

ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in Aldbury Memorial Hall
Monday 7th August 2023 at 8pm**

MINUTES

In attendance: Cllr Houghton, Cllr McCarthy, Cllr Paterson (arrived during Minute 23/49 Public Matters), Cllr Warren, Cllr Webb (Chair), Cllr White.

Gosia Turczyn – Aldbury Parish Clerk
One member of the public.

23/47

Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

The Council received and accepted apologies sent by Cllr Stretton, Cllr de la Bedoyere and County Cllr Symington.

3/48

Interests

- a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.
 - b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.
 - c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.
- None.

23/49

Public Matters

To receive questions from members of the public and press on items included on this agenda (max 15 min).

A member of the public spoke about agenda item 23/56 Ashridge National Trust. He previously expressed concerns with the Director General at the National Trust and HCC regarding logs placed along Toms Hill Road and the risks this may cause to the public safety. It was reported that the Ashridge National Trust took precautions by strimming vegetation growing around the logs and removing some of them, however this is still imposing a hazard to the public.

23/50

Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Aldbury Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd July 2023 as an accurate record of proceedings.

Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr McCarthy and SECONDED BY Cllr Webb and agreed unanimously that the minutes were a true and accurate record of proceedings and were to be duly signed by the Chair.

23/51

Reports to the Council.

Sign and date:

Stephen Webb
4/9/23

a) Warden's report – appendix 1

The Council noted the report and agreed the following:

1. The baby swing at the Aldbury play area is to be removed.
2. The quote for £75 to paint the fingerpost sign on the Green was approved under Clerk's delegated authority, PROPOSED BY Cllr Webb and SECONDED BY Cllr McCarthy, agreed unanimously.

b) Clerk's report; items for information only – appendix 2

This was noted.

c) Hertfordshire police – report from PCSO.

The Council received an update on crimes reported in Aldbury Parish during July:

Between 2nd and 3rd July, a burglary has occurred at the Post Office/Store, an offender forced entry through the front door of the premises. A suspect has been arrested and charged with the offence and has been remanded in custody.

On 24th July both index plates were removed from a black Seat Leon parked on New Ground Road. This crime is still under investigation.

On 30th July between 2.00pm and 2.40pm a Silver Skoda Fabia parked in the car park on Toms Hill Road had a rear window smashed, but nothing was taken from the vehicle. This crime is still under investigation.

23/52

Planning Matters – to consider comments on the following:

a) **Application(s)**

- 23/01734/TCA Works to tree. Old Rectory Cottage Toms Hill Road Aldbury Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5SA Support

b) **Decision(s) made by Dacorum Borough Council**

- 23/00270/FHA 2 Toms Hill Close, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5SL, Two storey side extension, basement extension with adjusted external stepped access and alterations to rear. Driveway reconfiguration. **Granted**
- 23/01136/FHA 1 Royal Court, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5SG Installation of box dormer window on the rear roof slope to replace existing rooflight windows, replacement of rooflight windows on the front roof slope and installation of external French sliding door to rear elevation. **Granted**
- 23/01558/TCA 4 Toms Hill Close, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5SL, Felling of trees. **Raised no objections**
- 23/01114/LBC Bridgewater Monument, Moneybury Hill, Ashridge, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1ND, Minor alterations and repairs to the existing monument, including repointing in lime mortar, isolated stonework repairs, gentle cleaning and maintenance works and repairs to the stone treads to internal staircase. **Granted**
- 23/01155/NMA Pendley Farm, Station Road, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5QY Non Material Amendment to planning application to 20/00136/FUL (Demolition of barn, indoor school and hay barn. Construction of 6 No. dwellings). **Refused**
- 23/00452/FHA 3 Royal Court, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5SG Single storey rear extension & internal alterations. **Refused**
- 23/00253/FUL Greenings Farm, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5RX, Demolition of 4 single story barns currently used as dwelling. Erection of a low-carbon, 4 bed family home, annex and carport. **Granted**

Sign and date:

2

Stephen Webb
4/9/23

c) Consultation(s)

To consider and decide actions (if any) to be taken in relation to any consultations received.

- Hertfordshire County Council - Rural Estate Strategic Plan – deadline to complete the survey is 16th August.

The Council decided not to respond to the survey.

23/53 **Advisory signage for 20 mph Zone within Aldbury village.**
Discussion adjourned until September.

23/54 **Aldbury play area – appendix 3**
To receive report and approve recommendations from the Aldbury play area working group.

The Council received a written report with recommendations from the working group to install two pieces of equipment a timber Snake Swing from PlayDale at a cost of £5,549 plus VAT and a Tipi carousel spinner from Komplan at a cost of £2,116 plus VAT with the latter being from an inclusive range. The Council, inclusive of 6 members present at the meeting, took a vote by show of hand on the following proposal:

To approve the quotes listed above and install two pieces of new equipment as per the Aldbury play area working group recommendations:

5 voted YES
1 voted NO
None abstained.

