

**PARISH OF ALDBURY**  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD AT THE ALDBURY MEMORIAL HALL**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 8 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Stretton (in the Chair), de la Bedoyere, McCarthy, Paterson, Warren, White, Dacorum Borough Cllr Paul Reynolds and Aldbury Parish Clerk.

**Speakers:** Ted Bianco and Rod Allsworth as Members of the Pond working group  
Five members of the public.

**1. Welcome to the meeting**

Cllr Stretton welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

**2. Appointment of the Clerk to the meeting**

Gosia Turczyn was appointed Clerk to the meeting PROPOSED BY Cllr Stretton and SECONDED BY Cllr McCarthy.

**3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Webb and Cllr Houghton.

**4. Minutes of Annual Assembly held online via Zoom on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to be signed as a true record**

Approved, PROPOSED BY Cllr McCarthy and SECONDED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were accepted as a true record and were duly signed by Cllr Stretton.

**5. Guest speaker - Pond working group.**

During the meeting, Rod Allsworth and Ted Bianco provided an update on the history of the pond. They presented a slide show featuring pictures of the pond throughout the years and explained the plan to restore and maintain the pond to keep it robust. The pond is an important part of the main drainage system in the village, and it has caused flooding in the past. Stoneycroft was affected in 2016, and the Village Green was flooded in 2022. Despite these challenges, the restoration plan aims to reduce the ongoing flood risk.

Due to a serious deterioration in the condition of the pond, APC had set up a Working Group in 2022 to review the nature of the problem, identify potential remedial actions and bring forward specific recommendations with a long-term solution in mind. The Group comprises Councillors Steve Webb (Chair), Nick de la Bedoyere and also involves parishioners Rod Allsworth, Alistair Cromwell and Ted Bianco. The Group has enlisted the services of a specialist in waterways restoration, to provide expert advice and to prepare an independent report on options for lining the pond that has been provided to the APC. Alongside this, the Group submitted a proposal for the restoration of the pond at an approximate cost of £35 000. This was considered at the APC Annual meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May and the decision was made, in principle, to support the proposal. The meeting was told that the Group wish to undertake the capital works in

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

September/October 2023. An application to Dacorum Borough Council for a grant of £10 000 was being submitted to augment the costs.

The Working Group would be looking for volunteers to help in the pond restoration at the end of September and in the first half of October. Firm dates would be disseminated closer to the time. It was a longstanding Aldbury tradition for local residents to assist in working on the pond until relatively recently. It was argued that using volunteer labour would not only save money but heighten community buy-in to the pond and its restoration.

## **6. Chair's Report**

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Stretton gave her report and thanked the following:

- Councillors Graham Juniper and Debbie O'Neill, who recently stepped down, for all of their efforts over the years serving on the council and also thanked Cllr Houghton, who has been co-opted back to the Council.
- All who had volunteered to be part of working groups: the Playground, the Traffic and Parking and the Pond.
- She also thanked the Clerk for her ongoing work.

## **7. Meeting open to the Public.**

Dacorum Borough Cllr Paul Reynolds spoke about his new role and responsibilities since he was elected.

A member of the public asked about the TRO and the double yellow lines for Aldbury and when it will be finalised and what process will be involved.

The meeting closed at 20:50

Gosia Turczyn,  
Clerk to the Aldbury Parish Council

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023