

ALDERMASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting 9th February 2021

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

In attendance: District Cllr D Boeck
Mrs C McGarvie – Clerk
5 members of the public including Mrs Boott and Mrs Jones representing the Parish Hall Committee

14/21 Open Forum

14.1 Parish Hall Grant request

Mrs Boott and Mrs Jones gave an update on the current status of the Parish Hall finances. A £10,000 grant was received from West Berkshire during the first lockdown, together with a further £1,300. This has been used to pay for the caretaker and the usual running costs but there are some funds left. Due to the current lockdown there are no bookings at the hall and therefore no income. An additional grant of £4000 has been received from West Berkshire District Council to cover the current lockdown, but it is unknown when the lockdown will be lifted and things “normalise” Expenditure is approximately £13,000 in a normal year. There are plans for internal refurbishment work including replacing a floor and electrical work. This work was planned for 2020 but delayed due to the Coronavirus lockdown. Fundraising opportunities have been very limited. Mr. Smith asked what the Parish Hall’s current cash balance is. Mrs Boott will ask their treasurer to provide this information.

14.2 Anti-social behaviour Kestrels Mead

Two residents of Kestrels Mead gave accounts of anti-social behaviour that they are experiencing in the area. The children’s play area in Kestrels Mead is being used by teenagers as a meeting place. On 31st January there was an incident in the adjacent field where a derelict shed was set on fire. The AWE fire brigade dealt with the fire but the police say there was no evidence of suspicious activity.

There is also general concern about incidences of knife crime in Tadley. There is currently a petition started by Tadley residents to reopen the police station at Mulford’s Hill in Tadley.

The play area is not felt to be suitable for any age group so not well used which may be exacerbating the problem.

The MOD police do patrol the area but not as much as they used to. Mrs Crawford has spoken to MOD police and they have agreed to patrol the area when they can.

Mr Smith asked whether the landowner could be approached to put up a barrier between the field and the play area.

Mr Shirt suggested that residents could alert neighbours of issues on the Aldermaston Community (Neighbourhood Watch) Facebook group.

15/21 Apologies for absence

None received.

16/21 Declarations of Interest

Revd Manley has declared an interest in the grant request from the PCC.

17/21 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

17.1 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2021

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2021 are a true and accurate record. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a future date.

17.2 Review of Action Tracker

82.3 Repair to fence in Maida's Way – West Berkshire Council have been to site and do not consider the fence to be a hazard so there are no grounds for an abatement notice to be served. Residents will need to contact the landowner to ask for the fence to be mended.

90.7 Review of Conservation Area – The group held an initial meeting last week.

7.4/21 Additional dog bin request -

Beenham Paris Council have taken out a contract to have their dog waste bins emptied by a private contractor fortnightly.

Clerk to find out if West Berkshire Council will be stopping their dog waste bin emptying service in 2022.

Action : Clerk

10.2/21 Laptops for school

Mrs Faulkner reported that Aldermaston Primary School have received an allocation of laptops from the government and will be applying for more.

17.3 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda or Action Tracker.

None

18/21 Falcon Fields/Kestrels Mead Anti-Social Behaviour

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the PCSO and Thames Valley Police to raise residents' concerns about the increase in anti-social behaviour in the area.

Clerk to contact the Building Communities Together Team at West Berkshire Council for help and advice on the issue.

Clerk to contact West Berkshire Council Grounds Maintenance department to find out what can be done to improve facilities at the park in Kestrels Mead and to deter anti-social behaviour.

Action :Clerk

It was suggested that the local residents continue to also liaise with Tadley Town Council, who should provide a conduit to the Hampshire constabulary

19/21 Councillor Vacancy

Following Mr. Hinton's resignation, the required notices have been published to advertise the vacancy and the monitoring officer has been informed. The monitoring officer will inform the Clerk on 10th February whether the vacancy can be filled by co-option. The casual vacancy can then be advertised to be filled by co-option with a closing date of 3rd March for applications.

20/21 Planning

20.1 To note receipt of new applications and make comment

There were no new applications.

Mr Smith asked about the process for consultation on a Form B application with reference to application 21/00117/FORMB. Cllr Boeck has asked the planning department to provide some guidance on this.

Action : DB

20.2 To note receipt of any approvals/refusals/withdrawals –

It was noted that the Shalford Farm Appeal regarding application 20/00737/COMIND has been dismissed by the planning inspectorate.

An appeal has been started regarding the Lidl application 19/01063/COMIND but there has been no official start date for the appeal from the planning inspectorate yet.

20.3 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.

The latest update from the Environment

Agency is that they have visited site recently and submitted evidence to their legal team.

However, there is a backlog in the courts so there is no court date yet. They are also looking into several issues in the area. The Environment Agency have advised residents to report any run off of contaminated liquid to their incident hotline 0800 80 70 60.

