

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Aldermaston Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall, Aldermaston

Councillors Present:	Mrs S Crawford (Chair) (S.C) Mr R Smith (R.S) Mr A Shephard-Price (A.SP) Mr D Shirt (D.S) Mrs A Faulkner (A.F) Mrs A Woodley (A.W) Mr E Tilsley (E.T)
In Attendance:	Miss A Lewis – Clerk 3 members of the public

Ref No	Agenda Items	Actions
051/25	Cllr S Crawford voted as Chair & signed Declaration of Acceptance	
052/25	Cllr R Smith voted as Vice-Chair & signed Declaration of Acceptance	
053/25	Open Forum A resident raised that the wildlife signage at Kestrels Mead has still not been replaced, despite WBC agreeing a replacement 3years ago. They said that either a replacement or it to be removed completely, would be acceptable. They would like to pass on chasing this up to the council. They also reported there were some broken rails on the fences which has been reported to WBC. The resident also raised concerns over possible illegal activity on Plot 2 of the Strawberry Farm site. In Nov 2024 tall panels were erected around the plot and there was burning of materials in the evenings and overnight which produced an acrid smell, not the smell of just greenery being burnt. This was reported and all put the road facing panels were removed. These panels have now been put back up and 3 large red vehicles are within the plot along with what appears to be a caravan and digger. It was noted that the burning has been happening again recently with a very unpleasant strong smell. This has been reported to WBC. They also reported on the derelict caravan and debris on the Circus Farm plot of land and how un-sightly it is. S.C recommended the resident raise these concerns with Dominic Boeck (Ward Cllr). Aldermaston Air Cadets are completing a community outreach programme and would like to focus their efforts in the Aldermaston Parish area. The resident suggested the cadets could do 'check-in's' with those living within local the static caravan parks. The council were supportive of this idea and the resident will reach out to the caravan park owners to see if this would be of benefit to their residents. Another resident queried if APC have a time-frame for the appeal and enforcement at Easy Concrete. S.C explained she had chased-up with enforcement and relayed there is no time-frame and due to their staffing issues, it will be a long process. It was also noted that the land has been withdrawn from auction. The last resident raised annoyance and concern over the West Berks Local Transport Plan and that Aldermaston is only mentioned in 4 paragraphs of the 64 page document and they feel Aldermaston is not important to WBC. They spoke about the Freight Plan and that this has not yet been up-dated and no details are available. The roads are in worse condition with the ever-increasing HGV's using the village roads. The resident has reported the same pot hole three times to WBC and no action has been taken, but the road either side of this pot hole has been retarmacked. S.C to follow-up with the resident after the meeting. S.C commented that we are still awaiting the outcome of Easy Concrete's appeal and that appeals do not have a fixed determination period, so we do not know when a decision will be made. It was also noted that there is significant mess on the field adjacent to Woodstock (where Easy Concrete dumped the excavated soil from their site. We know that the field has been withdrawn from auction and there are rumours of a private sale but nothing has been confirmed. APC shares all news relating to these sites with WBC enforcement.	S.C/Clerk to chase S.C to forward e-mails to D.B

