

ALDERMASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting 11th August 2021

Councillors Present: Mrs S Crawford (Chairman)
Mrs A Faulkner
Revd J Manley
Mr R Smith
Mr D Shirt

In attendance: Mrs C McGarvie – Clerk
7 members of the public

100/21 Open Forum – Questions from the public including any received by phone or email

Five members of the public raised concerns about the Parish Council's recent decision to remove the Skate Ramp. They said that they had a petition signed by 65 residents who would like the Skate Ramp to be retained. There is concern that there are a lot of children who used the ramp and the loss of the facility would be detrimental to their health.

The resident asserted that the cost of repair was not that great and if it allowed the ramp to be used for a few more years this would allow time for a residents group to raise funds for a new ramp.

A resident involved in the initial construction of the ramp offered to remove a panel from the base so that the condition of the timber frame could be assessed.

A view was given that the Skate Ramp had not been maintained properly but Mrs Crawford explained that the nature of the timber framed ramp means that it would only have a finite life and we have been fortunate that it has lasted 14 years. There is no evidence that the current problems with the ramp are due to poor maintenance.

101/21 Apologies for absence

Mrs Nurbhai, Mrs Woodley and Cllr Boeck gave their apologies.

102/21 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were given.

103/21 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

103.1 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 13th July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

104/21 Community Engagement -To provide an update on the working group for community engagement.

The working group has not yet met but individuals have started doing background research and the aim of the first meeting will be to discuss how to engage a representative group of residents to lead the process of producing a Parish Plan. West Berkshire Council provide guidance and a template for how to create a Parish Plan.

A Parish Council Facebook page has been set up and has 65 page followers so far.

105/21 Planning

105.1 To note receipt of new applications and make comment

21/00642/FUL – Land Adjacent to Barlows Plantation. Retrospective use of car parking area for site training

The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections but to ask that the following conditions be made

- The site is only used on Mondays to Fridays between 08:30 and 16:30.

- Floodlights are not to be used on the site.
- Given the importance of trees and vegetation in terms of their contribution to the environment and to screening, the applicant should be explicitly prohibited from removing any trees/vegetation at the application site without prior approval from West Berkshire Council.

21/01886/HOUSE – 11 Swan Drive. First floor rear extension
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections.

105.2 To note receipt of any approvals, refusals or withdrawals

See Appendix A below.

20/02527/OUTMAJ - Blacks Lake Track Racing Blacks Lake– Mrs Crawford spoke at the Eastern Area Planning Committee to object to the planning application on behalf of the Parish Council. The application was approved with 4 district councillors voting in favour, 1 against and 2 abstaining.

105.3 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 still considering what legal action to take.

Mr Smith to chase up the case with the Environment agency.

Action: RS

b) Youngs Industrial Estate removal of trees and hedgerows around the boundary of the new Screwfix unit.

Clerk raised a case with planning enforcement but they have replied saying that there were no conditions in the planning application approval which would prevent the removal of trees and hedgerows.

The Case officer has now stated that the land around the site was not part of the original planning application and therefore the private owners have the right to remove trees and vegetation.

Mrs Crawford has raised her concerns about how this planning application has been handled with District Cllr Boeck.

106/21 Highways and Footpath matters

106.1 To receive an update on the use of the Traffic Management Equipment in the Parish

The Traffic Management Equipment (TME) has been used in 4 locations in the village, Basingstoke Road (opposite Rosebourne) Church Road, Wasing Lane and Paices Hill.

The data collected shows a speeding issue along Basingstoke Road outside of Rosebourne with 75% of drivers speeding and a maximum speed of 88mph recorded. Based on this evidence, West Berkshire Council have carried out a Community Speedwatch session where they caught 50 drivers speeding in 1 hour and 20 minutes. These drivers will be sent letters by the police. Two more Community Speedwatch sessions are planned for this location in the next few months.

Church Road has been monitored in both directions. There was very little speeding going out of the village but 55% of drivers were exceeding 30mph coming into the village.

In Wasing Lane, 65% of drivers were exceeding the 30mph limit and a maximum speed of 65mph was recorded.

On Paices Hill 42% of drivers were found to be exceeding the speed limit.

These figures have been provided to the West Berkshire Council Traffic and Road safety team.

The new TME which has replaced the speed camera in The Street is recording very little speeding but it does seem to be slowing traffic down.

106.2 Wasing way cycle path

A number of residents have complained that the cycle path is overgrown and the vegetation needs to be cut back.

Wasing Estate own the land but West Berkshire normally cut back the vegetation once a year. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact West Berkshire Council to find out when the yearly cut is scheduled so that residents can be informed.

Action: Clerk

107/21 Parish Environment

107.1 To discuss quotes for the removal of the skate ramp

Two quotes have been obtained for removal of the skate ramp and turfing the area. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not go ahead with either of these quotes yet.

It was agreed Mr Smith would contact the member of the public who volunteered to have a look underneath the ramp to arrange a date when this could be done in the presence of the Clerk and a councillor. Pictures would be taken and sent to the Skate Ramp contractor for their opinion on the condition of the ramp and hopefully this will lead to a more precise prediction of how much longer the structure will last.

Action: RS/Clerk

107.2 To consider cutting back vegetation around the fountain at The Loosey

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the grass cutting contractor to quote for removing all the shrubs around the fountain, removing the ivy on the well and cutting the low branch from the Oak tree which is covering the new village sign.

Action: Clerk

107.3 To provide an update on the Kestrels Mead play area survey of residents

This item was deferred to the September meeting.

