

ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in Aldbury Memorial Hall
Monday 6th January 2025 at 8pm**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Webb (Chair), Cllr de la Bedoyere (Vice Chair), Cllr White, Cllr Warren, Cllr Houghton, Cllr Paterson and Cllr Brooks

In Attendance: Gosia Turczyn – Aldbury Parish Clerk

25/001 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

The Council received and accepted apologies sent by Cllr McCarthy and County Cllr Symington.

25/002 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.

25/003 Public Matters

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

None.

25/004 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Aldbury Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2024 as an accurate record of proceedings.

Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Brooks and SECONDED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere to approve the minutes as being correct. The minutes were to be duly signed by the Chair.

25/005 Reports to the Council.

a) Warden's report – appendix 1

To note the report and approve expenditure if required.

1. The Council noted that two cradle swings with chains had been ordered and accepted a quote of £50 for their replacement.
2. Cllr Warren said that there is a defibrillator unit at the Tring Station train station.
3. The overhanging trees in the Churchyard noted by the warden are outside the Parish Council's responsibility.

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

The Council received complaints about dogs fouling on the paths in the allotments and noted that this is a broader issue throughout the entire village. The Clerk will ask the parish warden for feedback on the areas most affected, and this will be added to the February agenda. In the meantime, the Clerk will post a message in Outlook and on Facebook, reminding dog owners to clean up after their dogs..

c) Hertfordshire police – report from PCSO.

No report was received.

a) Application(s) received:

- 24/02848/NMA 1 Royal Court, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5SG Non-material amendment to planning permission 23/01136/FHA (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.)

It was resolved to make 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 in the Meetings tab.

- 24/02933/FHA Raising part of roof, loft conversion with rear dormers, alterations to fenestration, paint existing face brick. Moorcrafts Toms Hill Aldbury Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5SD

It was resolved to make no comment.

- 25/00017/TCA T1- Cotoneaster - Remove. T2- Plum/Damson. - Remove
6 Malting Lane Aldbury Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5RH

The Council decided to make no comment and leave the decision to Dacorum BC.

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

- 24/02487/DRC National Trust, Visitor Centre And Cafe, Moneybury Hill, Ashridge, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1LX Details required by Condition 4 (Materials) attached to planning permission 24/00536/FUL (Alterations to Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre and Café including relocation of extraction flue and kiosk door and enlarged kiosk counter openings in north elevation). GRANTED

d) Pitstone Quarry Restoration - Minerals and Waste Planning Application Consultations from Hertfordshire County Council and Buckinghamshire Council

- PL/0426/24; Pitstone Quarry Upper Icknield Way Pitstone Buckinghamshire LU7 9HA; The importation of inert material to enable improved restoration of Pitstone Quarry with enhanced landscaping and biodiversity measures, and to create a new outdoor recreation resource, with a network of footpaths, open water swimming lake, welfare units and car parking facilities, for use as a Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG).

Public consultation started on 5 December 2024 and ends on 9 January 2025. The website link for application details and plans is www.planning.hertfordshire.gov.uk **Support**

- CM/0020/24; Pitstone Quarry Upper Icknield Way Pitstone Buckinghamshire LU7 9GL; The importation of inert material to enable improved restoration of Pitstone Quarry with enhanced landscaping and biodiversity measures, and to create a new outdoor recreation resource, with a network of footpaths, open water swimming lake, welfare units and car parking facilities, for use as a Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG).

Public consultation started on 5 December 2024 and ends on 9 January 2025. The website link for application details and plans is [www. publicaccess.buckscc.gov.uk/online-applications/ Support](http://www.publicaccess.buckscc.gov.uk/online-applications/Support)

Cllrs Webb and Warren attended a Q&A drop-in session at Pitstone Pavilion organised by AA Environmental Ltd on behalf of Clark Contracting Ltd, which followed a presentation on the Pitstone Quarry Restoration Project. They updated Pitstone Parish Council on the development scheme. The plan is to have a car park built and the lake restored in the next 2,5 years, depending on the planning process and restoration of the land that would involve movement of the soil with the whole project to be completed in phases within the next 10 years. Cllr Warren had raised concerns about HGV traffic going through the neighbouring villages and he had been reassured that the lorries will be expected to use more suitable routes. The ownership of the Pitstone Quarry will eventually be transferred to the National Trust.

The Council resolved unanimously to support the above planning applications and Cllr Webb agreed to draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

25/007

Filming in Aldbury – appendix 3

- a) To receive an update on the December 2024 filming. The Council received £10,000 location fee. To resolve to move the funds into Community Projects Earmarked Reserve.

Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Warren and SECONDED BY Cllr Webb.

The Council noted that the filming was successful and received only positive feedback from residents. The filming crew was well-organised, ensuring a smooth experience for everyone in the village.

- b) To review and approve filming policy.

