

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Aldermaston Parish Council held on
Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall, Aldermaston**

Councillors Present:	Mrs S Crawford (Chair) Mr R Smith Mr A Shephard-Price Mrs A Woodley Mr D Shirt Mrs A Faulkner
In Attendance:	District Cllr D Boeck Miss A Lewis - Clerk 6 members of the public

001/25	Open Forum Four residents attended to talk about that Planning Appeal relating to 24/00384/FUL. They remain vehemently against the proposed development and wanted to know about the appeal process and APCs position. APC pointed out that the appellant had failed to submit a rebuttal of WBCs reasons for refusing 24/00384/FUL. Without this is hard to see why the Planning inspector would uphold the appeal and there is nothing for us to respond to in terms of counterchallenge. Also, that this appeal will be determined based on written representations, and interested parties are invited to submit comments by 4th February. Despite the appeal looking weak, Cllr Crawford advised against complacency and encouraged those with strong opinions on the case to make their own submissions to the Planning Inspectorate and that APC was likely to agree making a submission itself later in the meeting. Both residents who had submitted application forms for the councillor vacancy were invited to introduce themselves. They both summarised what they had written on their forms and were open to any questions from councillors. Cllr Crawford thanked them for their interest in the vacancy and coming to the meeting, and explained that a decision would be made by the council later in closed session. She also noted that both candidates appeared to have much to offer and hoped that whichever candidate was not selected this time would put themselves forward as/when the next councillor vacancy arose.
002/25	Apologies for absence
003/25	Declarations of interest
004/25	Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 10 th December 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate.
005/25	Planning a.) To note receipt and comment upon new applications 24/02557/LBC – No Objection – Cllr Shephard-Price noted that this building is classed as a listed building. Councillors had no objection to this application stating the new doors will not be able to be seen from the road. 24/02575/FUL – Object – Councillors had multiple concerns regarding this planning application, including that: the site layout and extent of gated compound is unclear, the compound floodlights and high-level advertising sign are not mentioned (and are inappropriate for location), the access route to the compound is not shown on plans, the established boundary tree line appears to be within the site area but is not detailed and its preservation not assured, the site could be used by another B8 business in the future which is less benign than the current occupant, proposal is development in the Open Countryside but does not support the rural economy as required by ADPP1. For the above reasons and knowing that the proposals add to HGV traffic on the A340, the decision was to Object. Action: Cllr Crawford to draft response. Clerk to submit 24/02684/FUL – No Objection – Councillors agreed they had no objection to this retrospective planning application as long as 1). the MOT centre will not be used as a public service 2.) there is no increased risk to flooding onto the A340 and the council would like to see the report on this risk and be assured of correct