107.4 Chestnut Tree at The Forsters

A concern has been raised about the health of the Chestnut tree at The Forsters. It was agreed that pictures of the tree would be sent to the West Berkshire Tree officer for their opinion before any further action is taken.

Action: Clerk

108/21 Consultation documents requiring consideration

108.1 To consider Wildlife Trust letter re: wild verges project

It was agreed that the bag of seed would be planted on the bank at the recreation ground.

Clerk to register the Parish Council's interest in the project with the Wildlife Trust.

Action: Clerk

108.2 Bus Services Improvement Plan from West Berkshire Council

It was agreed that the Clerk should advertise the survey on Facebook, via the mailing list and also put a poster at the bus stop advising residents to contact the Clerk if they need help completing the survey.

The Parish Council will also respond to raise their concerns that the current bus service is not adequate for commuters into the area which means that there is increased traffic through the Parish with workers having no viable alternative to using their cars.

109/21 To consider the updated resilience plan

Mr Smith has provided a condensed version of the resilience plan for discussion.

It was agreed that all councillors should review the document before the next meeting. Once the document is agreed the Clerk will then share it with West Berkshire Council for their comments.

Action: All/Clerk

110/21. Reports

110.1 Clerk's report

Brimpton Parish Council are hoping to arrange a meeting with Richard Somner, Executive member for planning and have suggested that all parishes in the Aldermaston Ward ask for a joint meeting.

110.2 District Councillor's report

Cllr Boeck's report was sent to all councillors before the meeting.

110.3 To receive reports from parish council representatives on outside bodies

The Conservation Area working group have finalised the Conservation Area Appraisal report. It was agreed that the Clerk would put the report on the Parish Council website and publicise it via Facebook and the mailing list.

Action: Clerk

Mr Smith report that the Padworth Common Advisory Committee will be meeting on 14th August.

111/21 Finance

111.1 To approve payments, bank reconciliation and receipts

See appendix B below.

The payments for August were approved. Mrs Crawford and Mrs Faulkner to approve the payments online. Mrs Crawford checked the bank reconciliation against the cashbook before the meeting.

111.2 Q1 budget update

The Q1 budget update was reviewed.

It was agreed to keep the newsletter printing costs in the budget as there may be a need to do a one off printed mail drop to residents.

112/21 To receive items for information only

112.1 – Wasing Estate will be holding the Medicine Festival again this year between 19th – 23rd August. Clerk to inform residents and publicise the community engagement phone line to be used if there are issues during the event.

Action: Clerk

112.2 The Aldermaston and Wasing Show will be held on Sunday 5th September. Clerk to put poster on Facebook page.

Action: Clerk

113/21. The next meeting will be on 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Signed by Chairman _____

Date _____

Appendix A
Aldermaston Parish Council –August 2021
Planning Applications for Consideration

1.	21/00642/FUL – Land Adjacent to Barlows Plantation. Retrospective use of car parking area for site training	Deadline for comments 5 th August but extension granted
2	21/01886/HOUSE – 11 Swan Drive. First floor rear extension	Deadline for comments 24 th August

Planning Application Decisions

1	20/02527/OUTMAJ - Blacks Lake Track Racing Blacks Lake Paices Hill Outline Planning Application for the construction of an industrial estate – MODIFIED PLAN SUBMITTED	Approved
2	21/01128/FULD – Land adjacent to Padworth Farm 1 new dwelling	Refused
3	21/01257/HOUSE – Raghill Cottage, Rag Hill. Addition of pitched room to existing garage	Approved
4	21/01115/FUL – Upper Church Farm, Rag Hill. Change of use to equestrian	Approved

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

1	21/01178/HOUSE – Silver Dene, Reading Road. Erection of ancillary accommodation
2	APP/W0340/W/20/3265942 – Appeal 19/01063/COMIND Construction of Class A1 foodstore with associated car parking, access and landscaping – Lidl – Hearing held 7 th July , decision not yet made.
3	21/01487/COMIND – Rosebourne, Station Road. Erection of open sided canopy extension, new garden display area and 42 additional car parking spaces.

Appendix B

Meeting Report 10th August 2021

Bank Balance as at 31/7/2021	Cashbook balance as at 31/7/2021	Cashbook balance after new payments made
£38,980.35	£38,980.35	£38,483.85

New items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
SO	Mrs C McGarvie	August salary	288.00
EP	Triangle Management Ltd	Grass cutting July	208.5
TOTAL			£496.50

Payments made since last meeting

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
SO	Mrs C McGarvie	July salary	288.00
EP	CPRE	subscription	36.00
EP	Triangle Management Co Ltd	Grass cutting	208.50
EP	R.C. Saunders	installation of village sign	534.00
EP	Aldermaston Parish Hall	Main hall hire	14.00
EP	Paul Taylor (Handyman services)	Aldermaston wharf noticeboard refurb.	75.00
TOTAL			£1,155.50

Receipts since last meeting date

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
09/07/2021	Lloyds bank	interest	0.31
TOTAL			£0.31

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			£0.00

Receipts not yet cleared/or on statement

Receipt date	Payer	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			£0.00

Appendix C

Bank reconciliation - as at 4th August 2021

Balance from cashbook spreadsheet		38980.35
Add unrepresented payments at 31st July 2021		
		0.00
Subtract receipts after 31st July 2021		0.00
Net bank balances as at 4th August 2021		38980.35
Bank statements 31st July 2021		
Current account	1770.53	
Business account	37209.82	
		38980.35
Difference		0.00