



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY 2026
Memorial Hall, Oxford Street,
Aldbourne
7.30 pm

Members Present:

Councillors: P. Lawler (Chairman)

J. Aplin, M. Adams, A. Edmonds, R. Lester, J. Paterson, J. Rayner,
 C. Rust, P. Traves, R. Warren

Officers Present: Mrs K Clay, Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: 9 members of public

136/26 Apologies

Apologies noted from Councillors: T. Berisha, V. Butler, C. Elms, R. Oswald, S. Muirhead

137/26 Interests

Cllr P Lawler - non-pecuniary interest for item 151/26b.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rust/Cllr Adams

138/26 Minutes of the last meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 5 November 2025 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

139/26 Planning Committee Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 5 November 2025.

140/26 Outstanding Items Review

Update on the following items:

- a) (10/01/2024) Resurfacing of Oxford Street – Photographs of the further deterioration of the surface were sent to Cllr Sheppard on 12/12/25 and he was asked to chase up the works, which are on the forward plan for 2026/2027.
- b) (01/10/2025) Oaks at 80 – The funding has been received, and the tree was ordered this week.
- c) (01/10/2025) Toilets/Community Room roof – The works are currently being undertaken.
- d) (05/11/2025) Speed limit on Lottage Road – Consideration of moving the 30-mph on the outskirts of the village further out can only be made if/when the houses are built at Lottage Farm.
- e) (05/11/2025) New litter bins in Goddards – The new bins have been delivered.
- f) (05/11/2025) Local policing - Following the Council's letter to the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner the NPT Inspector (Simon Garrett) got in touch. He advised that he had asked for patrols to be increased across the village as resources allowed. He has also asked the PCSO to increase their community engagement sessions in the village. A new location has been found for these, but unfortunately, cannot be used in January 2026.

Inspector Garrett continues to urge residents to report all crime to them via 101 or Crimestoppers and to call 999 if they felt in danger in any way.

- g) Toilet signage – A new sign is to be ordered as the original cannot be moved.

141/26 Accounts

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rust/Cllr Edmonds

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the financial statement as presented by the Clerk.

A copy of the financial report is attached as Appendix A.

The three new signatories have all be added to the Lloyds account and can now authorise payments.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Lester/Cllr Adams

142/26 Debit Card

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that a Lloyds debit card for the Clerk, which will be linked to the Council's Lloyds current account, can be applied for.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Aplin/Cllr Rayner

143/26 SLCC Membership

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the costs for the Clerks membership of the SLCC would be shared up to a total of £101 a year from 2026/2027.

144/26 Clerks Report

- a) The website has been moved to aldbourne-pc.gov.uk and all councillors have been sent information on how to set up their .gov email account. So far, 6 councillors have set up their new accounts and are using them. All councillors need to be using them to be able give a positive response to Assertion 10 on the audit.
- b) A wish to see improvements to all bus stops across the village has been registered with Wiltshire Council as part of their scheme to upgrade bus stops across the county. It is not anticipated there will be any further update for several months.
- c) Wiltshire Council are encouraging councils to respond to the Community Governance Review. The Council confirmed it did not wish to see any changes to the current 15 councillors and Aldbourne parish area.
- d) A minor change of wording at two points within the Scout & Guide hut land lease have been requested by the Land Registry. The Council approved this change of wording in principle and will ratify and sign the changes on the document to be provided at the February meeting.

145/26 Public Session

- Thanks were expressed to the Council for the purchase of the two new bins in Goddards. They have been well received by the volunteers who empty them.
- Concern was raised about children walking/skating on the pond and any liabilities which may arise if they fell through the ice.
- Comment that the parish pays £265,047 a year towards Wiltshire Police as part of residents council tax, and that the policing response which Aldbourne receives for this funding is not value for money.
- Thanks were expressed to the Council for the new basketball hoop. It is getting a great deal of use.
- Several comments about the proposed 20 mph limit scheme, both in support and against.

