

ALDERMASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting 9th March 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: District Cllr D Boeck
Mrs C McGarvie – Clerk
2 members of the public

29/21 Open Forum

29.1 Broadband at Kestrels Mead / Falcon Fields

A resident raised the issue of poor broadband speeds for residents of Kestrels Mead and Falcon Fields. Cllr Boeck explained that these areas were missed as part of the West Berkshire Council Gigaclear Superfast Broadband project. They were also not included in the Hampshire Superfast Broadband project with BT because they are in Berkshire. West Berkshire Council are looking at solutions to this problem and Cllr Boeck agreed to find out the latest status.

Action :DB

29.2 Form B Applications

Mr Smith raised an issue about Form B applications which are made by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks when making changes to the electricity network. Mr. Smith has spoken to the West Berkshire Planning officer about the process for consulting on these applications as he believes that the legislation requires that residents are also consulted.

30/21 Apologies for absence

Mrs Woodley gave her apologies.

31/21 Declarations of Interest

Revd Manley declared an interest in the PCC churchyard grant request and did not vote on this item. Mr. Shirt declared an interest in the Aldermaston History Group grant request and did not vote on this item.

32/21. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

32.1 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a future date.

32.2 Review of Action Tracker

90.7 Review of Conservation area. The group have met with the group from Bucklebury to learn from their experience of reviewing their conservation area. A meeting has been scheduled with Debra Inston the West Berkshire Conservation officer on 19th March.

130.4 – Trees for Swan Drive. Trees have been replaced but with apple trees instead of the promised sweet chestnut trees. Clerk has contacted West Berkshire Council for an explanation.

Action : Clerk

9.1 The tree which is leaning against a telecoms pole in Rag Hill is now causing the pole to lean. Clerk to contact West Berkshire again.

Action: Clerk

33/21 Councillor Vacancy – To consider applications for co-option

Two applications were received for the councillor vacancy. A vote was held and it was agreed that Tasneem Nurbhai would be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Clerk to arrange for Mrs. Nurbhai to complete the declaration of office and register of interests' forms before the next meeting.

Action : Clerk

34/21. Planning

34.1 To note receipt of new applications and make comment

20/03007/FUL – Upper Church Farm. Erection of private stable yard. Change of use to equestrian-
Revised plans have been submitted.

The Parish Council resolved to make no further comment on this application.

21/00457/CERTE – Pinnacle House, Red Lane – C3 dwelling – granny annex

It was agreed that the Parish Council would request that a condition is applied to the application such that the property must remain ancillary to the main dwelling and cannot be sold separately.

21/00528/COMIND – AWE Aldermaston – replacement facility for storage and handling of materials

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

21/00466/HOUSE and 21/00467/LBC2 – Church Lodge. Single storey rear extension and internal alterations

The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections provided that the West Berkshire Council Conservation Officer approves the changes.

20/02527/OUTMAJ - Blacks Lake Racing Track, Paices Hill Outline Planning Application for the construction of an industrial estate

Amended plans have been submitted and the application will go to the Eastern Area District Planning Committee to be decided as over 10 objections have been received from residents.

The Parish Council agreed to continue to object. Mrs Crawford to draft the objection to be agreed by councillors via email.

Action : SC/Clerk

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

See Appendix A below.

34.3 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.

Mr. Smith has received some feedback from Environment Agency about waste exemptions after submitting a Freedom of Information request but he believes the information given was incorrect and has replied to inform them of this.

The HGVs which were parked at Hill View have now been moved into Padworth Saw Mills. A response has not been received from planning enforcement.

Mrs Faulkner and Mr Smith to provide a report on the current situation at the site for discussion by the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Action : AF/RS

35/21 Highways and Footpath matters

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

There has been a delay in delivery of the SID but now expected by 19th March.

It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the TME licence to be signed for Aldermaston Parish and return it to West Berkshire's legal department. All four parishes need to apply for a TME licence from West Berkshire Council. Each location where the SID is going to be used has to be approved by West Berkshire Council and risk assessed.

Once the invoice for the SID is received, Clerk will request the contribution from each parish and request the grant from the Members bid scheme.

Action : Clerk

35.2 Footpath ALDE9

A resident has contacted the Clerk regarding a missing gate at the Southern end of footpath ALDE9.

This is causing a problem as quad bikes are going in and also driving on the highway. Clerk has already chased with the footpaths officer and sent pictures of the area but will continue to chase.

