

ALDERMASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 13th June 2023

Councillors present: Mrs S Crawford (Chair)
Mrs A Faulkner
Mrs T Nurbhai
Mr D Shirt
Mr R Smith
Mrs A Woodley

In attendance: District Cllr D Boeck
Mr D Farndell (Clerk)
Mr A Reed
Mr R Botoi
3 Members of the public

71/23 Open Forum

71.1 Mr Botoi of P&E Plant Hire attended on behalf of PC Harrington Ltd (owners of Padworth Sawmills) and took questions from the Council regarding concerns about HGV traffic accessing the site using unsuitable routes, driving too fast and outside normal business hours. He explained that, as well as P&E, there are 8 third party tenants operating from Padworth Sawmills and they are responsible for most traffic to/from the site. P&E itself generates a low volume of HGV traffic but it is clearing up the site and installing drainage requiring some deliveries of aggregate, however the job is nearly complete. Mr Botoi is aware of problems with M4 Transport, who are under a warning from the site owner, but was not aware of problems regarding GTS and Berkshire Asphalt. New gates and security cameras are to be installed on the site which means that the direction of HGVs leaving or entering the site can be monitored and those businesses not complying with the route approved by the traffic commissioners can be challenged and, ultimately, removed from the site. Mr Botoi apologised for the problems arising but they will do their best to prevent further problems and any issues can be reported directly to him. Cllr Smith asked if PC Harrington Ltd intended to regularise use of the site with WBC because at the moment buildings do not have official planning consent. Mr Botoi replied only that they were dealing with Safety Officers.

71.2 Mr Reed attended to update the Council on the proposed new skate ramp. He had been disappointed by the number of people that had thought the ramp had been cancelled due to the decision by WBC that the proposal did not fit within permitted development rules (23/00440/CERTP). Although he will be moving from the parish in due course, he has recruited two residents already involved in community activities to take the project forward, both on the planning and funding fronts. 4 other residents have agreed to get involved with raising the finance. When questioned about the funds and whether a charity would be formed to handle them, Mr Reed didn't think so at this stage as the contractor normally works through the parish councils. He and the two new leads will be involved in a meeting with the preferred contractor in the next 10 days to discuss the next steps, including what further paperwork is required. APC agreed to approach the case officer who considered the permitted development application to see if they will offer any advice on the paperwork required.

72/23 Apologies for absence

Rev'd J Manley

73/23 Declarations of interest

None

74/23 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2023 were approved subject to a correction to Mr Shirt's initial.

75/23 Planning

75.1 To note receipt of new applications and make comment

23/01265/House – Greenlands, Silchetser Road: proposed rear extension to ground floor.

The Parish Council resolved to raise no objection.

23/01132/House & 23/01134/LBC – 34 The Street, Aldermaston: erection of a new steel and glass car port and new metal fence, refurbishment and opening of existing bread oven. Proposed single storey rear extension and side extension over garage.

The Parish Council resolved by a majority to object to the car port on the grounds of its visibility from the road and the materials not being in keeping with the architectural vernacular of the conservation area. The Parish Council raised no objection to the other elements of the plan.

75.2 To note receipt of any approvals, refusals or withdrawals – see Appendix A

23/00440/CERTP – Skate ramp Playing Field Station Road: to discuss the next steps following the response from the Planning Authority regarding the new skate ramp.

The Parish Council resolved to continue to support the project (see also 71.2 above).

AP – SC to contact the planning officer in line with 71.2

21/02447/CERTP – Rag Hill: To discuss planning enforcement concerns regarding development.

Whilst the Parish Council accepts that here is little it can do about the determination it feels it does highlight a lacuna in planning enforcement whereby living accommodation can be created by a mobile home when full planning permission would be refused due to safety provisions within the EPZ.

22/03132/FUL – Woodstock, Paices Hill: To discuss the next steps following the refusal of permission for the development of the site.

The Parish Council is pleased by the determination of the Planning Authority. Cllr Boeck advised that the next steps for the site and the related spoil depend upon the intentions of the owners. He will ask Eric Owens to specifically ask about the spoil heap as it is located on adjoining land and creeping toward the A340.

76/23 Highways and Footpath matters

76.1 New footpath or highway issues

76.1.a) Wasing Way cycle path: concerns have been raised about the overgrown nature of the cycle path, especially the health and safety risk to children posed by nettles, hemlock and brambles. As the school bus was removed on the understanding that children from Aldermaston Wharf would use the cycle way to get to school, Aldermaston Parish Council feel that the maintenance of the cycle way should be a higher priority. DB provided the names of contacts within WBC with responsibility for rights of way and the head of education and the head of countryside.

AP – AF to draft a letter to go to the heads to try and force the clearance higher up the priority list of WBC.

76.1.b) Frouds Lane: concerns were raised about the use of the lane by HGVs and buses when there is a weight limitation on the bridge

AP – Clerk to investigate what can be done

76.1.c) Fisherman's Lane: the footpath has become severely overgrown.