Mrs Faulkner reported that there are still problems with Hill View being used as a car park for HGVs and commercial vehicles. The vehicles have now been moved inside the site but no response has been received from planning enforcement. Mrs Faulkner to send the details to Cllr Boeck so that he can follow up with the planning enforcement department.

Action :AF/DB

Mr. Smith has contacted the Environment Agency about the site because of the raised land levels and the impact on drainage. Mr Smith will report back to the Parish Council when a response is received from the Environment Agency.

Action : RS

21/21 Highways and Footpath matters

21.1 To receive an update on the purchase of a SID, shared with neighbouring parishes

The Speed Indicator Device is on order. The supplier has given an expected delivery date of between 3 and 4 weeks from today.

It has been suggested that any concerns about the police response to speeding could be raised with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber.

21.2 Reading Road safety concerns

A resident raised concern about the safety of Reading Road and the number of incidents that had been raised by the MOD police compared to the number reported to Thames Valley Police.

However, Thames Valley Police will only log an incident if there was an injury to a person. Mr Shirt to respond to resident explaining this.

Action : DS

21.3 Local Transport Plan

Clerk to ask West Berkshire Council when they will be consulting on the Local Transport Plan Freight strategy.

Action : Clerk

21.4 HGVs on A340

Another resident has raised the issue of HGV traffic in The Street causing vibrations in his property.

22/21 Parish Environment

22.1 To provide an update on the fitness equipment for the recreation ground

The equipment has been ordered and a project manager assigned. The supplier currently expects work to start on 1st March, subject to a site survey and the right weather conditions. The equipment will need to be paid for on delivery and then installation costs after the work has been satisfactorily completed.

22.2 To provide an update on repair work to the Lockup

The Listed building consent is awaiting a decision by West Berkshire Council and the deadline for a decision has been extended to 18th February.

22.3 To provide an update on the Village Sign Project

The first draft of the village sign design has been provided and circulated to residents for their input. The feedback has been generally positive with a few suggested changes. Mrs Crawford to contact the designer to request a new draft incorporating some of the suggested changes.

Action : SC

23/21 .Consultation documents requiring consideration

23.1 Minerals and Waste local Plan West Berkshire Council consultation

Mr Shirt has provided a draft response to the consultation which Mrs Crawford will add to before it is submitted to meet the deadline of 15th February. It was agreed that the Parish Council's concerns about the increase in HGV traffic on the A340 should be highlighted in the response.

Action : SC/DS/Clerk

24/21 AWE to include updates from LLC

The tree which is leaning dangerously against a telecoms pole next to Rag Hill was reported to AWE but they confirmed that it was not on their land. The issue has now been passed to BT by West Berkshire Council. Clerk to chase up again as nothing has been done.

Action : Clerk

25/21 Reports

25.1 Clerk's report

The Parish Council website and Clerk's email address were successfully moved to a different hosting site. This will increase the amount of email storage space available.

25.2 District Councillor's report

Cllr Boeck has provided a monthly report which will be made available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Boeck explained that the Covid response is being delivered by partnerships between the Local Authority, Primary Care Network , Clinical Commissioning Group , the Police and other agencies. The Local Authority are co-ordinating the response but are not wholly responsible for it.

Mr. Shirt reported that the vaccination programme seemed to be going well in the Pangbourne area. Parishioners receive health services from both West Berkshire and Hampshire GP surgeries.

Mr. Smith asked about the situation regarding school places for critical workers. Cllr Boeck explained that children can be offered a place at school if either parent is a key worker and the definition of a key worker has been broadened since the first lockdown. This has led to increased pressure on schools and some parents have been asked to keep children at home if they can, even if they are eligible for a place.

26/21 Finance

26.1 To approve payments, bank reconciliation and receipts

See Appendix B below. Mr Shirt confirmed that the bank reconciliation had been checked before the meeting.

26.2 To consider grant requests from Aldermaston Parish Hall and Aldermaston & Wasing PCC

The Parish Hall have requested a grant of £1500 towards general upkeep of the hall.

The Parish Hall committee have been asked to provide more information about their current financial position.

Clerk to find out whether the Parish Council could purchase items for the Parish Hall and reclaim the VAT to reduce their costs.

It was decided to defer the decision on this request until the March meeting.

Action : Clerk

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) have requested a grant of £750 towards the churchyard grass cutting.

Revd. Manley confirmed that the churchyard is still open for burials. The grass cutting contract has not gone to tender for many years and they currently use the same contractor as the Parish Council. They have received no income from weddings this year due to the lockdown.

Clerk to find out if the Parish Council could pay the grass cutting bill directly and reclaim the VAT to reduce costs. The decision on whether to award the grant was deferred to the March meeting.

Action : Clerk

Clerk to provide a list of grant applications to be considered at the March meeting.