146/26 20-mph Project

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Paterson/Cllr Aplin

The Council **RESOLVED** eight in favour, with two abstentions to uphold the decision made by the previous Council on 1 May 2024 (item 25/24), to have a 20-mph limit installed on roads to the south of the B4192. The Council also reconfirmed the previous intention to investigate similar schemes in other areas of the parish, subject to the outcome of this first scheme once installed.

147/26 Grounds Maintenance

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Trayes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract D R & R A Pittams to carry out the grounds maintenance as per the tender for the following amounts/dates:

2026-2029: Village - £5,850, Football field - £1,000, Southward Triangle - £460

2026/2027: Palmer's Field - £950

148/26 Football

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Warren/Cllr Edmonds

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to donate £175 to Aldbourn Royal FC towards a pitch line marker. The Council will ask that the equipment is donated to the village should the football team ever fold. Funding to come from the existing 2025/2026 football field maintenance budget.

149/26 Defibs

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Lester

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to reserve a donation of £500 towards a new defibrillator if/when it was required. This sum is in addition to the annual £300 approved for general defib expenditure. Funding to come from reserves.

150/26 Basketball lining

There is no longer a requirement for funding. There were no objections to a blue semi-circle being painted on the tennis court by the basketball hoop.

151/26 Drainage**a) Jetting**

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Warren

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that expenditure of up to £750 is approved for the jetting of the culvert which runs across Palmer's Field and any other culverts if time and funds allow. Funding to come from the 2025/2026 Palmer's Field budget.

b) Debris build up

The Council noted that debris from passing farm vehicles is being dropped onto the road, which in turn blocks drains. The issue will continue to be monitored.

c) Ditches and watercourse letter

The letter provided by Wiltshire Council will be updated to make it more genial.

152/26 Verges

The Council noted that complaints had been received about a vehicle driving over the verge at the end of Alma Road. The verge is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.

153/26 Budget & Precept

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the 2026/2027 budget as presented and to set the 2026/2027 precept amount at £58,427.

For a band D property this is an increase of £3.00 on 2025/2026, 25p a month.

A copy of the final budget and precept is attached as Appendix B.

154/26 Fire Station Closures

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to write to the DWFRS Authority members, Cllr Sheppard and Mr Danny Kruger MP, to express concern that the Ramsbury station may be considered for closure and to give the Councils support for it to remain open.

155/26 Playing/Sports Inspections

The external inspection raised an issue of some rot within some of the supports of Mammoth unit in Goddards. There appears to be no imminent danger of failure, but the Council will contact the supplier for further advice/help. Claridge Close - a fallen tree is being cleared. Sadly, it did squash the spinner, which was already failing and will be removed. A panel on the multiplay tower is to be tightened up. No other issues to report.

156/26 Councillor Reports

- a) A section of the B4192 at Liddington Warren is being resurfaced from the 19 January 2026. The road will be closed for 3 days between 08:00&18:00.
- b) Cllr Edmonds requested to attend the NALC housing briefing on the 25 March. There were no objections to this. Funding will come from the existing training budget.
- c) The owners of The Crown have advised the landlord that whilst they do intend to sell the building, there is no date for when this will be. The building is already registered as an Asset of Community Value.
- d) There has been a large amount of fly tipping on byways recently. Residents are urged to keep a look out for any suspicious vehicles and report them to the police. Fly tipping incidents should be reported directly to Wiltshire Council.
- e) The flood wardens have continued to clear grips and drains across the village. They are also working with Cllr Sheppard in connection with a possible source of the ground water infiltration on Lottage Road. The ATAC unit will be set up outside the library within the next couple of weeks.
- f) The parish steward will not be out this month as he is tasked with other duties. He continues to do a great job when he does visit.
- g) Cllr Lawler advised that he had resigned as the Chairman of the Aldbourne-Creully Friendship Association. The group will decide on a replacement.
- h) The residents who have had to have scaffolding installed for their house to be rethatched on Castle Street are doing their very best to minimise the disruption that this causes.

157/26 Wiltshire Council - Cllr Sheppard was not in attendance.

158/26 Public Session

There were no further questions from those members of the public still present.