054/25	Apologies for absence Mr Dominic Boeck (Ward Councillor)	
055/25	Declarations of interest	
056/25	Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 8 th April 2025 were not circulated to councillors. April's and May's minutes to be signed off at June's meeting.	
057/25	To review and/or adopt the following policies and procedures Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Management, Code of Conduct, Grants Policy, Health & Safety, Complaints, Data Protection, Privacy Policy, Publication Policy, Disciplinary & Grievance, Asset Register were reviewed. Risk Management – change from Chair + 1 councillor to sign off to 2 councillors. To organise a RoSPA with dates and to ensure this is done quarterly. Add desktop printer and office equipment to asset register and councillors want to discuss the 'lock-up' in more detail at June's meeting. Disciplinary & Grievance Policy to be reviewed in June.	Clerk to make amendments/set out dates
058/25	Planning a.) To note receipt and comment upon new applications 25/00368/COND – BURNT Pine, Reading Rd – Erection of a replacement dwelling – No Comment 25/00031/COND – land Adjacent to New Stocks Farm, Paices Hill – Updated LS Plan – S.C noted that a split decision had been reached on this planning due to approval of Cond 5 & 6 but not of the Emergency Plan. This information was received after the agenda was published. – No Comment 25/00950/COND – AWE Aldermaston – Creation of a replacement facility known as 'The Hub' – No Comment b.) To note receipt of any approvals, refusals, withdrawals and appeals 24/01136/FUL – Church Lodge, Church Rd - Provision of new 3-bay oak framed garage with office accommodation above, located 6m away from the grade II listed Church Lodge – REFUSED 24/02147/FUL – Strawberry Farm, Burghfield Rd – Replacement of a fire damaged bungalow – GRANTED 25/00329/CERTE – Compound B Youngs Industrial Estate, Paices Hill – Establish use of Compound B as Use Class B8 (storage & distribution) – LAWFUL 25/00255/LBC & 25/00254/HOUSE – Middle Lodge, Church Rd – Conversion of existing outbuilding store to a home office gym – REFUSED 24/02271/LBC – Barn End House, Paices Hill – 4 replacement windows on 1 st floor – APPROVED All decisions of the below plans were noted by the council and no comment made. c.) To discuss planning enforcement cases – No updates Prior to our meeting S.C requested an update on active enforcement cases. The email response circulated to Cllrs provided the following information: • a retrospective application from Neal Brothers for unauthorised change of use at Corbyn (Soke Road) is 'imminent' • retrospective planning applications are expected from the owner of Padworth Sawmills (Raghill) to cover; Industrial Machinery Storage Shed, Hard Surfacing, Front Boundary Treatments (Gabion Walls and Fencing), Electric Entrance Gates, Vacant 2-Storey Portacabin Building • re activities within the newly created compound on the other side of the replacement bungalow site from Kestrels Mead. WBC is in the process of establishing ownership and making contact with the new owners to establish their long-term intention for the use of the land and the need for planning permission for any elements not covered by the wide-range of Government Permitted Development Rights for development and use of land, which now extends far beyond the 1995 Order and continues to be expanded in their push to drive the economy.	

056/25	Highways and Footpath matters A.W brought a letter received from Thames Water. The letter informed that between 27 th May 2025 and 26 th June 2026 maintenance and improvement works will be carried out at the sewage works with access via Maidas Way. A.W raised concerns about safety of such large equipment down a small road and the toll this will take on the road itself, with prolonged heavy use from large vehicles and equipment. Could the access route be reviewed due to the length of time these works will be carried out for. It was agreed APC would write to WBC for them to liaise with Thames Water to find a better route.	
057/25	Parish Environment a.) The Hind's Head have requested to attach a small banner onto APC's side of the fence between the Recreation ground and pub car park. It was decided the council had no concerns over a small sign stating there is access to the pub/pub garden through this gate, but not a sign to advertise food/drink. The council did state they would be happy with a 'sandwich board' being placed by the gate, advertising food/drink, which is put out during the day and taken back in at night. b.) A.SP reported that enforcement cases against HGV's wrongly driving on Red lane are on going with one driving having been prosecuted and other pending. Cllrs have been reporting these vehicles when they see them wrongly driving along this road, however photographic evidence with the registration clear, is required. Councillors suggested the weight limit sign would be better placed on Church Rd.	Clerk to respond to HH Clerk to find previous e-mails and send to S.C
058/25	Consultations SC noted that there are several references to Aldermaston in LTP4 perhaps because APC was one of the few Councils to respond to the earlier draft (along with Hungerford and Thatcham TCs). On the upside: worsening traffic in Aldermaston is acknowledged as a concern and the Action Plan includes Local speed limit and calming in Aldermaston. On the downside: previous commitment to sign HGV through-traffic away from Aldermaston (which hasn't been done) has been dropped BUT LTP4 does recognise the problem of HGV traffic on the A339 in Newbury having a negative impact on the local environment there. The Council will respond to WBC that they are in favour of a 20mph limit in Aldermaston Village and any other traffic calming measures considered appropriate. We will also request a time restriction on HGVs through the Aldermaston Conservation Area (no through-access at night) because this traffic is particularly intrusive to residents in old properties. SC to circulate draft wording of Consultation response prior to submitting to WBC	S.C to draft response to WBC
059/25	AWE to include updates from LLC S.C and D.S attended the last meeting on 24 th April 2025. They wrote a report and circulated to councillors. APPENDIX D	
060/25	Reports a.) Clerk's report – The Clerk explained that due to national changes with National Insurance, APC are now required to pay NI on behalf of the clerk. A new Tree Preservation Order (201/21/0990 2025) was put in place as of 22/04/2025 covering land at Aldermaston Park. This includes 2 oak trees and 2 other specified areas where all trees within those boundaries are protected. APC were approached by MFON (My Family, Our Needs) to ask if we would like free publications to support children and young adults with special educational needs and disabilities. This was being offered free of charge. It was agreed that if we can get a PDF of this, we can publish it and keep it for future use and for the clerk to forward this e-mail onto Aldermaston School and the Church in case they can make use of these publications. APC agreed they did not want to become a paid member of Connecting Communities in Berkshire as APC are already members of NALC/BALC and we get all support from there. APC would not like to have Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan Consultation on June's agenda. The clerk gave a brief up-date on the 2024/2025 audit and that APC will be able to sign off the AGAR at June's meeting. The clerk is handing over the physical documentation on 16/05/2025.	Clerk&Cllr Crawford to word post for FB & NL

