

ALDERMASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting 12th January 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

In attendance: Laura Farris MP for Newbury
District Cllr D Boeck
Mrs C McGarvie – Clerk
6 members of the public including Andrew Perkins, Chief Executive, Wasing Estate

1/21 Open Forum

Laura Farris, Member of Parliament for Newbury, introduced herself and invited questions.

Mr. Shirt gave an overview of Aldermaston Parish and the Parish Council.

Mr. Shirt raised the issue of HGVs passing through the village which is a conservation area and explained that the Parish Council have adopted a policy of objecting to any planning applications that have the potential to increase the number of HGVs on the A340. Cllr Boeck explained that the A340 is a strategic route and an important route for AWE. Laura Farris indicated that she would be willing to support the Parish Council with any efforts to resolve this issue.

Speeding is an issue in the Parish and the Parish Council have been working with West Berkshire Council and neighbouring parishes to purchase a Speed Indicator Device. Laura Farris stated that she would be happy to assist with any issues of enforcement by Thames Valley Police if necessary.

West Berkshire District Council follow government instructions whereby Planning is statutory but its associated enforcement is not. Planning Enforcement seems as a consequence to be under-resourced, and this has led to breaches not being addressed within time limits. It appears that easier issues are addressed but not more complicated ones. Laura Farris agreed to take this up with the planning department.

Mr. Shirt explained that AWE is generally a good neighbour, and the Parish Council participate in the AWE Local Liaison Committee. The DEPZ restricts residential development the area. Laura Farris indicated that AWE have secured a significant new contract with the MOD.

Mrs Crawford pointed out that it is unclear whether development can go ahead within the DEPZ area which leads to developers purchasing land and not realising that there are likely to be restrictions on development. Laura Farris agreed to raise this with the planning team.

Mr Smith asked about the programme of Covid vaccinations and raised concern that there are differences in the speed of residents being vaccinated depending on what GP surgery they are registered with. This has led to some residents aged 75+ being vaccinated before those who are aged 80+. He also pointed out that the latest advice about anaphylaxis and vaccinations has not been getting through to the PCNs. Laura Farris explained how the vaccinations are being distributed and that there may be some initial issues but in general the programme is going well.

Cllr Boeck raised the issue of insufficient funding for Early Years provision. Laura Farris has raised this issue in a letter to the Department of Education today.

Mr. Shirt mentioned that the planning application for Aldermaston Manor has been ongoing for 2 years and Laura Farris agreed to also raise this with the West Berkshire Planning department.

20/03007/FUL – Upper Church Farm

A neighbour spoke about planning application 20/03007/FUL -Upper Church Farm (erection of a private stable yard). The main concern raised is that the development will result in a loss of privacy. The boundary is approximately 50 metres from the neighbour's property (Chestnut Coppice) with a sparse hedge between them. They are also concerned about the potential of noise from the horse walker which will be near the boundary. The proposed barn will block their view to the South West. A concern was also raised that the development may be used commercially in the future which would increase the amount of traffic to the site.

The architect for application 20/03007/FUL spoke about the application and explained why the location had been chosen. He provided assurances that the development is for private use and that he could ask the owners if they would be willing to plant an additional screening hedge. He also said that the noise of the horse walker would not be heard at the road.

20/01060/LQN – Wasing Estate Premises Licence application

Andrew Perkins, Chief Executive, Wasing Estate explained that the licence application is for events in the Woodlands area of the estate. They normally apply for temporary events licences but would like to have a blanket licence to cover multiple events they may hold there. The licence would allow up to 25 days of events a year with a maximum of 4999 people. An independent noise management company have been employed. There will be noise monitoring stations for any event held and a dedicated number for residents to call which will be manned during any event. An event management plan will have to be submitted to West Berkshire Council for any event held. The licence does not allow for the sale of alcohol at the events.

AWE

AWE will be making a representation to West Berkshire District Council regarding the proposed local plan to request that they include a policy on development within the DEPZ.

2/21 Apologies for absence

Mrs Woodley gave her apologies. Mr Hinton was present during Open Forum and he gave his apologies for the remainder of the meeting.

3/21 Declarations of Interest

Mr Shirt declared an interest in the planning application for 5 Church Road as a close neighbour and did not take part in the discussion on this item.

Mr. Smith declared that he owns property near to Upper Church Farm but this was considered to be a non-pecuniary interest and he therefore did take part in the discussion of this item.

4/21. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

4.1 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2020

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December were a true and accurate record. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a future date.

4.2 Review of Action Tracker

The Action Tracker was reviewed.

76.4.1 The cyclepath signs at the ends of the Wasing Way cyclepath have now been installed.

76.4.2 Clerk to update the action to include the Wasing Lane footpath. Clerk to determine whether the new footpath along Wasing Lane will be entirely on WBC Highways land or whether it will be partly on Wasing Estate land.

Action : Clerk

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

No matters arising.

5/21 Planning

5.1 To note receipt of new applications and make comment

New Premises Licence Application - Wasing Park, Aldermaston , Reading - Reference **20/01060/LQN**
It was agreed to respond with no objections. Clerk to clarify that the licence is for 25 days of events rather than 25 separate events which could be longer than a day.

