

ALDERMASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th March 2020

Councillors Present: Mr D Shirt - Chairman
Mrs S Crawford – Vice Chair
Mrs A Faulkner
Revd J Manley
Mrs A Woodley

Apologies: Mr O Hinton
Mr R Smith

In attendance: Mrs C McGarvie – Clerk
District Cllr D Boeck
1 member of the public

28/20 Open Forum

A resident raised a concern about new ‘Private Property’ signs which have been installed at the Manor House. The Parish Council have not had any reports of walkers being turned away from the site.

29/20 Apologies for absence

Mr Hinton and Mr Smith gave apologies

30/20 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Faulkner, Revd Manley and Mr Shirt declared interests in planning application 20/00227/PASOL for Aldermaston CE Primary School.

Clerk declared an interest in the grant request from Tadley Citizens Advice.

Revd. Manley declared an interest in the grant request from Aldermaston and Wasing PCC.

Mrs. Woodley declared an interest in the consideration of quotes for tree work at the recreation ground.

31/20 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2020

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January were a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

32/20 Matters Arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

76.4 Cycle path from Aldermaston Wharf to Aldermaston

We 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.

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. The Parish Council will formally respond with Padworth and Beenham Parish Councils to state that they do not consider that the cycle path is a safe route because of the increase in incidences of flooding and that alternative arrangements should be made.

ACTION: DS

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.

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 carried out an assessment of the remaining broken stile and are asking the landowner to fix or replace the stile.

ACTION: WBC

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.

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. Waiting for West Berks to review traffic data before they can consider any changes to times. 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

13.6 GWR changed timetable

Clerk has received a response from Great Western Railways (GWR) about the change in timetable which reduces services for Aldermaston station but has asked for further clarification. Mr. Shirt to raise with GWR at a meeting to be held on 11th March to discuss the station car park charges.

Action: DS

33/20 Planning

33.1 To note receipt of new applications and make comment

20/00227/PASOL – Aldermaston CE Primary School -The installation of a 45.56 kilowatt peak array of solar panels on the roof of Aldermaston Primary School

The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections to this application.

Trader application - Ref No: 20/00221/LSA – Paices Wood Country Park

Due to the deadline for comments the Parish Council agreed the response below via email and this has been sent to the licensing department.

The Parish Council believe it may be inappropriate to have such a facility in the picturesque setting of a Country Park. If you are minded to approve the application, the Parish Council would request a condition is imposed making the Licensee responsible for all litter generated by the operation.

33.2 To note receipt of any approvals/refusals

see Appendix A below

The Lidl application(19/01063/COMIND) was deferred from the March District Planning Committee (DPC) meeting to examine the emergency planning issues in more detail. It is expected that it will be on the agenda at the next DPC meeting on the 15th April. Mr. Shirt plans to attend the meeting on 15th April but it was agreed that the Parish Council will not ask to speak.

33.3 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. Waiting for a response from the environment agency. Mr. Shirt has sent several chasing emails.
 - Mr. Smith has received a response to a personal FOI request to West Berkshire Council asking what activities are allowed on the site but they have indicated that they can't give the requested information because of pending enforcement action.
 - Mrs Faulkner to send a description of the problems surrounding the mobile home on the site, which it is believed does not have planning permission, to all councillors for consideration.

ACTION: AF

b) Land adjacent to Torre House

West Berkshire Council have stated that it is now too late for them to take enforcement action to remove the residential use. Their records show that residential use started in 2008 which means that in 2018 it became immune from action. The planning enforcement team are investigating the exact sequence of events and will report back to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to express its disappointment, as the issue was raised by the Parish Council in 2015, and to ask how this can be avoided for any future cases.

ACTION:DS

33.4 To discuss response to Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) and settlement hierarchy questionnaire

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on the Falcon Fields/Tadley settlement. The Aldermaston settlement should be named Aldermaston Village. The draft responses prepared by Mr. Shirt were considered and agreed with minor changes to the settlement services questionnaire. Clerk to send to West Berkshire Council.

ACTION: Clerk

Responses to the Aldermaston Wharf HELAA and settlement services questionnaire were agreed and will be sent to Padworth and Beenham parishes for their input. Padworth Parish Council will submit the responses for Aldermaston Wharf.

34/20 Highways and footpath matters

34.1 Update on A340 diversion in Aldermaston Village

Work has started on repairing the damaged building and it is hoped work will be finished by the end of this week. It is hoped that the road will be reopened by West Berkshire Council shortly after this although repair work may be needed on the road around The Loosey.

