



Aldworth Parish Council Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Monday 16th September 2024, 7.30pm at Aldworth Village Hall
Minute ref: 003/160924/PCM

Members Present: Cllr. Kate Walters, Cllr. Ilona Herbent, Cllr. Graham Rutter, Cllr. Bill Bennetts, Cllr. Coyle (left at 20:30)
Members Absent: 0
Officers Present: Mrs Faye Bates (Clerk & RFO)
In Attendance: 3
Meeting Start Time: 19.30pm

	Action
Cllr. Walters welcomed all to the meeting and quorum was achieved.	
10 Minute Open session: One member of public spoke regarding parking on Bell Lane. Vehicles parking are blocking access to driveways and the steps to the village hall. MOP asked where the PC have got to with obtaining "keep clear" signage for the verge. Cllr Walters informed we are still awaiting quotes for the council to approve, this has been chased. MOP has offered to secure the signs in place once approved and ordered. Cllr Walters thanked MOP for the offer and patience in this matter.	Clerk
Declaration of Interests: None. Apologies: As above Minutes: The minutes of the July meeting were agreed. Clerk to pass printed copy to Cllr. Walters for signing.	Resolved
Councillor Coyle Update	
Highways: Gas works in Streatley (and Whitchurch!) You will be aware that the temporary lights at the Bull Crossroads are still causing significant issues, although this was in part due to closure of Whitchurch high street as well last week (we did try and get Oxfordshire County Council to cancel this closure but to no avail) but that has now reopened. Hopefully this will all be over by 20 September 2024 when the gasworks are due to end.	
Repainting of lines on B4009: I believe this is due to take place on 19 September. At the same time as doing this, the Council are going to repaint the stop signs on the Aldworth Compton Road at its junction with the unnamed road to Hampstead Norries as a resident there had informed me these were very faded. Additionally, a new junction warning notice is to be installed on the approach to that junction from Compton as there isn't one currently.	
20mph zones: The Government released a statement last week making clear it would be for local authorities to decide whether to introduce these. It seems there is quite strong support locally for 20mph limits in the village. The position of the current WBC administration is that we are open to them if there is community support and I will be discussing with colleagues.	
Planning and Enforcement: New enforcement reporting service, Planning breaches should now be reported at Planning enforcement: reporting a potential planning breach - West Berkshire Council	
Member bids: A reminder that the deadline for these will likely again be end October but once again it is essential to get support from the relevant council officer ahead of submitting the bid so if you could get the paperwork to me by the end of September, I would be very grateful. As a reminder, Basildon PC would be	

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<p>required to match fund 40% of the cost (due to the size of its precept) and the total bid I can make is for £5000 (for all parishes in the ward).</p> <p>School funding: You may be aware of controversy over clawback by the Council of maintained schools' reserves. The Downs School was on the list of schools from which money was due to be clawed back and they protested very forcefully saying that the monies had been raised by the school, it appears likely that there will not be a clawback from the school now that this has been clarified but this is not completely final yet as far as I am aware.</p> <p>New kerbside battery collection: Starts this week to coincide with black bin collection day Recycling your household batteries just got a whole lot easier - West Berkshire Council.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising</p>	
<p>Co-option of new councillor: Cllr Bennetts was proposed by Cllr. Walters and seconded by Cllr. Herbent to be co-opted. Cllr. Bennetts signed Declaration of office. Cllr. Bennetts to complete the Register of Interest Business form and return to the clerk. The Clerk will add the forms to the website and send them to the Monitoring Officer at WBC.</p>	BB/Clerk
<p>Village Green Land Registry: Shoulder of Mutton is already registered to Aldworth PC, it is also on the asset register.</p>	Clerk LC/Clerk
<p>Access ramp to village hall, including members bid application: Mr Owens has now provided the council with two quotes for this work. Clerk has asked for a third quote for consideration. Cllr Coyle is to pass on the contact details to the clerk of someone that could help with receiving grants for this work as it is for disability access.</p>	KW/GR
<p>Bell Lane parking update: As discussed above during the 10 minute open session. Awaiting quotes for signage. Mr Pigott has kindly offered to fit the signs when available.</p>	Clerk
<p>Councillor vacancy: There is one seat available to be filled by co-option at the earliest convenience.</p>	Clerk
<p>Finance software/accounts spreadsheet: It was approved to give 6 months' notice to cancel the finance software contract with Rialtas. Clerk to attend the free of charge training for the software as offered by Rialtas. It will then be decided to rescind the cancellation or to commence with an excel spreadsheet to track the account.</p>	