Action : Clerk

27/21 To receive items for information only

27.1 West Berkshire Council are considering building a Solar Farm near Grazeley.

27.2 West Berkshire Council are in discussions with the owners of Pond cottage regarding access to the Common.

27.3 Mrs Faulkner reported that there is a road drainage issue in Spring Lane which is getting worse and causing the road to be hazardous in the icy conditions. Mrs Faulkner to provide all the details to the Clerk so that it can be followed up with West Berkshire Council.

Action : Clerk

27.4 Revd Manley raised concern about overuse of the permitted paths in the Manor House Grounds. There have also been incidences of dogs running loose. It was agreed that Mr. Shirt would contact the owners to make them aware of the situation. Mrs Crawford to include a notice to residents that dogs should be kept on a lead in the grounds.

27.5 Revd Manley reported that she had been a victim of a potential scam whereby a person claiming to be an engineer from Samsung visiting to fix a dishwasher entered her home with no id or mask and took a photo. The incident has been reported to Action Fraud and Mr. Shirt will circulate similar warnings as they are received from Neighbourhood Watch

27.6 The West Berkshire District Parish Conference is scheduled to take place on 11th March via video conference. Councillors should let the Clerk know if they would like to attend.

Action: All Councillors

27.7 The next national census will be held on 21st March.

27.8 Aldermaston recreation ground is not registered with land registry. This is not an immediate concern but it was agreed that it may need to be registered in the future. The Parish Council will wait for more guidance from HM Land Registry

27.9 The Annual Parish meeting will be held on 13th April. Clerk to ask local groups to attend if possible and to provide an annual report.

Action : Clerk

14 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm.

Signed by Chairman _____

Date _____

Appendix A

Aldermaston Parish Council –February 2021 Planning Applications for Consideration

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Planning Application Decisions

1	20/02792/HOUSE – Silver Birches, Reading Road. Erection of a detached garage	Approved
2	20/02757/FULD – Site of former Silvertrees, Red Lane – Erection of replacement dwelling and new car port. Variation of condition 2 of application 18/02489/FULD allowed on appeal	Approved
3	20/02559/HOUSE - The Dene The Street - Construction of a domestic inground swimming pool, pool hut and plant shed	Approved
4	20/02218/FUL – Burnt Pine, Reading Road, Padworth Common Demolition of existing bungalow, 2 bedroom annexe and workshop and replacement with two storey dwelling, triple car garage with 2bedroom annexe and workshop	Withdrawn

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

1	20/02324/HOUSE – 2 Mill Cottages, Frouds Lane. Change roof style from full hipped to hip/gable
2	20/03007/FUL – Upper Church Farm. Erection of private stable yard. Change of use to equestrian
3	20/03027/HOUSE – 5 Church Road. Two storey side/rear extensions.
4	20/03060/HOUSE , 20/03097/LBC2 – Church Lodge, Church Road. Single storey rear extension and internal alterations.
5	20/02665/COMIND– Youngs industrial estate – variation of condition 3 trading hours or previously approved app 20/01220/COMIND – Opening hours requested changed.
6	20/02742/LBC2 – Lock Up North of Hinds Head Hotel , Wasing Lane repointing of lock up
7	20/02527/OUTMAJ - Blacks Lake Track Racing Blacks Lake Paices Hill Outline Planning Application for the construction of an industrial estate
8	20/02497/OUTD - Willow Mead ,Mill Lane, Padworth - Outline application for the erection of four detached dwellings for self/custom builders.
9	20/01995/MDOPO – Modification of planning obligations Maidas Way
10	19/01293/FULEXT and 19/01294/LBC2- Conversion of Manor House and Portland House to residential use.
11	19/01896/FUL and 19/01897/LBC2 – Change of use of 'Bridge Lodge' to a residential dwelling

Appendix B

Meeting Report 9th February 2021

Bank Balance as at 31/1/2021	Cashbook balance as at 02/2/2021	Cashbook balance after new payments made
£69,280.37	£69,280.37	£68,978.38

New items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
EP	Mrs C McGarvie	February salary	288.00
EP	Mrs C McGarvie	springback binder	13.99
TOTAL			£301.99

Payments made since last meeting

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
EP	Triangle Management Co Ltd	Goal Post Sockets	132.00
EP	Sportmark Group Ltd	Goal posts	834.00
EP	Digital House Md Ltd	Annual SSL certificate	90.00
EP	Digital House Md Ltd	Transfer of website	60.00
TOTAL			£1,116.00

Receipts since last meeting date

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
11/01/2021	Lloyds bank	Interest	0.61
TOTAL			£0.61

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 2nd February 2021

Balance from cashbook spreadsheet		69280.37
Add unrepresented payments at 31st January 2021		
		0.00
Subtract receipts after 31st December 2020		
Net bank balances as at 2nd February 2021		69280.37
Bank statements 31st January 2021		
Current account	1302.78	
Business account	67977.59	
		69280.37
Difference		0.00