AP – Clerk to raise with WBC

76.1.d) Potholes outside Aldermaston School: AW requested people to report them to WBC through the online system to drive the repair up the priority list.

76.2 To discuss heavy traffic concerns to and from Padworth Sawmills (Previous Minute Item 79/22.2)

See 71.1 above.

77/23 Parish Environment

77.1 To discuss letter from the Canal and River Trust regarding the dog waste bin at the Wharf – see letter attached
The Parish Council resolved to investigate the possibility of taking on the bin for dog waste by the canal.

AP – SC to contact the Canal & River Trust to discuss further. Clerk to investigate the cost of adding the emptying the bin to the current contract.

77.2 To consider CIL expenditure within the parish

As a first step the Councillors are to consider the draft policy prepared by the Chair; proposed policy is based on government guidelines and adopted policies/processes of similar UK Parish Councils. Once agreed it will be added to the Parish Council website along with facilities for collecting ideas from the community.

AP – all councillors to consider and feedback on the draft CIL policy to SC

78/23 AWE to include updates from LLC

Nothing to report

79/23 Reports

79.1 Clerk's report

79.1.a) The requested metrics from the website indicate the top 5 pages are:

- Who we are and what we do – average of 1,170 hits pcm
- Latest News – average of 489 hits pcm
- News – average 191 hits pcm
- Parish Noticeboard – average 162 hits pcm
- Community Information – average 109 hits pcm

However, these averages are based on total number of 'hits' since the creation of the item and do not reflect any changes over time.

In addition, the FaceBook page has 140 followers and there are 219 recipients on the email circulation list (of which approx. 65% open the email).

79.1.b) The original contractor for the lock up has finally been contacted and they have confirmed that they do not wish to complete the work. Replacement contractors are to be sought.

79.1.c) The contractors for the memorial fountain have confirmed they will start the work before the end of June.

79.1.d) The suppliers of the agility trail have provided further information to remedy the splits in the wooden frame.

79.2 District Councillor's report

The Parish Council congratulated Cllr Boeck on his re-election. The report hasn't reached all intended recipients due to the email addresses used but this will be corrected and re-circulated. The change in administration looks like it might lead to the re-working of the local plan which will lead to delays in housing development whilst they get to grips with local restrictions.

79.3 To receive reports from parish council representatives on outside bodies

None received.

80/23 Finance

80.1 To approve payments, bank reconciliation and receipts

Agreed

80.2 To discuss re-appointment of the internal auditor

Agreed

80.3 To discuss request from West Berkshire Citizens Advice for grant funding towards their activities – see request attached

Agreed grants are normally given direct to CAB in Tadley so this central request will be declined.

AP – Clerk to reply

81/23 To receive items for information only

81.1 AW raised an issue regarding the bin in the recreation ground and the ease of access by birds to the rubbish therein and wondered if there were any other designs that might restrict their access.

AP – Clerk to enquire

81.2 AF raised the issue of including events at Wasing within the Parish Council's Newsletter. SC felt that, as residents were offered a discount, it was a reasonable thing to do but other events would not be included.

81.3 TN raised the issue of obstructed sightlines and overgrown verges at the junction between Kestrels Mead and Reading Road.

AP – Clerk to enquire about cutting schedule

81.4 DS confirmed the school has had its Ofsted inspection but the result is currently confidential.

81.5 Planning application 23/01389/LBC – 22B The Street: internal alterations to create a new en-suite. This application was received too late for inclusion in the formal agenda but the Parish Council discussed it. The decision to be formally recorded in July Meeting.

82/23 To confirm the date of the next meeting as 11th July 2023 at 7.30pm

Confirmed

Signed _____

Date _____

Appendix A

Aldermaston Parish Council – May 2023

Planning Applications for Consideration

	23/01265/House – Greenlands, Silchetser Road: proposed rear extension to ground floor	20/06/23
	23/001132/House & 23/01134/LBC – 34 The Street, Aldermaston: erection of a new steel and glass car port and new metal fence, refurbishment and opening of existing bread oven Proposed single storey rear extension and side extension over garage	09/06/23 (extended to 15/06/23)

Planning Application Decisions

	22/03132/FUL – Woodstock, Paices Hill. Part retrospective: planning application for reduction in levels and demolition of storage unit. Permission is also sought for the erection of 1 storage unit and retaining wall.	REFUSED
	23/00972/DEMO: AWE Aldermaston. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Partial Demolition and Clearance Works within the Central Development Area.	Prior approval NOT required
	23/00160/FUL – 48 Paices Hill – Section 73a remove/vary conditions	GRANTED
	22/02079/FUL – Falcon Garage, Burghfield Road – Additional jet wash bay and new shopfront	REFUSED

