

# **ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 8.00pm  
in Aldbury Memorial Hall**

### **MINUTES**

In attendance: Cllrs Pearce (Vice Chair), Juniper, Moore and O'Neill.  
Dacorum Borough Cllr Mills.

Bridget Knight – Aldbury Parish Clerk.  
8 Members of the public.

#### **19/1 Election of Chairman.**

In his absence with his agreement Cllr McCarthy was elected as Chairman PROPOSED BY Cllr Pearce and SECONDED BY Cllr Juniper and carried unanimously. Cllr McCarthy will sign the Declaration of Office.

#### **19/2 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr McCarthy, Cllr Tollinton and Cllr Eggar.

#### **19/3 Declarations of interest.**

Cllr O'Neill declared an interest in 32 Stocks Road as a previous resident.  
Cllr Moore declared an interest in the allotments as a tenant.

#### **19/4 Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

Cllr Pearce PROPOSED that the minutes from the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January were accepted as a true record, this was SECONDED BY Cllr Juniper. The minutes were duly signed by the Vice Chairman.

#### **19/5 Review Actions List.**

Cllr Pearce and the Clerk will review the action list at a separate meeting.

It was agreed in a previous meeting to order Aldbury Guides and Cllr O'Neill will place an order on behalf of APC for 1000 copies to be printed by Almar at a cost of £490.

#### **19/6 Councillor Vacancy.**

It was agreed to leave the vacancy until the Elections in May. The Clerk to inform Democratic Services at Dacorum Borough Council.

#### **19/7 Aldbury Pond.**

Cllr Moore reported a meeting has taken place regarding future plans. It was agreed to remove the concrete base and leave the pond for a year, Cllr Moore has contacted CMS

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

and they have received one quote to remove the concrete base and have the depth of 1.5 meters. The quote is for £8380 + VAT. Cllr Moore is attending a further meeting this week with another Company who may be able to provide a quotation.

Cllr Moore mentioned this is an opportunity to monitor the behavior of the pond to establish the extend of the evaporation of the pond. The environment agency has provided guidance and Cllr Moore has undertaken research about how to gather data and what the purpose and effectiveness will be. Cllr Moore stated he felt the local community can undertake some basic monitoring of level and rainfall count to understand how the pond level fluctuates with evaporation.

Cllr Juniper said the pond working group needs to research grants available to assist with the cost of that work. Cllr Pearce suggested that one or two interested members of the community (non-Councillors) might be asked to join the group. Following a discussion, it was felt that while this would be welcomed when reviewing the results of the one year 'fallow' period it would not be useful at this point.

Cllr Moore said two quotes should be available for the next meeting for the council to make a decision.

Cllr O'Neill asked if, when the concrete base is removed, there is a risk that the pond could drain away more rapidly. Cllr Moore said there is rubble/hardcore under the concrete base. Cllr Juniper suggested that in the 1950s Herts County Council put in the concrete base to make cleaning easier and not as a 'plug'. Cllr O'Neill asked whether the road drainage from Toms Hill could be changed so that the flow of water goes into the pond. Cllr Juniper said that possibly this could bring more silt to the pond. Cllr Pearce asked whether it would be a good idea to divert water from draining in Trooper Road to flow into the pond. Cllr Pearce asked whether the pond working group could investigate.

### **19/8 Allotments.**

It was PROPOSED BY Cllr Pearce and SECONDED BY Cllr Juniper and carried unanimously to allow the Garden Club to be responsible for the day to day running of the allotments. The Clerk will continue to issue the invoices and will direct all allotment enquiries to the Garden Club.

Historically the allotments holders have paid their rents in arrears which gives the council very little leverage with errant tenants. It was accepted that while it would result in a one year accounting loss for the council (although it would have no effect upon cash flow of either the tenant or the council) in future and starting in September 2019 allotment invoices will be issued for the following year. PROPOSED BY Cllr Pearce and SECONDED BY Cllr Juniper and carried unanimously.

The new tenancy agreement was circulated prior to the meeting and it was adopted by the council PROPOSED BY Cllr Pearce and SECONDED BY Cllr Juniper and carried unanimously.

It was agreed for Sunnyside Rural Trust to clear plot 22 at a cost of £300 PROPOSED BY Cllr Moore and SECONDED BY Cllr Pearce and carried unanimously.

#### **19/9 Footpaths.**

Cllr Tollinton had circulated her report prior to the meeting.

Bridleway 49 – the fencing is down, and the legal position is being investigated.

