



Aldworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 11th January 2023, 7.45pm, Aldworth Village Hall

Minute ref: 008/110123/PCM

Members Present:	Cllr. Tim Chapman, Cllr. Donna Roach, Cllr. Nick Williams, Cllr. John Clark, Cllr. Kate Walters
Members Absent:	0
Officers Present:	Mrs Fenella Woods (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance:	3 members of public.
Meeting Start Time:	19.49pm
Meeting End Time:	21:30pm

- 089/23 Cllr. Chapman welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies were received; all members of the Council were in attendance. Quorum was achieved.
- 090/23 There were no declarations of interest from any member present, nor were there any requests for dispensation.
- 091/23 One member of the public requested to speak during item 7 of the agenda, and one member of the public requested to speak during item 8 of the agenda. Both requests were **approved** by the Chairman. There were no representations from any member who had declared an interest.
- 092/23 The minutes of the Full Council meeting on 9th November 2022 and the minutes of the Planning Meeting on 1st December 2022 were **approved** as a true and accurate record. Cllr. Chapman signed a hard copy of each for the file.
- 093/23 With regards to the Planning Meeting on 1st December, Cllr. Roach advised that she had concerns over the potential new access to Bower Farm from the B4009 in Westridge Green and requested this was noted.
- 094/23 The Clerk advised that all actions generated from the meeting on 9th November had been actioned. The only outstanding action from the meeting on 1st December was the installation of the Defibrillator which will be discussed during item 8 of this meeting. The 2022 / 2023 Action Log was reviewed and updated.

095/23

Cllr, Chapman invited the member of public who requested to speak on the Village Hall Footpath upgrade plans to take the floor. A short summary of the discussion is bullet pointed below:

- An email was sent to all Councillors on 31st January with several attachments and explanatory text to accompany the drawings.
- It was noted that the quotation received from T L Contracting for the excavation of the path did not have any drawings or technical specifics which made it very difficult to envisage what this excavation results will look like and what (if any) impact it will have on the surrounding area (i.e., AONB / rural / neighbours etc.)
- Essentially, concerns were raised over the future of the hedging that runs parallel to the road and existing footpath (in terms of its survival during the excavation process), the potential requirement for some form of retaining wall which would be needed if a trench is dug to provide the lowering of the path to allow for a better gradient and what would happen to the start of Footpath 16 which is right next to it.

T L Contracting were not able to join this meeting to counter the comments and concerns listed above but the Clerk had forwarded the email to them and had received a response which is summarised below:

- The hedging will be OK and will not need to be replaced / replanted as hedges are hardy.
- If the fence post needs to be replaced / made longer then this will be done.
- If the signpost needs to be reset into lower ground this will be done.
- They have not been instructed to do anything with Footpath 16.
- The drawings sent over are what had been planned.

There was concern that perhaps this quotation was excessive for the work proposed and that other excavators should be invited to share their views and prices. Also, due to the AONB / rural location it would be prudent to view examples of the excavators work to ensure that we are not left with something inappropriate for the area.

Another option was proposed; this was to modify the entrance next to The Bell Pub. Currently, there is a gate which is locked when the hall is not in use with a pedestrian 'kissing gate' to the side. It was proposed that perhaps the kissing gate could be modified to allow for wheelchair / scooter access instead. If this option was to be considered, a path would need to be created as it is mostly mud and grass, up an incline. Also, consideration would need to be made on how to keep motorbikes / scooters out of the recreation ground but allow for wheelchair access at the same time.

It was **agreed** to continue looking into this by sourcing additional quotations, examples of work, and looking at an alternative provision. The Clerk reminded all members present that the £3K Members' Bid grant needs to be 'spent' and requested from WBC prior to 31st March 2023.

096/23

It was **agreed** that the new defibrillator will be installed at the Village Hall. It will need to be put on a post, as opposed to being attached to the wall due to the cladding. The new defibrillator will be located near the playground as there is an outdoor socket for it to plug into. The Clerk will arrange for the electrician to install it as soon as they can. The Bell pub will be informed that the Village will have two working defibrillators. Once installed, the Clerk will register the defibrillator on all the websites and seek guardians for the maintenance checks. An annual support package will be

researched and presented at the next meeting. It was **agreed** to pay the Village Hall £20.00 per year via a standing order to cover the cost of the electricity that the defibrillator will use.

- 097/23 The budget spreadsheet for 2023 / 2024 had been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting and all members present **resolved** to **approve** the budget. As a result of this approved budget, it was **resolved** to **approve** a precept request of £13,500.00 for 2023 / 2024, payable in two instalments of £6,750.00. The Clerk will complete the Precept Request Form and submit via email to WBC.
- 098/23 It was **agreed** to award a Section 137 grant to St Mary's PCC for £350.00 to assist with the annual churchyard maintenance. The Clerk will process the payment via BACS and email the PCC to advise of the incoming funds.
- 099/23 All members present **agreed** to adopt the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) 'Make a Change' campaign to assist in the potential recruitment of new councillors in the run up to the Local Elections on 4th May 2023. The Clerk will adapt the posters, fliers, and social media resources in readiness.
- 100/23 Ideas for celebrating King Charles III Coronation were discussed. Although nothing concrete had been released from the Palace it was thought that something similar to the Big Jubilee Lunch could be arranged along with a church service and perhaps show the Coronation on the big screen in the Village Hall. The Clerk has a couple of online seminars coming up to look at this in detail and will set up a volunteer group to help put together the celebrations. It was agreed that a 'whole village photo' would be a great way to record the historic day and several photographers will be contacted to check their availability.
- 101/23 It has been agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 24th May 2023 which is just within the 14 days as per the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, Parts II and IV legislations. This will allow for enough time for all elected councillors to have received a meeting Summons and to account for the clear days' notice period.
- 102/23 The Clerk, prior to the meeting, shared the December Finance Report and the current account status with all members present. £216.00 will be paid to TEEC for the annual website and email address hosting on 31st January, as well as the Clerk's salary. A final invoice from WBC for the Dog Bin on the recreation ground was imminent. All pending payments were **approved**. The District Parish Conference will take place on 31st January. The Clerk will be attending in person and Cllr. Roach and Cllr. Walters confirmed they will attend via Zoom. The Clerk advised that as of February we will receive notifications of upcoming planning applications via the 'Consultee Cloud' which is managed by WBC. An email notification will be received which will require a log into our 'in tray' where the details and consultee response form will be located. The annual playground inspection has been booked for w/c 20th March. It was **agreed** to pay for the leaves to be cleared prior to the inspection. The Clerk will make these arrangements.
- 103/23 It was requested that another Village Litter Pick should be arranged, and this was booked for 26th March at 11am. Adverts will be placed on the noticeboard, Village Hall, social media, website and in The Leaflet. Concerns were raised over the signs that have been put up near Parsonage Green about impending roadworks as they keep falling over. It is likely they need sandbags to help them stay up in the wind. It

was requested that a letter was sent to various households regarding overgrowing vegetation, the Clerk would need to be told which houses should be written to.

With there being no further business to discuss, Cllr. Chapman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at 21:30pm.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Actions from the Meeting:			
	Description	Assigned to	Completed
1	Re-look at the Village Hall access path and consider an alternative location / additional quote	All	
2	Install the Defibrillator, set up Standing Order to the Village Hall and seek a Guardian to help with the monitoring	Clerk	In progress
3	Email the Precept Request form to WBC	Clerk	✓
4	Process S137 Grant to St Mary's PCC	Clerk	✓
5	Book Photographer for Village Photo	Clerk	✓