



## Aldworth Parish Council Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 7.30pm at Aldworth Village Hall  
Minute ref: 006/040325/PCM

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**Members Present:** Cllr. Kate Walters, Cllr. Ilona Herbent, Cllr. Bill Bennetts, Cllr. Graham Rutter & Cllr. Coyle (WBC)  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Officers Present:** Mrs Faye Bates (Clerk & RFO)  
**MOP In Attendance:** 0  
**Meeting Start Time:** 19.30pm

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	Action
Cllr. Walters welcomed all to the meeting and quorum was achieved.	
<b>10 Minute Open session:</b> No members of public in attendance	
<b>Declaration of Interests:</b> None. <b>Apologies:</b> None <b>Minutes:</b> The minutes of the January meeting were agreed. Clerk to pass printed copy to Cllr. Walters for signing.	Resolved
<b>Councillor Coyle Update</b>	
<b>Report of the West Berkshire Councillor March 2025</b> <b>Local News</b> New speed limit for Streatley Hill The speed limit from the foot of Streatley Hill after the junction with the Coombe is currently 60mph. On 28 February 2025, along with Parish Councillors from Streatley, I made representations to WBC's Speed Limit Review Panel, which agreed that, subject to a formal public consultation, the speed limit would be reduced to 40 mph from the foot of Streatley Hill to beyond the junction with the Stichen's Green turn off. This should hopefully make the road significantly safer for pedestrians and golfers crossing at the top of the hill. <b>Various signage issues</b> Various signage issues have been raised with me by a local resident as she has tried to report these to the Council and no action has been taken so I am escalating with officers. <b>Council wide news</b> <b>WBC Budget</b> This was passed last week and followed on from the announcement of Exceptional Funding Support from the Council to help the Council remain financially resilient in these unprecedented times. The revenue budget is extremely tight due to the pressure on three areas- social care, Special Educational Needs and Home to School Transport. There were cuts announced in some areas including the following: - Road gritting – new AI model to be used to work out where gritting is needed as temperatures will vary across the district. - Retirement of the mobile library – opportunity for pop up libraries in village halls etc - Move to three weekly black bin collections – this follows a public consultation on the Council's Waste Strategy last year. It is hoped the move will encourage people to recycle more. However, significant capital spending was announced in the following areas: Investing £73M in coming year including: £18.6M into sustainable energy, including a new solar farm, £12.1M Education and school maintenance, £12.1M highways, £2.4 Nutrient neutrality, £1.7 Drainage upgrades, £1 EV charging expansion, £1.7M active travel schemes.	

Aldworth Parish Council Clerk – Faye Bates

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<p><b>Local Government Reorganisation</b> Members will be aware of this from national news reports – the LGA has produced a useful Q and A document which can be found at: <a href="#">Devolution and local government reorganisation frequently asked questions   Local Government Association</a> West Berks will be undoubtedly be expected to form part of a larger unitary authority with others but no decisions have yet been made as to which areas we will be joined with. The main options being discussed include looking north to South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse or east to the other smaller Berkshire unitary authorities nearby. Aldworth Parish Council councillors raised a concern regarding the speed limit past the Four Points Pub, enquired about lowering the limit. Cllr Coyle suggested a poll for the parishioners to participate in to see if there would be support from the village for this proposal.</p>	
<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p>	
<p><b>Community Noticeboard:</b> The PC are awaiting to meet with a representative of the Village Hall Committee to decide the location of the noticeboard. Cllr Herbert to email VHC to arrange.</p>	IH
<p><b>Approve the waste contractors for 25/26:</b> The clerk presented two quotes for the 3 bins in the village to be emptied. It was approved to accept the quote of Tactical Facilities Management £109.56 exc VAT. The budget for 25/26 bin emptying is £400.00. Clerk to inform waste contractors.</p>	FB
<p><b>Salt Bins:</b> The salt bins have been topped up around the village. 3 bags left over which are being stored in Cllr. Herbert's garage until required.</p>	
<p><b>Litter picking:</b> Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 9:30am. Clerk to find out an idea of numbers of volunteers so we can order refreshments. Cllr. Bennetts will get the litter picking equipment down from the loft and store in the Davey Room prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr. Walters will order the food and refreshments. Clerk to order heavy duty bin bags and arrange with WBC to collect the waste from Hungerford Green on the 14<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	KW/BB/FB
<p><b>Outstanding loan for village hall:</b> The clerk updated the council on the outstanding loan, there is currently £20,500 outstanding with payments being made until April 2065. The interest rate on the loan is 3.450%. The council suggested that if the budget allows, we may make a lump sum payment towards the loan at the end of the financial year.</p>	
<p><b>Tree Survey:</b> The clerk has tried to obtain quotes for the tree survey, however only one quote has been received. It was approved to appoint Tactical Facilities Management to carry out the survey. The quote for this is £550.00 exc VAT. The budgeted amount for the tree survey and maintenance for 25/26 is £1000.00.</p>	FB
<p><b>Damaged Road Gate:</b> The clerk has reported the damaged village gate to WBC, they responded and suggested that we raise money for the repairs through a members bid grant. The clerk has passed this on to Cllr. Coyle to raise with WBC as it is not the property of Aldworth Parish Council, therefore we should not be paying for the repair.</p>	LC/FB

