of Local Councils) before responding.

106/20 AWE to include updates from LLC

AWE LLC meeting was held via video-conference on 22nd July both Mr. Shirt, Mrs Crawford. And Mr Boeck participated. The meeting focussed on plans for the new 'Hub' on the site, and there was little else of consequence to the Parish.

107/20 Reports

107.1 Clerk's report

Clerk has not had time to look into solutions to email problems yet will defer until the next meeting. Clerk proposed moving ongoing actions to a separate Action Tracker and this was agreed.

Action: Clerk

107.2 District Councillor's report

Cllr Boeck sent a monthly report prior to the meeting.

A recovery member's bid fund has been made available with up to £1000 of funding available for each District Councillor. Cllr Boeck asked for ideas of where this money could be spent for the benefit of the whole ward. Mr. Shirt has sent a number of ideas for consideration.

Action DB

West Berkshire Council have launched a bond to enable residents to invest in green initiatives within West Berkshire such as Solar PV Farms.

107.3 To receive reports from Parish council representatives on outside bodies

Mrs Woodley reported that the Parish Hall is reopening next week and they will be holding their September meeting on 10th September with a limit of 15 attendees.

108/20. Finance

108.1 To approve payments, bank reconciliation and receipts

See Appendix B below.

Chairman checked the bank statements against the cashbook before the meeting.

The Parish Council agreed all the payments for August.

108.2 Councillors were reminded to complete the application for Lloyds banking account return the forms to the Clerk to co-ordinate the signing and return to Lloyds.

108.3 External Auditors PKF Littlejohn have completed the independent review of the accounts for 2019/2020 and raised no issues.

109/20 To receive items for information only

109.1 Mrs Faulkner raised concerns about additional building work at Rag Hill Cottage and the use of the log cabin. Mrs Faulkner to raise a case with planning enforcement.

Action : AF

109.2 Mr Smith attended the Padworth common advisory meeting via video conference. They are looking for more members. Mrs Faulkner volunteered to join the committee.

109.3 A resident has complained about speeding on Reading Road. Mrs Crawford has responded and asked them to report it via the West Berkshire Council website. Mrs Crawford will remind residents about how to report speeding in the next parish newsletter.

Action : SC

109.4 Mrs Woodley raised her concern that the festival at Wasing is still planning to go ahead over the August bank holiday weekend but with 600 attendees. Wasing Estate have confirmed that they

are waiting for approval from West Berkshire Council and for further guidance from the government on Coronavirus restrictions.

109.5 A resident has reported that the label on the salt bin outside the Parish Hall need to be replaced. Clerk to obtain new labels for all 3 salt bins.

Action : Clerk

109.6 The timetable for the number 44 bus has changed. Residents have been informed via the newsletter email list.

109.7 There have been an increase in illegal encampments in the area recently and landowners are urged to be vigilant.

109.8 West Berkshire Council have asked for suggestions for sites where mobile Covid 19 testing could take place. Clerk to respond suggesting Rosebourne Garden Centre, Youngs Industrial Estate, The Manor House or the Tadley Rugby club.

Action : Clerk

109.9 The grant funding for CCTV at the station car park has been withdrawn due to Coronavirus. The £1000 allocated in the Parish Council budget can be reallocated.

109.10 It was agreed not to pursue any change to the settlement boundary in the Maida's Way area.

109.11 It was agreed that more 'no dogs allowed' signs would be put up at the recreation ground once the fence has been fixed. The sign on the playground fence would be removed once the new signs had been installed.

Action : Clerk

109.12 The Aldermaston & Wasing Show has been cancelled so the request to use the recreation ground on 5th September has also been withdrawn.

109.13 A resident of Kestrels Mead raised a complaint about Thames Water digging up land believed to be owned by West Berkshire land without permission.

109.14 The security company at the Manor House has changed.

110/20 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8th September at 7.30pm

Signed by Chairman _____

Date _____

Appendix A

Planning Applications for Consideration

1	20/01529/LBC2 1 Forsters Farm Court, Aldermaston. Wooden double-glazed window replacement	19 th August
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Planning Application Decisions

1	20/01041/LBC2 – Hinds Head Hotel, Wasing Lane – Support of defective beam at ground floor ceiling to restaurant	APPROVED
2	20/01143/LBC2 – Well House, Church Road	APPROVED
3	20/00737/COMIND – Shalford Farm	REFUSED

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

1	19/02265/FULD – Land south of Maida’s way, erection of four dwellings. Appeal APP/W0340/W/20/3252506
2	20/01345/FUL/20/01346/LBC2 – Well House, Church Road , Removal and replacement of an outbuilding
3	20/01361/HOUSE – 11 Swan Drive Loft conversion to include side and rear pitched dormer
4	20/01412/OUTMAJ – Stacey developments. Section 73 application variation of 19/02410/OUTMAJ
5	20/01220/COMIND – Youngs Industrial Estate – construction of two units in a single building
6	19/01293/FULEXT and 19/01294/LBC2- Conversion of Manor House and Portland House to residential use.
7	19/01896/FUL and 19/01897/LBC2 – Change of use of ‘Bridge Lodge’ to a residential dwelling

Appendix B

Meeting Report 11th August 2020

Bank Balance as at 31/7/2020	Cashbook balance as at 04/08/2020	Cashbook balance after new payments made
£71,987.53	£71,935.83	£70,031.25

New items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
1337	CPRE	membership - replacement cheque	36.00
SO	Mrs C McGarvie	August Salary	280.08
1338	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit	360.00
1339	West Berkshire District Council	Library contribution	1020.00
1340	Triangle Management Company Ltd	July Grass cutting	208.50
TOTAL			£1,904.58

Payments made since last meeting

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
1334	Triangle Management Ltd	June Grass cutting	208.50
1335	Mrs C McGarvie	H&S training. McAfee security	51.33
SO	Mrs C McGarvie	July salary	280.08
1336	Arborfield Tree Care	Tree work at recreation ground	1020.00
TOTAL			£1,559.91

Receipts since last meeting date

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
09/07/2020	Lloyds bank	Interest	2.92
TOTAL			£2.92

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
1320	CPRE	membership	36.00
1333	Aldermaston CE Primary school	printing newsletter March and leaflets	15.70
TOTAL			£51.70

Needs to be stopped
lost in post

Receipts not yet cleared/or on statement

Receipt date	Payer	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			£0.00

Appendix C

Bank reconciliation - as at 3rd August 2020

Balance from cashbook spreadsheet		71935.83	
Add unpresented payments at 31/7/2020			
14/04/2020	CPRE	36.00	
	Aldermaston CE		
14/07/2020	Primary	15.70	
			51.70
			51.70
Subtract receipts after 31st July 2020			
Net bank balances as at 3rd August 2020			<u>71987.53</u>
Bank statements 31st July 2020			
Current account		1015.31	
Business account		<u>70972.22</u>	
			<u>71987.53</u>
Difference			0.00