It was resolved to approve the quotes and order the equipment as part of Stage 2 of the Playground Revamp project, PROPOSED BY Cllr Webb and SECONDED BY Cllr White.

23/55 **Pond restoration.**
To receive an update from Pond working group.
The pond restoration work will be starting within two weeks and the working group is aiming to be finished by the end of August. The volunteers from the Garden Club will carry out a manual dig out of vegetation from now until the 18th of August and then the pond parameter will be fenced off for the machinery to be used. There is a call out for volunteers advertised and parishioners are encouraged to get involved.

23/56 **Ashridge National Trust – appendix 4**
To receive an update about Tom's Hill Road safety issue.
This was discussed under Minute 23/49 Public Matter. After the Council received verbal update from member of the public it resolved to write to the Director General at National Trust asking for all logs to be removed and copy in members of the National Trusts' executive team, County Councillor Symington and the MP, PROPOSED BY Cllr Webb and SECONDED BY Cllr Warren and carried unanimously.

23/57 **Allotments – appendix 5**

Sign and date:

Stephen Webb
4/9/23

- a) To approve an additional paragraph about equal opportunities added to the tenancy agreement.

Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Paterson and SECONDED BY Cllr White and agreed unanimously to approve the paragraph and incorporate it into the allotment tenancy agreement.

- b) To agree on the amount of rent increase for 2024.

Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Paterson and SECONDED BY Cllr Houghton and agreed unanimously to give notice to tenants in 2023 about fees going up £2 per plot in 2024.

23/58

Footpaths, Highways and Bridleways

- a) Gateway to Tring Station - to receive an update from Cllr Warren.

Cllr Warren updated about the proposal put to HCC and the Parish Council by the Tring Station Residents Association to install signs at either end of the village to define Tring Station as a hamlet. This initiative will cost circa £7,000 and the Council agreed to add it to the next year's budget.

- b) Sign on the Green – to consider approving a quote of £652.56 received from Hertfordshire County Council.

Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Webb and SECONDED BY Cllr Houghton and carried unanimously to approve the quote from HCC.

23/59

Aldbury Noticeboard.

The Clerk reported that the proposal put forward by the Council to have the noticeboard wall mounted was rejected by the property owner, therefore the noticeboard will need to be replaced like for like. The Council was approached by a filming company, and it was suggested that the fee received from the shooting would be used to cover the cost of a new noticeboard. Work in progress.

23/60

Financial Matters – appendix 6

- a) To review and note the accounts including bank reconciliation, bank statement and monthly budget report.

Invoices, bank statement and bank reconciliation and budget report were noted and agreed and were to be duly signed by the Chair.

- b) To note receipt of income.

The Council noted the receipt of £14 for the Guide for Aldbury.

- c) To pass resolution to authorise schedule of payments in accordance with the budget circulated to Council.

Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Warren and SECONDED BY Cllr Webb to authorise the following payments:

BACS/DD presented for payment at the meeting on 7th August 2023:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
M Turczyn (Clerk) Salary deducted from the total	Salary, HCC Pension July	£1,344.93
HMRC	Clerk PAYE July	£6.53

Sign and date:

Stephen Webb
4/9/23

Npower Business Solutions	Street light power (already paid by DD on 19 July and deducted from total)	£90.26
Npower Business Solutions	Street light power August (DD payment)	£92.17
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	Alpha accounting software (annual licence)	£119.96
Anglo Dutch	Payroll provider	£54.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit fees	£378.00
Martin Walters	Grass cutting July	£909.00
M J Bradley Consulting Services	Project Mgt Fees (approved at the meeting on 3 rd July- Pond budget)	£1,625.00
G Turczyn	Clerk's mileage expenses July/August	£28.80

Total Expenditure: £ 3,507.26

Payments approved at the meeting on 3rd July and already made under Pond Project - Pond Earmarked Reserves £20,000:

Enviro Solution	Toxicity report	£1,788.00 including VAT
Terraseal	Liner for pond	£8,471.15 including VAT

Total Expenditure: £ 10,259.15

Level of general reserves August 2023 – £26,407.31

- d) To appoint Hertfordshire Internal Audit Service as an internal auditor for 2023-24 at a cost of £377.05 (letter of engagement sent to Councillors in advance).
Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Webb and SECONDED BY Cllr McCarthy that the above internal auditor be appointed.

23/61 Meeting close. 21:40

Next Aldbury Parish Council meeting will be held on 4th September 2023.

Sign and date:

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4/9/23