	drainage 3.) what is the BREEAN standard of the building? 4.) that the operational hours will be the same as the current site, and 5.) that there will be no change of use for this building. b.) To note receipt of any approvals, refusals, withdrawals and appeals 24/00384/FUL / APP/W0340/W/24/3355686– Object – Councillors thought that the appeal looked weak and shared residents concern at the possibility that the Planning Inspector could uphold the appeal and therefore decided to make a submission noting that our past comments about the 2024 and 2023 planning applications by the appellant remain valid and request they be taken into consideration. Action: Cllr Crawford to share draft wording with councillors for approval. Clerk to submit by 4th February deadline 24/01234/LBC & 24/01233/FUL – Councillors noted the refusal and that APC had not objected to the plans. A new application is expected. c.) To discuss planning enforcement cases 24/00619/15UNAU – Councillors noted this enforcement but made no comment.
006/25	Highways and Footpath matters Councillors agreed not to respond to the Consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy. It was noted that one of the bollards on the pedestrian crossing was knocked over by a vehicle in December and required replacing. This is believed to be the fourth time in recent years raising questions around safety of pedestrians. The council would like to request that it is replaced with a bollard with a light, to make this crossing safer for pedestrians. Clerk to contact WBC Highways. Cllr Smith raised concerns over the state of Raghill road. As well as debris on the road, it was noted that there are potholes and verges damaged by HGV traffic. There are also several free-standing barriers on the side of the road to the east of the Padworth Sawmills entrance that fall into the road when it is windy. APC agreed to share these concerns with WBC Highways and specifically requesting that the barriers be removed. The Clerk advised that there had been no response from the previous letter sent to Blok 'N' Mesh and she will re-send using a different Blok 'N' Mesh e-mail address.
007/25	Parish Environment The speed camera has been used on the A340 by Hilliers in recent weeks. There have been some issues with retrieving the data and with battery life, but we did get some data for southbound traffic that showed 32.6% of vehicles were going over 35mph. We hope to get more data and to discuss findings at our Feb meeting. Councillors agreed to fund 2 new batteries, with the cost split between the other parish councils actively using the SID. It was asked when the WBC speed camera in the village (A340) was last downloaded, and what were the results. Clerk to ask WBC Highways. The Clerk met a 'handyman' to look at the Falcon Fields Noticeboard. His professional view was that it was a poor design and was not particularly secure. One possible option to make it more secure would be to add a new latch onto the side of the noticeboard locked with a padlock. The council agreed that this was the most cost-effective way forward and gave permission for the Clerk to meet with the 'handyman' again and have the works done, if under £100. If the quote is above £100, but below £150, the decision can be agreed over e-mail with councillors. If above £150 then the council will need to rethink what they wish to do going forward.
008/25	Consultation documents requiring consideration Local Plan Review – No Comment WBC Service Delivery – No Comment Royal Berks Fire Service tax increase – No Comment as it was agreed this was something individuals should respond to if they wish.
009/25	AWE to include updates from LLC No updates
010/25	Councillor Vacancy Councillors voted to Co-opt Mr. Ed Tilsley. The council noted both applicants were very strong and would like to keep in touch with the unsuccessful candidate in case of another casual vacancy. Cllr Crawford will contact both people and inform them of the decision.

011/25	Reports District Councillor's report – Cllr Boeck informed the council that Melanie Ellis, WBC Schools Finance Manager, had recently passed away. The council were saddened to hear this news and give their condolences to Melanie's family. Cllr Boeck advised the council that there is going to be a substantial briefing next week in relation to the devolution of local councils and will report back to APC the outcome of the briefing. He indicated that Berkshire is likely to be split into 2 unitary authorities and that changes will happen in 2 waves, the first in 2027 and the second in 2028. Clerks Report – The Clerk requested that her milage for council related work, such as putting up agendas and council meetings, can be claimed back. This was agreed by the council at a rate of 45p a mile, in line with current Government figures.
012/25	Finance a. Bank reconciliation (Appendix B) was signed and November's corrected Bank reconciliation was also signed off as now correct, Payment Requests (Appendix C) was signed as correct. All were signed by Cllr R Smith and Cllr A Shephard-Price b. Cllrs looked over 2025/2026 Budget, the only amendment being the addition of £150 for travel to cover the Clerks milage and some reserve to cover any councillor milage. The Precept was agreed to remain at £13,500 for 2025/2026. c. Councillors did not want to apply for a grant from GWR Customer & Community Improvement Fund d. We are aware that Aldermaston PCC, on behalf of St Marys Church, will be submitting a grant request for churchyard maintenance. In the past few years APC has contributed £700 but this year the request may be for a greater contribution. Clerk to look into the rules and regulations pertaining to parish councils giving this specific type of financial support and what comparable parish councils are doing
013/25	Confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 11th February at 7:30pm and confirmed all dates for 2025. To be published on APC Website.

Appendix A:

Aldermaston Parish Council – January 2025

Planning Applications for Consideration

24/02557/LBC	The Old Mill, Station Rd – Instillation of Bifold doors into North elevation of the Old Mill which is situated within the curtilage of a listed building	
24/02575/FUL	Compound A2 Youngs Industrial Estate, Paices Hill – Use of a portion of land as Use Class B8 (storage & distribution)	
24/02684/FUL	The Smallholding, Paices Hill – Construction of an industrial building for use in connection with the existing use of the land for the preparation & sales of cars, as an MOT testing facility	