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<b>Ongoing projects update</b>																																					
<b>Land ownership map:</b> Ongoing	IH																																				
<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To note that WBC <b>GRANTED PERMISSION</b> for 24/02408/LBC Erection of single storey extension and internal alterations. Westridge Manor, Aldworth Road, Streatley, Reading.</li> <li>➤ To note that WBC <b>GRANTED PERMISSION</b> for 24/02406/HOUSE Erection of single storey extension and internal alterations. Westridge Manor, Aldworth Road, Streatley, Reading RG8 9RE</li> <li>➤ To note that application 24/01931/LBC To replace all the windows at the front of the building with like for like has been withdrawn.</li> <li>➤ 24/02816/FUL The construction of a building to cover the existing cattle handling yard and cover/roof between two permitted buildings. Bower Farm, Bower Road, Aldworth, Reading RG8 9TR. Aldworth PC-No objections. Cllr Walters did not comment on this application due to her pecuniary interest.</li> <li>➤ To note that WBC <b>REFUSED PERMISSION</b> for 24/02630/HOUSE Replacement Garage. Downland Cottage, Aldworth, Reading, RG8 9RL.</li> <li>➤ To note that WBC <b>GRANTED PERMISSION</b> for 24/02233/HOUSE Erection of 3 bay timber frame oak garage with office above. Old Barn, Aldworth, Reading, RG8 9SA</li> </ul>																																					
<b>Matters for future consideration or suggestion cards from members of public:</b>																																					
<b>Next agenda item:</b> Council Policies, Procedures, Asset register and public liability insurance renewal.	FB																																				
<b>No Suggestion cards from MOP.</b>																																					
<b>Clerk Report to include finances, correspondence received and matters for attention:</b>																																					
<p><b>Finances:</b></p> <p><b>Monthly Finance Report:</b> Clerk presented to the council, Cllr Walters signed forms for January and February. Clerk to file.</p> <p><b>Current account balance on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025:</b> £18,719.22</p> <p><b>CIL Balance on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025:</b> £3,635.06 (included in the current account balance).</p> <p><b>Payments due:</b> ICO direct debit on the 17<sup>th</sup> March-£52.00</p> <p><b>Payments and receipts made since the January meeting:</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">23/01/2025</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">HMRC</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">D/D</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">£</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">216.20</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"></td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">£18,779.19</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">HMRC Tax</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">23/01/2025</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">F.Bates expenses</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">BACS</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">£</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">47.97</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"></td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">£18,731.22</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">General Maintenance</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">Road Salt</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">31/01/2025</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">Service charge</td> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">£</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">6.00</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"></td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">£18,725.22</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">Bank Charges</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">28/02/2025</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">Service charge</td> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">£</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">6.00</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"></td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">£18,719.22</td> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;">Bank Charges</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	23/01/2025	HMRC	D/D	£	216.20		£18,779.19	HMRC Tax		23/01/2025	F.Bates expenses	BACS	£	47.97		£18,731.22	General Maintenance	Road Salt	31/01/2025	Service charge		£	6.00		£18,725.22	Bank Charges		28/02/2025	Service charge		£	6.00		£18,719.22	Bank Charges		FB
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<b>Matters for attention and correspondence received:</b>																																					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Internal Auditor for the 2024/2025 audit-Claire Connell was approved.</li> <li>➤ Annual Park Inspection is booked in April- £80 exc VAT.</li> </ul>																																					

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<b>To receive further questions or comments from members of the public:</b>	
None	

Meeting closed at 20:55pm

The 2025 meetings will be held:  
6<sup>th</sup> May (APM), 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> November at 19.30pm.

*Signed: F Bates 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

**Approved by:**  
**Position:**  
**Date:**

DRAFT