34.2 A340 pothole

Mrs Woodley reported that there is a dangerous pothole near to the pedestrian refuge crossing near the Hinds Head on the A340. Mrs Woodley to report.

Action: AW

34.3 Footpath 17 footbridge

One of the footbridges had collapsed on footpath 17. This was reported to West Berkshire Council and they were able to fix the problem.

34.4 Speed monitoring

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been deployed in the village over the last 3 weeks and results are expected soon.

34.5 Flooding on A340

West Berkshire have investigated the flooding on the A340 outside Sasron and have indicated that more work is needed because there is no soak away.

34.6 Closure of footpath ALDE12

Footpath ALDE12 is closed due to an unsafe footbridge and flooding. Clerk has asked West Berkshire Council for an update.

35/20 Parish Environment

35.1 To consider the repair work for the lockup

Clerk is working on obtaining quotes for repair work to the lock up and will report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

35.2 To provide update on the provision of a defibrillator for Ravenswing Park

Ravenswing park management have indicated that residents are considering fundraising towards the provision of a defibrillator. The Parish Council will wait to hear the outcome of this before taking any further action.

35.3 To consider quotations for tree work at the recreation ground

Clerk has obtained three quotes for tree surgery at the recreation ground as recommended in the recent tree survey. The quotes were considered and it was decided to go with the cheapest quote from Arborfield Arborists, who are known to be a reputable contractor. Clerk to arrange for work to be carried out as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk

36/20 To consider support of 75 year VE day celebrations

Clerk has confirmed with the Parish Council's insurers that the VE commemoration events will be covered by the Parish Council public liability insurance. The Parish Council will need to review the event risk assessments and sign them off.

ACTION: APC

The Parish Council agreed to support the planned commemoration events including the use of the recreation ground for a picnic on the 8th May.

Revd Manley reported that due to the coronavirus outbreak the committee will delay spending any money until nearer the time in case it has to be cancelled. Revd. Manley will be attending the next meeting of the organising committee and will report back to the Parish Council.

ACTION: JM

37/20 AWE to include updates from LLC

The next LLC meeting will be held on 18th March. Mr. Shirt plans to raise concerns about the LLC not being kept adequately informed, for example not being advised that the Mensa building project was very late and substantially over budget.

38/20 Consultation documents requiring consideration

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) public consultation. It was agreed not to respond to this consultation.

39/20 Reports

39.1 Clerk's report

The internal audit has been booked for April 27th.

Clerk will attend webinar on 'making pdf and word documents accessible' on 11th March.

Clerk will be attending the District Parish Conference on 12th March.

West Berkshire Council are offering free litter picking kits for Parish Councils that apply. It was decided not to apply at this time as there is no volunteer to organise a litter pick.

39.2 District Councillor's report

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

Mr Shirt asked about the Members' Bid grants. It was agreed that Mrs Crawford would investigate a project to carry out improvements to the Loosey in the centre of the village and submit a request for a Members' bid grant to fund it. The closing date for applications is towards the end of April.

Action: SC

39.3 To receive reports from parish council representatives on outside bodies

Mrs Woodley to attend Parish Hall committee meeting on 11th March.

40/20 Finance

40.1 To approve payments, bank reconciliation and receipts

Please see appendix B and C below for finance report and bank reconciliation. Bank reconciliation was checked by the chairman before the meeting. £7022.28 VAT rebate has been received.

The payments for March were approved. Clerk to action.

Action: Clerk

40.2 To consider grant requests

The following grants were approved by the Parish Council

Berkshire MS Therapy Centre – £100

Tadley Citizens Advice – £300

Aldermaston and Wasing PCC grant for churchyard grass cutting - £750. (Revd Manley did not take part in the discussion of this grant request.)

Aldermaston Parish Hall grant - £1500 grant towards running costs

41/20 To receive items for information only

41.1 Mrs Faulkner reported that a number of mature trees have been felled at a property on Rag Hill and a new driveway with different access points is being installed. Mrs. Faulkner to send details to the Clerk as this may have needed planning permission.

Action: AF

41.2 Mrs Woodley pointed out there are some overgrown shrubs behind the street nameplate for Dolphin Close. Mrs Woodley to arrange for them to be cut back.

