

**ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Held in Aldbury Memorial Hall  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 8pm**

**MINUTES**

In attendance: Cllr de la Bedoyere (Vice Chair), Cllr McCarthy, Cllr Paterson, Cllr Stretton, Cllr Warren, Cllr Webb (Chair) and Cllr Warren. *White*

Gosia Turczyn – Aldbury Parish Clerk  
Paul Miller the general manager of Ashridge Estate and second person from Ashridge Estate  
8 members of the public

**23/118 Apologies**

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

The Council received and accepted apologies sent by Cllr Houghton.

**23/119 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

**23/120 Public Matters**

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

Members of the public joined the meeting to receive an update and take part in Q&A on agenda item 23/125 Ashridge National Trust.

**23/121 Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of Aldbury Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 as an accurate record of proceedings.

Minutes of the Aldbury Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were PROPOSED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere and SECONDED BY Cllr McCarthy as being correct and were duly signed by the Chair.

**23/122 Reports to the Council.**

- a) Warden's report – appendix 1

To note the report and approve expenditure if required.

The Council approved a quote of £550 to cut the hedge at the Iron Room Garden, PROPOSED BY Cllr Warren and SECONDED BY Cllr White.

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

- 1. The Garden Club had proposed to plant snowdrops under the jubilee tree on the green and to install a noticeboard in the Orchard at the cost of the Garden Club. The Council agreed to the idea of planting

snowdrops, however, would like to have more information on what noticeboard is being proposed and exact location before it is installed.

2. Filming will be taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December between 7 am and 7 pm, mostly in two houses. The filming company had offered to donate £1,000 to the Parish Council.
3. Correspondence received about speeding on Malting Lane. The Council will consider this when making representation to HCC about implementing 20mph zones.

c) Hertfordshire police – report from PCSO.

There were no crimes in public interest reported during November.

23/123

**Planning Matters and Consultations – to consider comments on the following:**

a) **Application(s) received:**

- 23/02521/FUL To retain, repair and refurbish existing lattice work windows and install secondary glazing. Including the timber framed small paned windows and the newer French windows on the front elevation. The doors of the historic building will be retained, repaired and refurbished. The flat roofed building extension has metal framed windows that will be replaced entirely with modern double-glazed equivalent. Aldbury Junior School Stocks Road Aldbury Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5RT No comment
- 23/02769/TCA Fell tree This is a potentially very large tree in a very tight spot between two houses. It is still young, but already the roots are causing considerable cracks in the concrete path. There are concerns for the garage foundations just 1.5 m away. And concerns for mains drainage pipes. Two trees have been purchased as replacements. 1 Malting Lane Aldbury Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5RH No comment
- 23/02784/FHA Single storey rear extension and internal alterations. 3 Royal Court Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5SG No comment

b) **To consider and approve any Parish Council responses to any planning applications received during the period after which the agenda was published. Those applications will be added in the Clerk's report and can be found on [www.aldburyparish.org.uk](http://www.aldburyparish.org.uk) in the Meetings tab.**  
None received during that period.

c) **Decision(s) issued by Dacorum Borough Council:**

- 23/02446/TCA Laundry Cottage, 28 Malting Lane, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5RH Works to trees. **No objection.**
- 23/02100/FHA 34 Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5RU, Dormer alterations to rear roof. **Granted**

23/124

**Consultation on the Dacorum Local Plan 2024-2040 REVISED STRATEGY FOR GROWTH. Comments can be submitted online**

via [letstalk.dacorum.gov.uk](http://letstalk.dacorum.gov.uk) and must be received before 11:59pm on Monday 11th December 2023.

To agree comments from Aldbury Parish Council.

The Council agreed that the comments drafted by Cllr White are to be submitted to DBC as part of the consultation on the Dacorum Local Plan. The clerk will action this.

23/125

**Ashridge National Trust.**

To receive a verbal update from Paul Miller, the general manager of Ashridge Estate.

Paul Miller spoke about the recent public engagement that took place in September and how the landscape and special habitat have been impacted by many challenges faced by the Ashridge Estate. He reported that a survey carried out in 2021 as part of the DBC's Local Plan, showed that Ashridge, as a designated estate, has been damaged primarily due to the high volume of visitors and the way some of them have been treating the area. The survey also helped to establish where the visitors were coming from, what car parks they were using, and their intention to visit based on these findings four local authorities have introduced a pause on any new dwellings being built within the 12.6 km from the boundary of the Ashridge Estate.

At this point, the National Trust had stopped doing program activities to try and preserve, protect, and improve the area and commissioned a landscape architect consultancy to help develop a new approach and come up with a plan to draw visitors to point of interest by way of introducing gateways and redistributing car parks across the estate to reduce congestion around the monument.

He had reported that Ashridge Estate has been working collectively with stakeholders such as Natural England and local authorities to help come up with new solutions such as identifying new Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) around the borough.