Aldermaston Parish Council
Email: parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk

	The Clerk met an electrician (LF Electrical) to quote on replacing the defib & cabinet at Aldermaston Hall. He has kindly said he will complete this work for free as it is for the community and if there is a cost, it will be negligible (replacement wires if needed). The clerk is meeting another electrician on 15/05/2025 from GU Solutions to get another quote and also from Newbury electricians as requested by Aldermaston Hall. The clerk will report back to the council with the quotes. The clerk has requested a grant on behalf of APC from Greenham Trust for match funding for the defib & cabinet. Waiting on a response. The clerk has been offered a job working for The Willink School as clerk for governors part-time. The council were happy for her to accept this extra role. A reminder that the clerk is on annual leave for a week as of 19th May! b.) District Councillor's report c.) A.W reported to the council that Aldermaston Players had given Aldermaston Hall £1,400 from their last production and Aldermaston Hall also received money from 'The Good Exchange' meaning they have the funds to replace their dishwasher and hot cupboard.	
061/25	Finance a. Bank reconciliation (Appendix B) and Payment Requests (Appendix C) were signed	
062/25	Confirmed the date of the next meeting confirmed as 10th June 2025 at 7:30pm	

Appendix A:

Aldermaston Parish Council – May 2025

Planning Applications for Consideration

	25/00368/COND – Burnt Pine, Reading Rd – Erection of a replacement dwelling	
	25/00031/COND – Land adjacent to New Stocks Farm, Paices Hill – Updated LS Plan 29/04/2025	
	25/00950/COND – AWE Aldermaston - Creation of a replacement facility known as 'The Hub'	

Planning Application Decisions

	24/01136/FUL – Church Lodge, Church Rd - Provision of new 3-bay oak framed garage with office accommodation above, located 6m away from the grade II listed Church Lodge	REFUSED 08/04/2025
	24/02147/FUL – Strawberry Farm, Burghfield Rd – Replacement of a fire damaged bungalow	APPROVED 09/04/2025
	25/00329/CERTE – Compound B Youngs Industrial Estate, Paices Hill – Establish use of Compound B as Use Class B8 (storage & distribution)	APPROVED 10/04/2025
	25/00255/LBC & 25/00254/HOUSE – Middle Lodge, Church Rd – Conversion of existing outbuilding store to a home office gym	REFUSED 17/04/2025
	24/02271/LBC – Barn End House, Paices Hill – 4 replacement windows on 1 st floor	APPROVED 07/05/2025

Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions

	25/00396/FUL – Youngs Industrial Estate, Paices Hill – Retrospective planning application for temporary residential lodge (Use Class C3) – determination deadline 13/05/2025
	24/02552/FULMAJ – Unit A Youngs Industrial Estate – Construction of industrial units (use Class E/B8) in a single building (Determination date – 08/04/2025, Agreed expiry date 30/05/2025))
	25/00031/COND – Land Adjacent to New Stocks Farm, Paices Hill – Application for approval of Details Reserved by Cond 5 (soft landscaping), 6 (hard landscaping) and 10 (emergency plan) of planning permission 22/00120/FUL – Change of use from 8 transit caravan pitches to 8 permanent Gypsy/Traveller pitches
	24/02300/ODD – 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 - original DD 19/12/24. No info from BDBC about extension but documents suggest Emergency Planning/ONR/AWE objection is the issue, Standard consultation expiry 27/01/2025 – expiry date 09/05/2025
	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 – DD now 28/02/2025 waiting on amended plans to deal with consultee issues and for agent to give time frame for these and agree a new EoT accordingly – expiry date 14/05/2025, new expiry date 23/05/2025