Action: AW

41.3 Mr Shirt has followed up with SSE regarding the recent power cuts suffered by the village. SSE have indicated that this was caused by fallen trees on Wasing Estate. It is unclear who is responsible for cutting back trees underneath power lines. Mr. Shirt will continue to investigate this.

ACTION: DS

41.4 Mr. Shirt suggested that the Parish Council should invite Thatcham neighbourhood policing team to a future meeting to re-establish contact. Mr. Shirt also reported that their crime map does not seem to include Aldermaston. Clerk to report this.

Action: Clerk

41.5 Aldermaston C.E. Primary School are looking for volunteers to help put up flood barriers in the event of severe flooding.

42/20 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual meeting on 14th April 2020 7.30pm. Clerk to send out invitations to speakers.

Action:Clerk

Signed by _____ Date_____

Appendix A- Planning - March 2020

Planning Applications for Consideration

1	20/00227/PASOL – Aldermaston CE Primary School -The installation of a 45.56 kilowatt peak array of solar panels on the roof of Aldermaston Primary School	Deadline for comments 12 th March.
---	--	---

Planning Application Decisions

1	19/03199/LBC2 – Well House, Church Road Variation of condition New external opening and internal alterations	APPROVED
2	20/00030/FUL and 20/00031/LBC2 – 48-49 and land to the rear Paices Hill Restore existing two house. Two single storey extensions	WITHDRAWN
3	19/02751/HOUSE and 19/02752/LBC2 – Little Orchard, Paices Hill. Alterations and new porch to existing house, extension to outbuilding and car port	APPROVED
4	19/02410/OUTMAJ – Stacey Developments, Silchester Road . Outline Application for Erection of Business Units - Classes B1, B2 or B8. Amended plans	APPROVED
5	19/02119/FUL – Unit 6 Youngs Industrial Estate, Paices Hill Construction of extended hardstanding for storage of plant and machinery	APPROVED
6	19/02940/COMIND – AWE Aldermaston Partial demolition and modifications to building	APPROVED

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

1	20/00298/LBC2 – 24 The Street. Chimney repairs and installation of a wood burning stove
2	20/00113/LBC2 – Hinds Head Hotel, Wasing Lane. Replacement of defective bean and rebuild of failing boundary wall.
3	20/00156/LBC2 – 6 Forsters Farm Court. Replacement of existing French doors/side windows
4	20/00104/HOUSE and 20/00105/LBC2 – 41 The Street. Single storey rear extension.
5	20/00037/MINMAJ – Aldermaston Recycling. Development of an acoustic shelter and waste storage building
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
9	APP/W0340/W/19/3242412 Planning Appeal in relation to 19/02060/FULD at The Warren – no date for appeal as yet.

Appendix B – Finance meeting report

Meeting Report 10th March 2020

Bank Balance as at 28/2/2020	Cashbook balance as at 05/03/2020	Cashbook balance after new payments made
£27,941.33	£26,129.03	£25,638.76

New items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
SO	Mrs C McGarvie	Clerks salary March	280.08
1310	Aldermaston CE Primary School	newsletter printing Feb	13.20
1311	Aldermaston Parish Hall	rental Oct19 to Feb20	70.00
1312	Mr D Shirt	Chairman's expenses	44.15
1313	Mrs C McGarvie	Ink, stamps, homework allowance	82.84
TOTAL			£490.27

Payments made since last meeting

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			£0.00

Receipts since last meeting date

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
10/02/2020	Lloyds Bank	Interest	1.30
TOTAL			£1.30

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
1307	Aldermaston Signs LLP	Switch off engine signs	46.80
1308	Harrison Arboriculture LTd	Tree Survey	180.00
1309	Aldermaston CE Primary School	Grant for playground	1585.50
TOTAL			£1,812.30

Receipts not yet cleared/or on statement

Receipt date	Payer	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			£0.00

Appendix C – Bank Reconciliation

Bank reconciliation - as at 3rd March 2020

Balance from cashbook spreadsheet	28688.41
-----------------------------------	----------

Add unpresented payments

11/02/2020	1307	Aldermaston Signs LLP	46.80
11/02/2020	1308	Harrison Aboriculture LTd	180.00
		Aldermaston CE Primary	
11/02/2020	1309	School	1585.50
			1812.30

Subtract receipts after 29th February 2020

Net bank balances as at 3rd March 2020	<u>30500.71</u>
--	-----------------

Bank statements 29th February 2020

Current account	2559.38
Business account	<u>27941.33</u>
	<u>30500.71</u>

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