Action : Clerk

35.3 Closure of Church Road by Thames Water.

The closure of Church Road overran by 4 days. It has now been reopened. Mr. Shirt has asked West Berkshire Council how much Thames Water will be fined for overrunning and whether the level of fine is set locally or nationally. The contact numbers given on the road closure signs were never answered. Mr. Shirt has asked West Berkshire Council to follow up this issue with Thames Water.

Action : WBC

36/21 Parish Environment

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

The installation has been delayed until 12th March as two of the installation team have tested positive for Covid. Once work starts the installation will take approximately a week. Payment for the equipment will be due once it arrives on site on 12th March.

Mr. Shirt asked when the skate ramp would be allowed to reopen. Clerk to find out.

Action : Clerk

36.2 To provide any Update on repair work to the Lockup

Listed building consent for the work has been granted. The contractor has scheduled the work to start at the end of April when it is less likely to rain and the risk of frost is lower. They will start with the investigation of the roof.

Mr Shirt reported that the corner of the pub wall next to the Lockup has now been repaired.

36.3 To provide an update on the Village Sign Project

Two new designs have been provided, incorporating the feedback from residents. Mrs Crawford has asked the designer if the pottery jug can be included in the new designs, based on councillor feedback. Once this small change has been done the order will be made.

36.4 Recreation Ground Title Deed

Clerk has confirmed that the recreation ground has been registered with Land registry but the title deed has the former clerk's name on it. Clerk to find out if this can be changed to "Aldermaston Parish Clerk" so that it is future-proofed.

Action: Clerk

37/21 To consider the adoption of a Complaints policy, an updated publication scheme and risk management scheme.

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the new complaints policy and updated publication scheme and risk management scheme.

Clerk to look into a procedure to follow if she is incapacitated so that the Parish Council can access all documents, laptop etc.

Clerk to discuss with park keeper whether regular inspections of the playground are taking place and if they are, how best to record this.

Action : Clerk

It was agreed that an item will be added to the May Annual Parish Council meeting every year to ensure that policies are reviewed in a timely fashion.

Action : Clerk

38/21 Consultation documents requiring consideration

West Berkshire Emergency Active Travel scheme consultations. Information can be found at the following link [Have Your Say Today – West Berks Active Streets – Commonplace](#) The consultation is open until 2nd July. The Parish Council decided not to respond.

39/21 AWE to include updates from LLC

Mr. Shirt has been contacted by the MOD police at AWE and they have agreed to extend their patrols into Falcon Fields, Kestrels Mead and Ravenswing Park.

The next LLC meeting will be held on 17th March.

40/21. Reports

40.1 Clerk's report

Clerk is waiting for guidance from NALC about whether meetings via video conference will be allowed to continue after 7th May when the emergency legislation expires. As there will still be restrictions on large gatherings until at least June it seems likely that the legislation will be extended.

40.2 District Councillor's report

District Councillor Boeck provided a report which will be made available on the Parish Council website.

West Berkshire's council tax increase for 2021/22 has been limited to 1.99% without any increase in the Adult Social Care precept. There was a decrease in current demand in Adult Social Care and Education due to Covid. For example, the District Council had budgeted to take responsibility for some asylum seeking children but this did not happen.

41/21. Finance

41.1 To approve payments, bank reconciliation and receipts

See Appendix B below.

The Chairman checked the bank reconciliation against the cash book after the meeting.

The payment list for March was approved by the Parish Council.

41.2 To consider grant requests from Aldermaston Parish Hall, Aldermaston & Wasing PCC, Tadley Citizens Advice, Padworth Newsletter, Aldermaston History Group

The table below summarises the requests that were made.

Organisation	Amount requested	Note	Decision
Aldermaston Parish Hall	£1500	£1500 In budget separate from donations	Approved
Aldermaston & Wasing PCC	£750	£500 in budget separate from donations	Approved £750
Tadley Citizens Advice	Not specified	Gave £300 last year	Approved £300
Padworth Newsletter	£150	Gave £150 last year	Refused
Aldermaston History Group	£150	No donation last year	Approved £150

West Berkshire Citizens Advice have also asked for a donation but did not specify an amount or send any supporting information. It was agreed to support Tadley Citizens Advice as this is the office most likely to be used by residents.

The Parish Council refused the grant request from Padworth Newsletter because it was felt that for environmental reasons it would be better to only send out the newsletter electronically and that few residents benefit from a paper copy.

