

ALDERMASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th June 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 O Hinton
Mr R Smith
Apologies: Mrs A Woodley
In attendance: District Cllr D Boeck
Mrs C McGarvie – Clerk
1 member of the public

69/20 Open Forum

There were no issues raised.

70/20 Apologies for absence

Mrs Woodley gave her apologies.

71/20 Declarations of Interest

Mr. Smith declared that he lives opposite the property, Wildwood House, to be discussed under the Planning agenda item. This is not a pecuniary interest so it was agreed that Mr. Smith was not required to withdraw from this part of the meeting.

72/20 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

72.1 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2020

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2020 were a true and accurate record. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a future date.

72.2 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.

Clerk has emailed West Berkshire to find out when the new signs for the ends of the path are scheduled to be installed.

ACTION: WBC

Cyclepath flooding - An email was sent to West Berkshire Council's Head of Education raising concerns about the flooding of the cycle path from Aldermaston Wharf to Aldermaston and the lack of an alternative route for children trying to walk to school. A response was received from Cllr Boeck which states that according to West Berkshire Council's Home to School Transport Policy when considering whether a walking route is available, local weather conditions or seasonal weather are not a factor. A joint response from Padworth, Beenham and Aldermaston Parish Councils was sent to Cllr Boeck on 20th March. A reply has been received from Cllr Boeck and has been forwarded to Padworth Parish Council, Beenham Parish Council and the primary school for their consideration. Unless these 3 parties have significant comment, it was agreed that further progress is unlikely and this item would now be removed from the agenda.

ACTION: Clerk

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. There is no date for completion yet but West Berkshire Council continue to chase this. Clerk has requested an update from West Berkshire

Council since the last meeting. The ditch may need to be cleared again later in the year but as there has been low rainfall this is not needed now.

ACTION:WBC

129.1 Broken Stiles ALDE/3/2

Mrs Faulkner reported that the stiles along footpath ALDE/3/2 are in a poor state of repair. Clerk has raised two cases for the two stiles ref: 178029 and 178030 on 19th Nov 2019. Mrs Faulkner reported that one of the broken stiles has now been fixed, probably by the landowner. West Berkshire Council have informed the Parish Council that the landowner will be receiving a gate kit within the next week but the repair has not yet been done. Clerk to ask West Berkshire Council for an update.

Action: Clerk

49.2 Footpath ALDE12

Footpath 12 is still closed due to an unsafe footbridge. Padworth Parish Council have been advised by WBC that the repair will be carried out soon. It has been reported that the landowner is working with West Berkshire Council on the repair.

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 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 the Policing team covering Aldermaston is now Hungerford and Downlands. This team covers the outer rural areas now that the Thatcham and Newbury teams are joined. Clerk is waiting to find out who would be the best person to invite to a future meeting.

Action: Clerk

67.1 Mrs A Faulkner reported that there have been several incidences of anti-social behaviour over the last few weeks. Three trail bikes have been ridden by the canal and along the public highway. This has been reported to the police. In addition, two youths were seen with air guns around the lake at the Manor House. Clerk has emailed PCSO Sarah Preston and she is aware of these incidents. Although the police did attend and carried out a search they were unable to find the perpetrators.

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.

73/20 To discuss ongoing response to Coronavirus epidemic

Revd Manley reported that there have been only a few requests for help in the last few weeks and that some requests have been dealt with directly via a facebook group. The Parish Council thanked Revd. Manley for all she has done to organise the volunteer group.

74/20 To decide whether to allow Aldermaston & Wasing Show to use recreation ground

The Aldermaston & Wasing Show have cancelled their Show at the Old Mill this year and have asked whether they can use the recreation ground for a much smaller event on the same day (5th September). The Parish Council agreed that in principle they could use the recreation ground however, they would need to confirm that they have their own public liability insurance, provide reassurances that they would be able to meet any government restrictions in place at the time and manage parking issues as there is no parking for the recreation ground.

75/20 Planning

75.1 To note receipt of new applications and make comment

20/01061/HOUSE – Wildwood House, Rag Hill. New first floor extension, new windows, new front entrance

The Parish Council resolved to OBJECT to this application as the proposed design for the extension is not in keeping with the rural area and other properties in the area. The Parish Council are also concerned about the lack of screening of the property from the road due to the felling of a number of mature trees which were protected as part of the condition of the previous application for this house in 1975.

20/01188/HOUSE - Wildwood House, Rag Hill. Retrospective submission for new access from unclassified road

The Parish Council resolved to OBJECT to this application because of the lack of screening from the road due to the felling of a number of mature trees which were protected as part of the condition of the previous application for this house in 1975.

20/01220/COMIND – Youngs Industrial Estate – construction of two units in a single building

The Parish Council resolved to OBJECT to the application as it will increase the traffic levels on the A340. There are also concerns about the new secondary entrance which is outside of the security gate and may lead to increased operating hours. Mrs Crawford has sent a number of questions to the case officer so the Parish Council reserve the right to make further comments depending on the answers to these questions.