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
	11/-1563/FULD	Chestnut Coppice, Raghill - Certificate of Lawful Use for Non-compliance with conditions 12 13 & 14 attached to planning permission	24/00911/CERTE	Not yet decided
18/02/25	APP/W0340/W/25/3359455	– North Lodge, Church Rd - Proposed demolition of existing extension and replacement with new single storey extension and associated amendments to the landscape to create a new residential curtilage and provision of parking spaces	23/00388/FUL & 23/00394/FUL	Not yet decided

APPENDIX B: FINANCIAL UPDATE

Aldermaston Parish Council
Email: parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk

Monthly sheet April 2025			
		Balance Bought Forward (savings acct)	69,403.69
		Balance Bought Forward (current acct)	3,325.76
		Precept	6,750.00
		Interest	57.04
		Clerk wrongful payment into Current Acct	42.00
			79,578.49
	Aldermaston Parish Hall	Hall Hire	15.00
	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	Dog & Waste Bin Empty	77.27
	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	6mnths Payroll service	54.00
	HMRC	P30 Tax	42.00
	Abi Lewis	Refreshments for APM	23.55
	Abi Lewis	Office Supplies x2 receipts (HB)	5.57
	Abi Lewis	Clerk Salary (March)	520.00
	Abi Lewis	Milage	9.90
	Abi Lewis	Clerk Refund	42.00
	Lloyds Bank	Service Charge	4.25
			793.54
	Balance on 29th April 2025		78,784.95
	Current Account Balance		9,324.22
	Savigs Account Balance		69,460.73
			78,784.95

APPENDIX C: PAYMENT REQUESTS

May 2025 Payment Requests				
FROM	ITEM	INVOICE NO	METHOD	AMOUNT
Aldermaston Parish Hall	Hall Hire	APH-2025-94	FPO	15.00
Thomas Landscape Services Ltd	Grass Cutting	INV-1497	FPO	308.83
BALC	Affiliation Fee + NALC Levy	INV-7431	FPO	279.26
Lloyds Bank	Service Charge	454351913	PAY	4.25
Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	Bin Empty	SI-3396	FPO	77.27
Abi Lewis	Salary (May)	475/VA56391	SO	520.00
Abi Lewis	Milage	May-25	FPO	19.80
HMRC	P30 NI contribution	475PFO01754	FPO	15.45
			Payment Total	1,239.86

Signed.....		
Signed.....		

APPENDIX D: LLC REPORT

Report on 111th meeting of AWE LLC 24th April 2024

Summary: Another well attended meeting with good representation from local parish and town councils, local authorities, regulators, and AWE staff. It took place within the secure compound of AWE Aldermaston in recognition of it being AWE's 75th Anniversary and included a tour of the on-site museum. The regulators all gave AWE a clean bill of health and we welcomed a couple of new initiatives that could reduce the impact of AWE traffic on local roads (off-siting office staff and a trial shuttle bus service from Aldermaston Station) and the upcoming launch of an AWE public text alerting system. Less good news was confirmation from WBC Emergency Planning that it does not follow up with developments in the DEPZ to ensure that Conditions relating to Emergency Planning are discharged. Not surprisingly we are concerned that the Off-Site Emergency Plan is less robust than WBC says it is and would be less effective than the ONR and AWE would expect in the event of a radiation incident.

1. Meeting opened by Chair Ian Rogers (AWE Exec Director and Chief Nuclear Officer). Notable comments included:

- Trump's administration may be having a significant impact on the global economy and security, but there has been no impact on AWE's collaboration and engagement with its US partner defence and research institutions
- AWE is working on establishing satellite locations for AWE office staff to reduce the number of people on site and associated congestion, and because it makes sense to have them away from hazardous operations. Currently AWE has offices/people in Green Park, Paddington, the Space Park in Leicester, and the Advanced Materials Manufacturing Centre in Coventry.
- Latest news to the local community via Connect Magazine in Feb/March. The edition is a new slimmed down paper copy with a QR code linking to the company website for more in-depth news.