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

	22/02341/FUL – Land west of Frouds Lane. Out of Parish – Woolhampton PC Storage building expansion of Ryan Alexander Assoc.
	APP/W0340/X/22/3297678 - 21/01225/CERTE - Chestnut Coppice, Rag Hill, Certificate of Lawful Use for the continued use of the property as a live/work unit. Waiting for appeal date.
	21/00642/FUL – Land Adjacent to Barlows Plantation. Retrospective use of car parking area for site training
	23/00717/FULMAJ – Barlows Park, Silchester Road. Proposed food preparation and Laundry area
	23/00388/FUL & 23/00389/LBC - North Lodge Church Road Proposed demolition of existing extension and replacement with new single storey extension and associated amendments to the landscape to create a new residential curtilage and provision of parking spaces.
	23/00394/FUL, 23/00395/LBC - North West Lodge Church Road Proposed demolition of existing extension and replacement with new single storey extension and associated amendments to the landscape to create a new residential curtilage and provision of parking spaces.
	23/00756/HOUSE: 10 Swan Drive Aldermaston. Single storey rear extension, side extension over existing garage

Appendix B

Bank reconciliation - as at 7th June 2023					
Balance from cashbook spreadsheet				101326.30	
Add unpresented payments at 31 May 2023					
			0.00		
				0.00	
Subtract receipts after 31st May 2023					
			992.00	992.00	
Net bank balances as at 31st May 2023				100334.30	
Bank statements 31st May 2023					
	Current account		4406.99		
	Business account		95927.31		
				100334.30	
Difference				0.00	

Appendix C

meeting report 13th June 2023

Bank Balance as at 31/05/2023	Cashbook balance as at 31/05/2023	Cashbook balance after new payments made
£100,334.30	£100,334.30	£99,433.70

New items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
EP	Triangle Management Co. Ltd	Grass cutting etc (VAT £46.50)	279.00
EP	Clerk	Salary June	248.60
EP	HMRC	Tax (June)	62.20
EP	HMRC	Tax (May)	62.20
EP	Clerk	Salary (May)	248.60
TOTAL			£900.60

Payments made since last meeting

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
EP	BALC	Sunscription fees	261.16
EP	PPH	Portaloos - Coronation picnic (VAT £14)	84.00
EP	AIPC	Internal audit	150.00
EP	Triangle Management	Grass cutting etc (VAT £46.50)	279.00
EP	Keystone Law	Legal advice (VAT £480)	2,880.00
EP	Playsafety Ltd	Play area annual inspection (VAT £ 19.90)	119.40
EP	BHIB	Council Insurance	529.43
EP	Aldermaston Village Hall	Room hire Jan - April	72.00
EP	West Berks Council	Contribution (grounds main) (VAT £34.49)	206.95
EP	West Berks Council	Contribution (WB libraries)	500.00
TOTAL			£5,081.94

Receipts since last meeting date

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
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18/05/2023	resident	Woodstock contribution	350.00
01/06/2023	resident	Woodstock contribution	175.00
05/06/2023	resident	Woodstock contribution	292.00
05/05/2023	resident	Woodstock contribution	175.00
06/06/2023	resident	Woodstock contribution	175.00
06/06/2023	resident	Woodstock contribution	175.00
09/05/2023	Lloyds	Interest	54.50
TOTAL			£1,396.50

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 D – Funding request from CAB 31/05/2023

Dear Parish Council,

I am writing to ask if you would be prepared to make a donation to Citizens Advice West Berkshire, which would greatly contribute to our continued efforts in assisting the people of West Berkshire. While we are part of National Citizens Advice, we operate as a local charity and rely on local fundraising initiatives to ensure the sustainability of our services.

In the year 2022-23, we helped 2,594 clients in the West Berkshire Council community and achieved financial outcomes of over £335,000 on behalf of these clients.

Our dedicated teams specialize in guiding clients through a diversity of areas, including housing, employment, family and consumer issues. We take great pride in the expertise of our Carers Team and Money Advice Team, both of which have recently been awarded the prestigious external Advice Quality Mark for their exceptional work in providing advice and casework at a complex level, particularly in benefits and debt matters.

The impact, for our clients, of receiving timely and appropriate advice has been well documented and supported by evidence. The right advice, at the right moment, can make a significant difference in someone's life and change their circumstances for the better. Our support also ensures equality for those who may face additional challenges, guaranteeing that they have the same access and opportunities as others.

We are committed to continuously improving our services to meet the ever-changing needs of our clients.

In order to be able to provide essential support for the residents of West Berkshire, it is crucial that we ensure our core expenses, such as overheads and operational costs, are adequately covered.

To make a donation, please consider using the link for the Good Exchange - <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/20051/citizens-advice-west-berkshire/ask-us-west-berkshire-citizen-advice> - as Greenham Trust match donations through this pound for pound.

If you would prefer to send a cheque, please write it out to West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau and send to: Citizens Advice West Berkshire, 2nd floor, Broadway House, 4-8 The Broadway, Northbrook Street, Newbury RG14 1BA.

Thank you for considering our request, and we sincerely hope you will join us in our mission to support and uplift those facing challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Isabel Esperança

Chief Officer, Citizens Advice West Berkshire

Citizens Advice West Berkshire

General: 01635 516605

Carers/disability benefits: 01635 516609

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