20/02792/HOUSE – Silver Birches, Reading Road. Erection of a detached garage
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections.

20/02324/HOUSE – 2 Mill Cottages, Frouds Lane. Change roof style from full hipped to hip/gable
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no Objections.

20/03007/FUL – Upper Church Farm. Erection of private stable yard. Change of use to equestrian.
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections provided that the applicant is required to provide adequate screening at the boundary to protect the neighbour's privacy and to prevent any noise nuisance from the proposed horse walker. It should also be a condition that the site remains in private use.

20/03027/HOUSE – 5 Church Road. Two storey side/rear extensions.
Extension on either side of the house.
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections.

20/03060/HOUSE ,20/03097/LBC2 – Church Lodge, Church Road. Single storey rear extension and internal alterations.
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections.

20/02265/COMIND– Youngs industrial estate – variation of condition 3 trading hours or previously approved app 20/01220/COMIND – Opening hours requested have been changed again. The Parish Council resolved not to comment.

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

5.3 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. 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.

Mr Smith reported that a response had been received from the Planning Enforcement department which he will review and provide an update for the next meeting.

Mrs Faulkner has reported an increase in commercial lorries on the site and parking in the garden of Hill View to planning enforcement. They have not responded yet but vehicles have been moved. No further action will be taken until the response from planning enforcement has been received. Mrs Faulkner is still waiting for an update from planning enforcement.

- b) Rag Hill cottage – Mrs Faulkner reported that planning enforcement have contacted the planning agent and they said that the log cabin is being used by a close relative. Current Covid restrictions mean that planning enforcement cannot do an onsite inspection. Mrs Faulkner reported that the planning enforcement will take no more action on this issue as they believe there is not enough evidence.

6/21 Highways and Footpath matters

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

The MOU has been signed by all the participating parishes. The order for the Speed Indicator Device has been made today.

6.2 Drains in The Street and Wasing Lane

It has been reported that the drains in the The Street and Wasing Lane need to be emptied. Clerk to raise a case with West Berkshire Council.

Action: Clerk

6.3 Overgrown hedge on A340

It has been reported that there is a hedge on the A340 opposite Malthouse Cottages which is overgrown. Clerk to raise with West Berkshire Council so they can instruct the landowner to cut the hedge.

Action: Clerk

7/21 Parish Environment

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

Two additional quotes for agility trails from the preferred supplier were considered. It was agreed that the quote with the larger trail was preferred but the Clerk should go back and ask whether any other discounts were available to bring the price down.

7.2 To provide any Update on repair work to the Lockup

The contractor is waiting for Listed Building Consent from West Berkshire Council. The deadline for determination is 28th January 2021

7.3 To provide an update on the Village Sign Project

The deposit has been paid to the supplier and they are working on the initial design which is expected in the next 2 weeks. This design can then be reworked up to 3 times. Once the design is approved a further 25% of the cost will need to be paid before the sign is made.

7.4 Request for an additional dog waste bin in Aldermaston Village

A request has been received from a resident for an additional dog bin in the centre of Aldermaston village. The Parish Council decided not to go ahead with this request due to the cost of emptying the bin and the impact of additional street furniture in the conservation area. Clerk to ask West Berkshire Council to empty existing bins more frequently if possible and to respond to the resident who raised the issue.

Action: Clerk

7.5 To note that the goal posts have been erected on the recreation ground

The new football goal posts have been installed on the recreation ground.

8/21 Consultation documents requiring consideration

8.1 Consultation on the Emerging Draft of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review to 2037 – deadline 5th February 2021

There was general agreement with the proposed response provided by Mr Shirt, which is to object to the proposed commercial sites in the Parish due to the potential for additional HGV traffic on the A340. It was agreed that Mrs Crawford, Mr Shirt and the Clerk would agree the final wording of the response and send it to West Berkshire Council before the deadline.

8.2 Minerals and Waste local Plan West Berkshire Council consultation – deadline 15th February 2021

It was agreed to defer this item to the February meeting.

9/21 AWE to include updates from LLC

There has been no LLC meeting since the last Parish Council meeting.

AWE have been fined £660,000 for a Health and Safety breach following an electrical incident in 2019.

Mr. Smith has reported a tree on AWE land which is leaning against an electricity pole in Rag Hill but has not received a response. Mr. Shirt to follow up with AWE.

Action: Mr.Shirt

10/21 Reports

10.1 Clerk's report

Nothing to report.

10.2 District Councillor's report

Cllr Boeck has provided a monthly report which was forwarded to all councillors and will be made available on the Parish Council website.

Schools are having to find spaces for more children during this lockdown. This is due to the criteria for key workers and vulnerable children being widened. Also, this time only one parent has to be a key worker for them to be eligible for a school place. Schools are seeing 3 to 4 times the number of children needing a space. This has increased the pressure on teachers who are having to provide online learning as well.

The Government have reviewed the allocation of devices to support remote learning. Secondary schools are the top priority followed by primary schools in disadvantaged areas. Greenham Trust have set up a £250,000 fund to help provide devices to schools to support remote learning. Mrs. Faulkner to pass this information on to Aldermaston Primary School.

