

Aldermaston Parish Council

Chairman's Report

April 2026

Editors: Sophie Crawford, Ed Tilsley

April was a double header for the Parish Council as we hosted the Annual Parish Meeting and our monthly PC meeting on the same evening. At the APM the community comes together to hear from local groups and organisations. This year we were joined by representatives from Aldermaston School, Charity, History Group, Parish Hall Committee, and the PCC as well as our Ward Councillor, Dominic Boeck. We also welcomed AWE who talked about the MoD's acquisition of Aldermaston Park and answered questions. It was an interesting evening and reassuring to hear that AWE intends to be a good neighbour and keep us informed as it establishes how it will develop and utilise the manor house and grounds. A report covering all the evening's presentations will be available on the PC website soon.

In our APC meeting we looked at 8 planning applications. Of these 6 were varying or discharging Conditions from already approved developments, and we decided no comments were necessary. We opted to comment on developments for Church Lodge (2-storey extension) and Veolia's Padworth Recycling Centre (extension of operating hours). We noted that the Church Lodge Heritage Statement is incomplete and lacks crucial information on the impact of the sizable extension. This made it impossible for us to evaluate the development, so instead we will defer to the recommendation of the WBC Conservation Officer if/when additional information is supplied. With the Padworth tip application we decided No Objection subject to extended hours only applying for workshop use and the limited number of trips indicated.

WBC decided one application since our last meeting, for an extension at 26, Maida's Way which was in-line with our recommendation. We noted that the

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revised timetable for deciding the Padworth Sawmills application (25/01915/FULMAJ) is still unknown (it was withdrawn from the March Planning Committee meeting). The PC will instruct a planning development lawyer to provide a legal opinion on the case in a similar way as with did with the Easy Concrete/Woodstock site in 2023. We will also consider raising awareness of the situation with village residents who may be affected by an increase in HGV traffic along Church Road and through the village if a new B8 industrial estate on Raghill is established.

Under finance, we signed off our accounts for the last financial year and looked at 3 grant applications. We rejected requests from the Tadley Scout Group and the charity PALS; we recognise the good work of both organisations, but neither can claim that Aldermaston residents are beneficiaries which is a key criterion for us. We're inclined to support a request from Tadley CAB which says that they helped 26 of our residents in 2024/25, but we will ask for more information before approving any grant in May. We will also be considering a grant request from the PCC for the annual maintenance of St Mary's churchyard next month.

Our next meeting is on 12th May.

For details visit <https://aldermaston-pc.gov.uk/>

Sophie Crawford

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