20/00461/LSA – Street trader license Youngs Industrial Estate. Extension of operating hours to include Sunday

The Parish Council agreed not to object to the application but ask that the condition that the Licensee is responsible for all litter generated by the operation is reiterated.

75.2 To note receipt of any approvals/refusals –
see appendix A below

Lidl application expected to be considered by the District Planning Committee on 17th June

Manor House application – Deadline has been extended to 1st September 2020. The Ministry of Defence have strongly objected to the application.

75.3 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.

- 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. Cllr Boeck has also raised the concern with Hilary Cole. 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.

Mr Shirt has again emailed West Berkshire planning enforcement seeking clarification on a number of items but has received no response.

Cllr Boeck is chasing a response from the planning enforcement team and the executive member for Planning and Housing, Hilary Cole.

Action: DB

76/20 Highways and Footpath matters

76.1 Any new footpath or highways issues

A resident has raised a concern about signs that have been put up at Ravenswing park which suggest that the footpaths are closed. Clerk to send a link to the 'Rights of Way' map to the resident and check the wording of the signs. There has also been a request for an additional Dog Waste Bin at the end of Winkworth Lane at the entrance to Ravenswing park. Clerk to investigate the cost of a bin and the annual cost of emptying a bin so that this can be considered at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

77/20 Parish Environment

77.1 To discuss the project to purchase a new village sign

Mrs Crawford has obtained a quotation for a village sign. Cllr Boeck has confirmed that he would be willing to support an application from the Parish Council for member's bid grant to cover half of the cost. Clerk to apply for the other half from Greenham Common Trust via the Good Exchange. Clerk to check whether there are any restrictions on the number of grant requests that one organisation can make to Greenham Common Trust.

Action: Clerk

77.2 To consider quotation for refurbishment of bench on the Loosey

A quote of £356 to clean, sand and treat the bench with beeswax/turpentine has been received.

The bench originally cost £1850 in 2008 and is made of Green Oak.

Mr. Shirt to obtain a new quotation for just cleaning the bench.

Action: DS

77.3 To consider quotations for replacement or refurbishment of the Skate Ramp

Clerk has asked 3 contractors to quote for refurbishment and replacement of the Skate Ramp. The price for refurbishment range from £9700 to £12392.70. The price of replacement ranges from £9658 and £26,455. All prices are before VAT.

Quotes have also been sought for replacing the Skate Ramp with gym equipment and initial prices are around £26,000 before VAT.

The feedback from residents has been equally split between those who would like to see the Skate Ramp retained and those that would like it to be removed. It was agreed that the Clerk should

devise an online survey which can be used to find out residents' views on how the recreation ground should be improved to help with the decision-making process.

ACTION: Clerk

It was agreed that as the annual playground inspection report rated the issues with the Skate Ramp as low risk it could be reopened at the same time as the playground when the Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted.

77.4 To consider request to purchase a replacement defibrillator at the Parish Hall

The defibrillator at the Parish Hall has been taken out of service because it is out of date and parts cannot be serviced.

The Parish Council agreed to fund the capital cost of a new defibrillator from CIL funds as long as the Parish Hall are willing to take ownership for the maintenance of the unit including any costs associated with this. Clerk to action.

Action: Clerk

77.5 To consider quotations for repair work for the Lockup

Clerk has received two quotes for repointing the roof and walls of the lockup with lime mortar and is meeting a third contractor on site later this week.

78/20 Consultation documents requiring consideration

West Berkshire Council are consulting on a revised Speed Management Framework. Mrs Crawford to send suggested survey answers to all councillors for review.

One of the key changes in the framework will be the ability for Parish Councils to purchase their own Speed Indicator Device. Brimpton Parish Council have indicated that they would be interested in a joint purchase of a SID. Cllr Boeck to ask Padworth and Beenham Parish Councils if they would also be interested.

Cllr Boeck also to raise the issue of speeding with the West Berkshire District Council executive.

Action : SC/DB

79/20 AWE to include updates from LLC

The new REPIR document has been issued. The DEPZ area has not been altered in Aldermaston. Suzanne Chenery is the new LLC secretary.

AWE have a new Acting CEO and MD, Alison Atkinson who takes over from Ian Coucher.

The next LLC meeting will be held on 22nd July.

80/20 Reports

80.1 Clerk's report

Nothing to report .

80.2 District Councillor's report

Cllr Boeck will send out a monthly report tomorrow which will be made available on the Parish Council website

ACTION: DB

81/20 Finance

81.1 To approve payments, bank reconciliation and receipts

See Appendix B below. The payments for June were agreed. Clerk to action.

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

82/20 To receive items for information only

82.1 Mrs Faulkner has been looking at whether footpath ALDE3 could be moved back to its original route as it currently comes out on Church Road where there is no footway.