The grant request from Tadley Citizens Advice was agreed. Clerk to inform the organisation that the Parish Council noted that reserves are high and that grant moneys should be spent not used to bolster reserves.

42/21 To receive items for information only

42.1 Clerk has contacted the Building Communities Together Team at West Berkshire Council about the anti-social behaviour in Kestrels Mead playground. They have responded to say that issues should be reported to the police. They have also contacted their grounds maintenance team to find out if they can advise on any improvements to the playground but Clerk is waiting to hear back from them. Clerk to continue to chase.

Action : Clerk

42.2 The District Parish Conference is being held on 11th March and planning enforcement will be presenting at the conference. Mrs Crawford, Mr Shirt, Mrs Faulkner and Clerk to attend. Clerk to book a place for Mr. Smith.

Action : Clerk

43/21 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 13th April 2021 at 7.30pm and will start with the Annual Parish Meeting followed by a shorter Parish Council meeting to deal with any urgent business.

Signed by Chairman _____

Date _____

Appendix A

Aldermaston Parish Council –March 2021 Planning Applications for Consideration

1	20/03007/FUL – Upper Church Farm. Erection of private stable yard. Change of use to equestrian REVISED PLANS	Deadline 8th March.
2	21/00457/CERTE – Pinnacle House, Red Lane – C3 dwelling – granny annex – (Only factual observations will be taken into account)	Deadline 23rd March
3	21/00528/COMIND – AWE – Replacement facility for storage	Deadline 24th March
4	21/00466/HOUSE and 21/00467/LBC2 – Church Lodge. Single storey rear extension and internal alterations Application was too late for the agenda	Deadline 24th March (asked for an extension)
5	20/02527/OUTMAJ - Blacks Lake Track Racing Blacks Lake Paices Hill Outline Planning Application for the construction of an industrial estate Over 10 objections will be decided by committee. Revised plans	

Planning Application Decisions

1	20/02324/HOUSE – 2 Mill Cottages, Frouds Lane. Change roof style from full hipped to hip/gable	Approved
2	20/03060/HOUSE , 20/03097/LBC2 – Church Lodge, Church Road. Single storey rear extension and internal alterations.	Refused
3	20/02665/COMIND– Youngs industrial estate – variation of condition 3 trading hours or previously approved app 20/01220/COMIND – Opening hours requested changed.	Approved
4	20/02742/LBC2 – Lock Up North of Hinds Head Hotel , Wasing Lane repointing of lock up	Approved
5	20/01995/MDOPO – Modification of planning obligations Maidas Way	Withdrawn

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

1	20/03027/HOUSE – 5 Church Road. Two storey side/rear extensions.
2	20/02497/OUTD - Willow Mead ,Mill Lane, Padworth - Outline application for the erection of four detached dwellings for self/custom builders.
3	19/01293/FULEXT and 19/01294/LBC2- Conversion of Manor House and Portland House to residential use.
4	19/01896/FUL and 19/01897/LBC2 – Change of use of ‘Bridge Lodge’ to a residential dwelling

Appendix B

Meeting Report 9th March 2021

Bank Balance as at 28/2/2021	Cashbook balance as at 04/3/2021	Cashbook balance after new payments made
£68,978.92	£68,978.92	£56,093.67

New items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
EP	Mrs C McGarvie	March salary	288.00
EP	Mrs C McGarvie	Expenses (summary below)	116.91
EP	Mr D Shirt	Chairman's allowance	30.75
EP	Kompan	inv 233821 agility trail equipment	12449.59
TOTAL			£12,885.25

To be paid on delivery

Payments made since last meeting

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
EP	Mrs C McGarvie	January salary	288.00
EP	Mrs C McGarvie	spring back folder	13.99
TOTAL			£301.99

Receipts since last meeting date

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
09/02/2021	Lloyds bank	Interest	0.54
TOTAL			£0.54

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

Clerks expenses March 2021

Item	description	Cost
Printer ink	£99.99 divided by 3	£33.33
Zoom subscription	7 months Sept20 to March 21 £110.73/3	£33.58

Homeworking allowance	6 months Oct 20 to March 21	£50.00
		£116.91

Appendix C

Bank reconciliation - as at 4th March 2021

Balance from cashbook spreadsheet 68978.92

Add unpresented payments at 28th February 2021

Subtract receipts after 28th February 2021 0.00

Net bank balances as at 4th March 2021 68978.92

Bank statements 28th February 2021
 Current account 1000.79
 Business account 67978.13
68978.92

Difference 0.00