2. AWE's Director of Liabilities reported no protector activity since our last meeting other than the scheduled Women's Peace Camp (2nd weekend of each month). Over the last 6 months they had 3 community complaints: two related to hearing alarms and one to bad behaviour of an assumed AWE employee. All were satisfactorily resolved.

Decommissioning and demolition continues on site as per schedule and Phase 1 of Legacy Waste Disposal now complete. A 6-month shuttle bus service running from Aldermaston Station to AWE Aldermaston started at the end of March. It aims to take pressure off the AWE car parks and gates at peak times and is a service for AWE staff only.

3. Bryan Lyttle commented on external planning. There have been three significant appeals relating to proposed developments in the DEPZ that AWE and the ONR had objected to: the Hollies (a 32-house development in the Burghfield DEPZ) was upheld in November, a Brimpton Common appeal for a traveller pitch was dismissed and an outcome is pending for an appeal in Hayes Drive, Wokingham. Cllr Crawford asked whether AWE got

involved in appeals relating to smaller developments in the DEPZ such as Easy Concrete's appeal at Woodstock on Paices Hill. We were told that AWE is not a statutory consultee so would not necessarily be aware that an appeal was taking place. In the future APC will ensure Mr Lyttle is aware of planning applications and appeals in the DEPZ to ensure AWE can submit any relevant opinion to the case officer or planning inspector.

4. We had an update from the Future Materials Campus team. There was no mention of the timing of the planning application for the development although we were previously told it would be submitted in 2025. We are promised an infrastructure investment update at our November meeting. AWE's current focus appears to be on communication with local communities. They did 6 drop-in sessions last Autumn that were attended by 312 people. Apparently, the things people most want to hear about from AWE are benefits for the local community, benefits for the local environment, and job opportunities. They are now commissioning a research agency to get more feedback from a wider group in the community.

5. An Emergency Planning (EP) presentation was given by the Scott Davies on behalf of AWE and Jonah Maddocks on behalf of WBC. It was accompanied by a printed Report to the LLC giving a summary of work over the period including training exercises and the evolving Off-Site Emergency Plan. We have not had this kind of coordinated and structured approach to EP reporting before and hope that this now becomes standard. Most notable was information about a new AWE public text alerting system that will run alongside the existing landline telephone alerting system in the event of a major incident at either AWE Aldermaston or Burghfield. The system will be an opt-in service and is expected to go live this Summer. In Q&A Cllr Crawford asked Mr Maddocks whether the WBC EP team followed up with approved planning applications that included Emergency Planning Conditions. Maddocks admitted that a lack of resources meant that the team had no process to ensure that Conditions, such as producing a detailed Emergency Plan for approval by WBC prior to development and/or occupation, were adhered to, instead they rely on WBC's Planning Enforcement Team to make sure Conditions are met. Crawford noted that WBC Enforcement is equally under resourced and that some developers ignore the requirement to discharge Conditions relating to Emergency Planning. APC believes that this lack of compliance undermines the efficacy of the Off-Site Emergency Plan.

6. There was a presentation from AWE's Environment Team. AWE's environmental focus is on Climate Action, Biodiversity and Circular Economy. It has many admirable initiatives and ambitions including to minimise carbon emissions with a target of achieving net zero by 2050.

7. AWE was given a clean bill of health by the Regulators (ONR, Environment Agency and Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator). The Office for Nuclear Regulation moved AWE from advanced regulatory attention to routine attention in March reflecting progress made by the organisation to improve its procedures. The Environment Agency reported that radioactive emissions from AWE sites remains well below acceptable levels with the total dose from all pathways and sources at approximately 1% of the dose limit to members of the public. This amount is comparable to eating 100g of brazil nuts and significantly less than what one would be exposed to taking a walk along a beach in Cornwall.

8. AWE also reported an impressive staff safety record. We are told that there are now approx. 9,000 people (staff and contractors) employed across both the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites, and that there were just 24 reported injuries in the 12 months to the end of Feb 2025. This is an OSHA rate of 0.248 per 200,000 hours worked and lower than AWE's own 0.3 target.

9. The next LLC meeting (112th) is scheduled for 6th November 2025

Cllr S Crawford & Cllr D G Shirt
25th April 2025