After giving the above update, Paul Miller answered questions from members of the public and the council:

1. Q: What is the National Trust remit?  
A: Primarily, funding is being spent on conservation and maintenance such as repairing potholes, pathways, and land that is being damaged by the volume of people walking, fly-tipping, littering, fires/BBQs, dog waste, camp/den building in the wrong locations. Ashridge Estate's plan is to create opportunities for visitors in locations where the habitat is not damaged.
2. Q: What is the view on the plan to introduce parking charges which may divert traffic into Aldbury village and cause inconsiderate parking and congestion?  
A: Ashridge is aware of this possibility and is looking into minimising the impact on Aldbury village by way of increasing car parking capacity and introducing different measures to encourage visitors to use alternative ways of commute, protecting verges by putting logs/posts, and implementing TRO. The volume of parking will need to be redistributed by introducing new gateway locations with sufficient car parking and satellite car parks further away from the estate. There is a plan to guide people better should they choose to go to the SAC. Also, the Pitstone Quarry could potentially be recognised as a SANG.
3. Q: Doesn't having cafés on the estate encourage more visitors?  
A: Cafés will be introduced in a visitor location where car parks will be available.

4. Q: What is the update on the logs placed along Toms Hill?  
A: The Ashridge Estate has a legal responsibility to protect the SAC and the logs were placed to protect the verges and ancient trees and their roots from vehicles being parked.

23/126

**20 mph Zone within Aldbury Parish.**

To discuss measures to reduce the speed in the village.

Cllr Houghton spoke with the school governors and they agreed to approach HCC collectively. The next step would be to draft a letter signed by the Parish Council and the school representatives.

23/127

**Work to trees.**

To receive and approve a quote for work to the Oak tree on the green and trees at the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk received a quote on the day of the meeting and the council felt that it did not have enough time to consider it. For clarification, the council had asked for revised quotes and will make a decision on which contractor to appoint via email. The Council will seek retrospective approval at the next meeting.

23/128

**Internal Controls – Governance, Policies and Procedures. Appendix 3**

1. To review and adopt IT policy. Cllr de la Bedoyere suggested to change the name to IT continuity plan and the draft document will be ready to consideration once clerk's new laptop is purchased.
2. To review and adopt Social Media and Communications policy. The document was amended and circulated to members. After a discussion on whether this policy is suitable and should be adopted the council, inclusive of 7 members present at the meeting, took a vote by show of hand on the following proposal:

To adopt the Social Media and Communications policy:

6 voted YES - Cllrs: Webb, de la Bedoyere, McCarthy, Shetton, Warren, White

Cllr Paterson voted NO and said the policy was unlawful and unenforceable

None abstained

It was therefore resolved to adopt this policy, PROPOSED BY Cllr McCarthy and SECONDED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere.

23/129

**Financial Matters. Appendix 4**

1. To review and note the accounts including bank reconciliation, bank statement and monthly budget report. Explanation was provided by the payroll provider as to why there was an error in calculations of clerk's monthly PAYE contributions. This has now been rectified and the council will be paying the correct amount. Approved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Warren and SECONDED BY Cllr White.
2. To note receipt of income. This was noted.
3. To pass resolution to authorise schedule of payments in accordance with the budget circulated to Council. Approved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Warren and SECONDED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere to approve the below payments:

**BACS/DD presented for payment at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023:**

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
M Turczyn (Clerk) Salary deducted from the total	Salary, HCC Pension November	£1,344.93
HMRC	Clerk PAYE November	£54.06
HMRC	Clerk PAYE Employer amount due in previous periods	£332.71
Leigh Newman Contracting	Recreation Ground Hedge flail	£156.00
Npower Business Deducted from total	Street Lights power paid by DD on the 18 <sup>th</sup> November	£154.82
The National Allotment Society	APC Membership	£66.00
M Turczyn	Clerk's mileage expenses	£28.80
Greenbarnes Ltd	Village noticeboard	£2,813.81
G I Rogers & Son	Village Christmas Tree	£444.00

**Total expenditure: £4,344**

Payments made in November that were previously approved under the Aldbury playground project.

George Davies Turf	Turf for playground	£111.60
G.H.S	Installation of new play equipment	£3,022

**Total expenditure: £3,133.60**

4. To consider the draft budget and precept for 2024/25.  
Cllr Warren had put a list of topics for discussion on the draft budget and members were given time to consider version 2 of the draft budget and make comments. The following suggested provisions were implemented into the draft budget:
1. Elections – £200 contingency was removed.
  2. Repairs to the path on the allotments to prevent flooding – £3,000.
  3. Gateways to Tring Station – suggested use of Community Projects earmarked reserves.
  4. Pond sinking fund - £2,000.

After discussion the council agreed in principle to raise the current precept by 5.5%. Formal approval of the budget and signing of the DBC forms will be done in January 2024.

**23/130 Meeting close 22:50**

**Next Aldbury Parish Council meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

*MLB 2/1/24*