Planning Application Decisions

	24/01234/LBC – 1&2 Dixon Cottages, Church Road, Aldermaston	Refused
	24/01233/FUL - 1&2 Dixon Cottages, Church Road, Aldermaston	Refused

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

	24/02300/OOD – Land adjacent to Old Kiln House, Silchester Road, Tadley for the erection of 9no. apartments, associated access and parking – Out of District Planning Consultation BDBC
	24/02147/FUL – Strawberry Farm Burghfield Road, Tadley – Replacement of fire damaged bungalow
	24/01941/CERTP – Burnt Pine, Reading Road – Proposed outbuilding following the demolition of the existing building. (refused on 09/01/2025, will be on Feb agenda as Jan agenda published 08/01/2025)
	24/01896/FULMAJ – Aldermaston Recycling Refuse Tip, Paices Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4PG – Development of a new sustainable recycling centre and ancillary buildings including an office, staff welfare room and associated infrastructure. Objection sent 18/10/2024 to WBC
	24/01959/RESMAJ – Blacks Lake Track Racing, Blacks Lake, Paices Hill, Aldermaston – Construction of an industrial estate to comprise up to 15,917sqm of flexible commercial floorspace. Objection sent 18/10/2024 to WBC – Consultation 05/12/2024
	24/01136/HOUSE & 24/01137/LBC - Church Lodge Church Road Aldermaston - Provision of new 3-bay oak framed garage with office accommodation above, located 6m away from the grade II listed Church Lodge

Planning Enforcement Cases

Date opened	Case Ref	Location	
21/03/23	23/00185/15UNAU	Corbyn, Soke Rd	ongoing
04/09/23	23/00554/15UNAU	Land adjacent to Woodstock, Paices Hill	ongoing
07/06/24	24/00320/15UNAU	Land to the east of Circus Farm, Reading Rd	ongoing

Planning Appeals

Date received	Case Ref	Location	Application Ref	Status
16/02/24	24/00001/WR	Land west of Frouds Lane. Out of Parish	22/02341/FUL	Not yet decided

APPENDIX B: FINANCIAL UPDATE

Monthly sheet December 2024			
		Balance Bought Forward (current acct.)	7,374.71
		Balance Bought Forward (savings acct.)	89,462.29
		Interest	68.63
	Abi Lewis	Clerk Salary (Nov)	520.00
	Abi Lewis	2x Printer Ink Cartridges	35.24
	Parish Hall	Meeting Room Hire	15.00
	Bibby Commercial	Dog & Litter Bin empty	71.33
	Digital House	Website Hosting - Annual	172.80
	Thomas Landscape	Grass Cutting	301.32
			1,115.69
	Balance as at 31st Decemeber 2024		96,905.63
	Current Account Balance		6,259.02
	Savigs Account Balance		89,530.92
			95,789.94

APPENDIX C: PAYMENT REQUESTS

January Payment Requests				
FROM	ITEM	INVOICE NO	METHOD	AMOUNT
Sophie Crawford	Christmas Drinks–Chairmans Allowance	Receipt	FPO	33.10
West Berks Council	Kestrels Mead Playground	1419592	FPO	20,320.00
Abi Lewis	Clerk Salary (Jan) + Annual Leave Pay		SO	739.75
Tactical Facilities Management	Dog & Litter bin emptying	SI-2774	FPO	89.16
SLCC	ILCA course for Clerk	QL206445-1	FPO	144.00
Tayna.co.uk	YUASA 12v 22AH Battery for SID		FPO	52.36
Digital House	Annual SSL Certificate	INV-13212	FPO	90.00
			Payment Total	21,468.37
Note - Agreed at Dec 2024 monthly meeting to pay Clerk's accrued annual leave				
Note - YUASA Battery is for half the cost as SID shared with Brimpton Parish Council				
Signed.....				
Signed.....				

APPENDIX D: QUESTIONNAIRE QUESTIONS FOR DRAFT TRANSPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION - ITEM 6 a.)

- Do you agree that the challenges we have outlined above are the right ones that the Transport Strategy should be seeking to address?
Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither, Disagree, Strongly Disagree
- Do you think there are any other challenges we should consider?
- Are there any other comments you would like to make on the challenges?