82.2 Mr Smith has concerns about the bund of soil at Padworth sawmills as there is a danger of soil falling into the road. Mr. Smith to raise with the Highways department at West Berkshire Council.

ACTION: RS

82.3 The fence along the access road into Maida's way is falling down. The Residents Association have indicated that it is not their responsibility to fix the fence. Cllr Boeck has asked Paul Hendry at West Berkshire Council to look into the issue.

ACTION: WBC

82.4 West Berkshire Council have sent out their Highway winter service consultation. This will be on the agenda for the July meeting but in the meantime Mr. Shirt has identified that the A340 from the village to the A4 does not seem to have been included in the plan and Froud's Lane should be a primary route when the lifting bridge is closed. Clerk to send these questions to West Berkshire Council.

ACTION: Clerk

82.5 The tree work at the recreation ground has been completed.

82.6 The licence for the Wasing Medicine festival was granted but it is not known yet whether the festival will go ahead due to coronavirus restrictions.

82.7 Mr. Shirt reported that there are a number of hedges in the parish which are overhanging footways and he asked for a notice to be put in the next newsletter reminding homeowners of their responsibility to keep hedges cut back.

ACTION: SC

83/20 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 14th July 2020 at 7.30pm.

Signed by Chairman _____

Date _____

Appendix A

Aldermaston Parish Council – June 2020

Planning Applications for Consideration

1	20/01061/HOUSE – Wildwood House, Rag Hill. New first floor extension, new windows, new front entrance	Deadline 3 rd June. Extension granted
2	20/01188/HOUSE - Wildwood House, Rag Hill. Retrospective submission for new access from unclassified road	Deadline 23 rd June
3	20/01220/COMIND – Youngs Industrial Estate – construction of two units in a single building	Deadline 23 rd June

Planning Application Decisions

1	20/00695/LBC2 – Barn End House, Paices Hill – Removal of plaster on damp walls in back hall and utility area and installation of breathable panelling. Replacement back porch	Granted
2	20/00104/HOUSE and 20/00105/LBC2– 41 The Street. Single storey rear extension.	Granted

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

1	20/00984/LBC2 – 24 The Street, Aldermaston – Remove internal stud wall, installation of LED downlights, change of internal doors
2	20/00940/HOUSE – The Old Warren, Reading Road – Extension to provide double garage and two storey extension
3	20/00711/LBC2 – The Dene, The Street – Demolition of a coal shed
4	20/01041/LBC2 – Hinds Head Hotel, Wasing Lane – Support of defective beam at ground floor ceiling to restaurant
5	20/00037/MINMAJ – Aldermaston Recycling. Development of an acoustic shelter and waste storage building - GRANTED
6	19/01293/FULEXT and 19/01294/LBC2- Conversion of Manor House and Portland House to residential use.
7	19/01063/COMIND – Land south of Ravenswing Farm. Construction of class A1 food store. Discussed at Eastern Planning committee 4 th December, approved with conditions but awaiting ratification.
8	19/01896/FUL and 19/01897/LBC2 – Change of use of 'Bridge Lodge' to a residential dwelling

Appendix B

Meeting Report 9th June 2020

Bank Balance as at 31/5/2020	Cashbook balance as at 04/06/2020	Cashbook balance after new payments made
£74,454.76	£74,375.88	£73,786.71

New items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
SO	Mrs C McGarvie	June Salary	280.08
1329	Mrs C McGarvie	Training,postage,binder	81.79
1330	Aldermaston Parish Hall	Hall rental March	14.00
1331	Kompan Ltd	End cap	4.80
1332	Triangle Management Ltd	May grass gutting	208.50
TOTAL			£589.17

Payments made since last meeting

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
1323	Triangle Management Ltd	April grass cutting	208.50
1324	West Berkshire Council	Local election cost for uncontested election	75.00
1325	Digital House MD Limited	Domain name renewal	24.00
1326	Claire Connell	Internal Audit	150.00
1328	CAS business services	Insurance	448.00
TOTAL			£905.50

Receipts since last meeting date

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
28/04/2020	West Berks Council	CIL	37198.51
09/04/2020	Lloyds bank	Interest	1.36
TOTAL			£37,199.87

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
1320	CPRE	membership	36.00
1327	Mr A Woodley	Park Keeper	42.88
TOTAL			£78.88

Receipts not yet cleared/or on statement

Receipt date	Payer	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			£0.00

Appendix C

Bank reconciliation - as at 4th June 2020

Balance from cashbook spreadsheet		74375.88
Add unpresented payments at 31/5/2020		
12/05/2020 Mr A Woodley	42.88	
14/04/2020 CPRE	36.00	
		78.88
		78.88
Subtract receipts after 31st May 2020		
Net bank balances as at 4th June 2020		<u>74454.76</u>
Bank statements 31st May 2020		
Current account	3487.35	
Business account	<u>70967.41</u>	
		<u>74454.76</u>
Difference		0.00