#### **19/10 Planning Matters.**

**19/10.1 4/00156/19/TCA – 12 Malting Lane, Aldbury, Tring, Herts, HP23 5RH.**

**Work to trees.**

**No objections.**

**19/10.2 4/03174/18/FHA – 32 Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Herts, HP23 5RU.**

**A new sectional timber framed building to replace an existing garage and summer house.**

**OBJECT PROPOSED BY Cllr Pearce and SECONDED BY Cllr Juniper and carried unanimously. Object on grounds that the plan is not in keeping in the historic conservation area and not suitable for the AONB.**

**19/10.3 4/00114/19/FUL – The Retreat, New Ground Road, Aldbury, Tring, Herts, HP23 5SF.**

**Demolition of existing timber dwelling, construction of new 4-bedroom dwelling and single garage.**

**No objections PROPOSED BY Cllr Moore and SECONDED BY Cllr Juniper and carried unanimously.**

#### **19/11 Planning Committee Discussion.**

This will be discussed at a future meeting when more Councillors are present.

#### **19/12 Future IT Needs.**

Cllr Pearce explained his concerns about the current IT situation and explained he feels APC needs more secure cloud storage which is GDPR compliant and APC email addresses for Councillors. Cllr Pearce has contacted the Gallery Partnership who have provided a quotation to support APC IT needs.

Cllr Moore PROPOSED and Cllr Juniper SECONDED that APC purchase Microsoft 365 Premium Office Account for £320 plus £7.90 per month for the software through the Gallery Partnership. The IT team will consist of Cllr Moore, Cllr Pearce and the Clerk who will meet next week.

## 19/13 Finance

The following accounts were approved for payment **PROPOSED BY Cllr Moore and SECONDED BY Cllr Juniper and carried unanimously.**

Payee	Description	Total
Almar	Printing - Election Letters	£104.35
Clerk	Clerk's Salary, Allowance & Expenses	£420.21
Martin Walters	Parish Mowing – January	£50.00
Clerk	Reimburse Office Laptop & AVG Software	£538.98
SRT Training	Strimming nr Station	£300.00
G I Rogers	Christmas Tree	£336.00
HAPTC	Clerk's Election Training	£40.00

## 19/14 Annual Parish Assembly – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Aldbury School and Philip Waine – Watch Liaison Officer (Tring Neighbourhood Team) will be invited to speak to the meeting.

## 19/15 Elections – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

The Clerk will be attending Election training and will find out the process for Councillors to submit their paperwork. The Clerk and Cllr Pearce to prepare an article for Aldbury Outlook and Aldbury Shop to recruit new Councillors.

## 19/16 Warden's Report and Matters Arising.

The Warden's Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Pearce commented how effective and useful the Warden's Report is.

## 19/17 Request to locate skip on allotment land for works to be undertaken at a property in Toms Hill Close.

A local resident has requested to locate a skip near the allotments to collect spoil from the pond they plan to dig. They have asked for APC permission and Cllr Pearce passed this to the Garden Club. The Clerk will ask the resident to contact the Garden Club direct.

## 19/18 Storage of Parish Council Files.

Currently there are files with the previous Clerk and some are stored in the Memorial Hall. A discussion took place regarding scanning historical documents in the future. The Clerk to find out how many files Lucy Bancroft has.

## 19/19 May Fair – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

It was agreed that the Aldbury May Fair will be allowed to take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. **PROPOSED BY Cllr Moore and SECONDED BY Cllr O'Neil and carried unanimously.** The Clerk to request a copy of the organisers public liability insurance.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**19/20 Aldbury Shop – Asset of Community Value (ACV) Application. No update.**

Cllr Juniper updated the council that discussions are ongoing.

**19/21 Correspondence.**

- Letter from HMRC - Paying PAYE electronically.
- Unity Trust Bank – Changes to charges effective 4 September 2018.
- Email regarding welfare van in Recreation Ground carpark.
- Email regarding the Beggars Lane verge parking place amendment effective from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – noted.
- Email from local resident concerns over loss of access to footpath from their property, which they have used for 30 years. The Cllrs confirmed the resident need to discuss with the landowner.
- A local resident raised a concern that parking around the pond is obstructing the bus route – this will be mentioned to Cllr Tollinton.

**19/22 Public Question Time.**

A local resident was concerned about 32 Stocks Road that the access to the site is over her land. Cllr Pearce encouraged the resident to submit her comments to DBC.

A second local resident raised concerns about potential drainage issues to neighbouring properties to 32 Stocks Road. Also, the view from their property will be obstructed by the potential timber building.

Another resident raised concerns about the two applications for the same property which are very similar and causing confusion. Also, it was mentioned that 32 Stocks Road is being used as an Airbnb and car parking issues.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.