The policy will be ready for the February meeting. The Council discussed what should be included and how many filming sessions should be allowed to minimise disruption to residents. They agreed, in principle, to permit filming twice a year, however other filming will be welcome provided it does not cause significant disruption.

25/008

20 mph Zone within Aldbury Parish

- a) To receive and approve a quote from Hertfordshire County Council for the design stage.
b) To note and agree that the above expenditure be paid from Community Projects Earmarked Reserve.

County Councillor Symington provided a written update to members, indicating that another speed and volume survey on Toms Hill Road, closer to the Beechwood Drive junction and Station Road, will be necessary. This survey aims to determine what traffic calming measures may be needed. The Council agreed to send a formal letter to County Councillor Symington expressing their eagerness to proceed with the design phase as soon as possible and Cllr de la Bedoyere will action this. In the meantime, the Council suggested holding a meeting with HCC Highways to discuss any outstanding issues and gather more information on how to speed up the process of implementing speed limit in the parish.

25/009 Ashridge Estate

If update.

Paul Miller, the general manager of Ashridge Estate has provided a written update as follows:

“I have only one update (from the NT), which relates to the outcome of the Review requested into the status of Monument Drive as a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT). You will be aware that the NT requested this status be reviewed, following the ongoing damage to the verges, designated as part of the SAC. Unfortunately, after a 19 month wait, the outcome was not to revise the BOAT designation to ‘only’ the width of the surfaced Drive, so at this stage this key objective has not been achieved. This means that whilst the NT as Landowner has a legal obligation to protect, preserve & improve the SAC, we currently lack the legal power to do so in

this area of the Estate. There are several options still available for the NT to achieve a very similar outcome, which are currently under review. The ability to protect this area of the Estate, as a Special Area of Conservation, is deemed critical by the NT, NE and other key stakeholders”.

- 25/010 Dacorum’s Electoral Review - Consultation on warding patterns**
Draft recommendations have been published, and comments should be submitted by 10th February at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/dacorum.
This was noted.
- 25/011 Internal Controls – Governance, Policies and Procedures – appendix 4**
To review and approve the following:
a) Safeguarding policy
b) Privacy policy
c) Complaints procedure
The Council resolved to adopt the above documents, PROPOSED BY Cllr Webb and SECONDED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere.
- 25/012 Aldbury Parish 2025 Grass Mowing Contract – appendix 5**
To receive quotes and approve a contractor for grass cutting services for the year 2025.
The Council received two quotes for the grass cutting contract based on the mowing specifications outlined by APC, and the quotes vary significantly. The Council is keen to continue with the current contractor and will inquire whether he is willing to match the other quote. Cllr Warren to action this.
- 25/013 Pond**
Update from Cllr Webb.
Cllr Webb proposed building a floating duck house for ducklings to nest in, and he asked whether the Council had any objections. The Council expressed their support, and a design will be circulated to members for approval.
- 25/014 Financial Matters and Budget 2025/26 – appendix 6**
a) To review and note the accounts including bank reconciliation, bank statement and monthly budget report.
The accounts were noted and agreed unanimously to be correct.
b) To note receipt of income.
Income received in December 2024:
 - CCLA Investment – Interest received £139.29
 - Allotment rent - £28.00
 - HCC Cllr Symington Locality Budget - £500
 - Filming fee - £10,000
c) To note that Cllr Brooks had been added as bank signatory.
This was noted.
d) To pass resolution to authorise schedule of payments in accordance with the budget circulated to Council.
Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere and SECONDED BY Cllr Warren to approve the payments listed below:

BACS/DD presented for payment at the meeting on 6th January 2025:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
M Turczyn (Clerk) Salary deducted from total	Salary including additional pay backdated to 1 st April 2024 (Paid), HCC Pension – December	£1,491.70
HMRC Cumbernauld	Clerk's PAYE December	£108.94
Bidwells	Recreation Ground rent	£250.00
Npower Business Solutions Deducted from total	Streetlight power – Direct Debit paid in December	£182.44
Keith Simkin	Warden duties	£364.00
Aldbury Memorial Hall	Room hire	£290.00
M Turczyn	Clerk's mileage & expenses	£28.80

Total: £1,373.77

- e) To approve 2025/26 budget.
The Council reviewed the overall energy bill from its current electricity supplier and explored prices offered by other companies to secure better rates. It was decided to switch from Npower Business Solutions to Tomato Energy for a two-year contract. The Council reviewed the proposed budget for next financial year and it was resolved to approve it, PROPOSED BY Cllr Warren and SECONDED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere and carried unanimously.
- f) To resolve setting of the precept and signing of Dacorum Borough Council forms.
Resolved, PROPOSED BY Cllr Warren and SECONDED BY Cllr de la Bedoyere that the precept be set at £33,425, unanimous decision. The precept forms had been delayed but once received they will be e-signed.

25/015 Meeting close. 21:10

Next Aldbury Parish Council meeting will be held on 3rd February 2025.