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Planning						
The following planning applications have been noted. Due to the chairman's pecuniary interest, the council did not comment on the applications. <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 24/00849/FUL Bower Farm. The construction of a building to cover the existing cattle yard. GRANTED➤ 24/01713/FUL Bower Farm. The construction of a building to cover the existing cattle yard.		Resolved				
Finances						
External Audit: Clerk received an email on 9 th September from the external auditor to confirm they have received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 st March 2024.		Clerk				
Monthly Finance Report: Clerk presented to the council, Cllr Walters signed forms from April-August. Clerk to file.						
Payments and receipts made since the July meeting:						
25/07/2024	HMRC PAYE Tax	BACS	£ 9.80		£15,178.62	Clerk Wages & Payroll Admin
31/07/2024	Heelis and Lodge	BACS	£ 130.00		£15,048.62	Account Auditing
06/08/2024	Mr M Buckle	BACS	£ 220.00		£14,828.62	Playground Maintenance
Current account balance: on 16 th September £14,828.62.						
CIL Balance on 16th September: £1,817.53 (included in the current account balance).						
Payments due: Clerk wages for months July to September £816.35, HMRC £194.40						
Clerk now has access to the online banking. VAT claim sent on 8 th July for £680.30 for invoices in 2023-2024 financial year. CIL report for 2023-2024 financial year sent to WBC on 10 th July 2024.						
Clerk Reports, Any Other Business & Matters for Future Consideration						
Dates for 2025 meetings: 7 th January, 4 th March, 6 th May (APM), 1 st July, 2 nd September, 4 th November. The last meeting of 2024 has been moved to Tuesday 19 th November. Clerk to book village hall. All meetings start at 19:30.		Clerk				
Clerk Training: Brightwalton Parish Council have approved to pay for the clerk to attend two training sessions run by HALC (What you need to know and a budgeting course), Aldworth parish council have approved to pay half the fees, total to pay Brightwalton £89.50.		Clerk				

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Old Clerk Laptop: Cllr Herbent has agreed to dispose of the old laptop.	IL/Clerk
District Parish Conference (WBC): Clerk to sign up the Cllrs to this conference on the 29 th October. Zoom link will be sent.	Clerk
New noticeboard: It was agreed for the clerk to obtain quotes for a new community noticeboard at the village hall. This can be paid for with CIL funds. Clerk to speak with the village hall committee for approval.	Clerk
Parish Plan: This needs updating, clerk to look into in the next few months.	Clerk
Overgrown hedges: WBC cut verges etc twice per year in rural areas. If parishioners have noticed any overgrown hedges or verges they can report on West Berkshire Councils website or on https://www.fixmystreet.com/	Resolved
Village Pond: The possibility of reinstating the village pond was discussed. Clerk to speak with Cllr. Coyle regarding applying for a grant for the project. Also discussed arranging a village volunteer group to start to clear the old pond of vegetation and debris.	Clerk
Land ownership: This will be an ongoing project to create a spreadsheet or map of who owns land around the village to include footpaths and verges. This will help the PC with making decisions for maintenance purposes.	KW/Clerk
Community speed watch: Cllr Walters to attend the training to carry out the community speed watch. Clerk to investigate.	

Meeting closed at 21.30pm

**The 2024 Meeting will be held:
19th November at 7.30pm**

Signed: F Bates 17th September 2024