Action : AF

Funding for Early Years provision is inadequate. This issue has been made worse by a decision from the Department of Education that settings will be funded according to the number of children in the setting on a date in January. Numbers attending are down due to lock down measures so this will lead to a reduction in funding. Cllr Boeck has escalated this to the Government and West Berkshire Council are looking at whether any grants could be provided to meet the shortfall.

11/21 Finance

11.1 To approve payments, bank reconciliation and receipts

See Appendix B below.

The payments for January were agreed. Mr Shirt confirmed that he had checked the bank reconciliation before the meeting.

11.2 To finalise the budget for 2021/2022 and to agree the precept

The budget for 2021/2022 was agreed and the precept will be set at £13,500. Clerk to send the precept request to West Berkshire District Council.

Action: Clerk

12/21 To receive items for information only

12.1 Mr Shirt reported that the road markings in Frouds Lane need to be refreshed. Clerk to raise a case with West Berkshire Council

Action: Clerk

12.2 Mr Shirt and Clerk to attend BALC AGM 24th February 2021. Other Councillors to consider whether to attend

12.3 Revd Manley reported that the Coronavirus support group has plenty of volunteers but they haven't received any additional requests for help from residents.

12.4 SSE had planned a power outage in Falcon Fields which would have affected 80 homes. Following intervention from West Berkshire's emergency planning team this has been delayed due to the cold weather and lockdown restrictions.

12.5 A resident has raised concerns about the safety of Reading Road. She claims that the MOD police have recorded 280 incidents on the road since 2015 but Thames Valley Police have only recorded 2 in the last 9 years. Cllr Boeck reported that West Berkshire Highways are working with Thames Valley Police to improve links and reporting. Mr Shirt to contact West Berkshire Highways to raise the issue with them.

Action : DS

13/21 Next meeting

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

Dates for meetings in 2021

9th March

13th April (Annual Parish Meeting)

11th May (AGM)

8th June

13th July

10th August

14th September

12th October

9th November

14th December

Signed by Chairman _____

Date _____

Appendix A

Aldermaston Parish Council –January 2021

Planning Applications for Consideration

1	20/02792/HOUSE – Silver Birches, Reading Road. Erection of a detached garage	Deadline 23 rd December. Extension granted
2	20/02324/HOUSE – 2 Mill Cottages, Frouds Lane. Change roof style from full hipped to hip/gable	7 th January. Extension requested
3	20/03007/FUL – Upper Church Farm. Erection of private stable yard. Change of use to equestrian	19 th January
4	20/03027/HOUSE – 5 Church Road. Two storey side/rear extensions.	20 th January
5	20/03060/HOUSE , 20/03097/LBC2 – Church Lodge, Church Road. Single storey rear extension and internal alterations.	26 th January
6	20/02265/COMIND– Youngs industrial estate – variation of condition 3 trading hours or previously approved app 20/01220/COMIND – Opening hours requested changed.	17 th February 2021

Planning Application Decisions

1	20/02424/HOUSE -Chestnut Coppice, Rag Hill - Erection of detached timber frame garage building	Approved
2	20/02559/HOUSE - The Dene The Street - Construction of a domestic inground swimming pool, pool hut and plant shed	Approved

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

1	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
2	20/02742/LBC2 – Lock Up North of Hinds Head Hotel , Wasing Lane repointing of lock up
3	20/02527/OUTMAJ - Blacks Lake Track Racing Blacks Lake Paices Hill Outline Planning Application for the construction of an industrial estate
4	20/02497/OUTD - Willow Mead ,Mill Lane, Padworth - Outline application for the erection of four detached dwellings for self/custom builders.
5	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
6	20/01995/MDOPO – Modification of planning obligations Maidas Way
7	19/01293/FULEXT and 19/01294/LBC2- Conversion of Manor House and Portland House to residential use.
8	19/01896/FUL and 19/01897/LBC2 – Change of use of 'Bridge Lodge' to a residential dwelling

Appendix B

Meeting Report 12th January 2021

Bank Balance as at 31/12/2020	Cashbook balance as at 01/1/2021	Cashbook balance after new payments made
£70,395.76	£70,395.76	£69,279.76

New items for payment

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

**Payments made
since last
meeting**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
EP	Digital House MD Limited	Website hosting	172.80
EP	Triangle Management Co. Ltd	Grass cutting Nov 2020	208.50
EP	Black Forge	Deposit for village sign	1350.00
SO	Mrs C McGarvie	December salary	288.00
EP	Aldermaston Signs LLP	No dogs allowed signs	79.20
TOTAL			£2,098.50

**Receipts since
last meeting
date**

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
09/12/2020	Lloyds bank	Interest	0.56
TOTAL			£0.56

**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 1st January 2021

Balance from cashbook spreadsheet	70395.76
-----------------------------------	----------

Add unpresented payments at 31st December 2020	
--	--

Subtract receipts after 31st December 2020		0.00

Net bank balances as at 1st January 2021		70395.76
--	-------	----------

Bank statements 31st December		
Current account	2418.78	
Business account		
		70395.76

Difference		0.00
------------	--	------