159/26 Next Meeting

Confirmed as Wednesday 4 February 2026 @ 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.39 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 4 February 2026



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Account Balances as at 24/12/2025

	£
Current account	4,222.48
Deposit account	86,687.25
Total	90,909.73

Receipts	£
Category	Amount
Oaks at 80 grant	80.00
	80.00

Payments (Nov & Dec)	£	£
Category	Net Total	VAT
Bank services fee	8.92	0.00
Oaks at 80 tree (grant funded)	77.62	0.00
Office costs	181.77	13.33
Playing Fields	590.98	118.20
Pond	32.00	0.00
Staff/contract costs (inc payments to HMRC)	1,834.32	0.00
Tennis/Basketball court	3,062.39	612.47
Toilets/community room	365.28	37.75
Venue hire	26.25	0.00
	6,179.53	781.75

Mrs K Clay – Responsible Financial Officer
07.01.26

	Budget & Precept A 2026-2027	Budget 2025-2026	Forecast or Actual 2025-2026	Actual 2024-2025
	£	£	£	£
Net Payments				
Additional meeting costs	50.00	100.00	50.00	25.00
Allotments (includes £10 yearly rent)	200.00	100.00	420.00	0.00
Amenity upkeep (e.g. bus shelter, pumps)	500.00	500.00	500.00	627.33
Audit fees (external and internal)	500.00	365.00	365.00	365.00
Banking services	52.00	51.00	52.00	4.25
Clerks expenses	250.00	200.00	250.00	245.70
Defibrillator maintenance (subject to a yearly request)	300.00	300.00	300.00	800.00
Donations	100.00	100.00	100.00	2,500.00
Elections (from reserve fund)	560.00	1,000.00	560.00	0.00
Flood management/prevention	400.00	300.00	300.00	265.39
Football field maintenance (including additional works for football use)	500.00	500.00	500.00	132.42
Friendship Association [£400 approved from GR]	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00
Insurance	2,200.00	2,164.00	1,624.39	2,003.92
LHFIG donations (towards highway works)	2,000.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	0.00
Library staffing costs contribution	5,400.00	5,400.00	5,400.00	5,400.00
Mildenhall bench agreement	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Mowing (village & football field)	7,000.00	6,550.00	6,545.00	6,550.00
Office expenses	750.00	740.00	740.00	559.13
Palmer's Field maintenance [Until July 2027]	1,000.00	2,500.00	2,000.00	880.00
Playing fields/areas	2,600.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,361.42
Pond maintenance	500.00	500.00	300.00	0.00
Rectory Wood (also reserve fund)	2,000.00	2,000.00	208.33	200.00
SLCC Subscription	101.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Solicitor	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Southward (taken from reserve fund)	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
Speed Indicator Devices (SID)	1,000.00	500.00	4,868.00	266.77
Staffing costs (inc PAYE/NI/Pension)	12,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	9,674.48
Tennis/Basketball court	150.00	100.00	3,300.00	0.00
Toilets/Community room	7,000.00	6,500.00	7,230.00	5,910.61
Toilets refurbishment	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Training & conferences (Cllrs & Clerk)	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
Travel (councillors)	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.25
Tree maintenance (not including Rectory Wood)	2,000.00	500.00	425.00	0.00
Venue hire (for meetings)	400.00	400.00	350.00	222.50
Vodafone disbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) subscription	739.00	647.00	683.73	634.05
Website & email (domain, etc)	350.00	200.00	250.00	28.78
Youth Council funding (Subject to review of accounts)	5,000.00	5,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total expenditure (net)	57,053.00	57,343.00	59,047.45	42,680.00
Contingency (10%)	5,705.30	5,734.30		
VAT	4,000.00	5,200.00	4,300.00	2,429.25
Total Expenditure (gross)	66,758.30	68,277.30	63,347.45	45,109.25

	Budget & Precept A 2026/2027	Budget 2025/2026	Forecast or Actual 2025/2026	Actual 2024/2025
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Allotments fees	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	0.00	0.00	3,895.54	0.00
Feast tolls	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00
Football Field maintenance donation	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Goddards rent - from Aldbourne Scouts & Guides	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Interest	300.00	400.00	400.00	724.96
Palmer's Field rent - from ARC	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Precept	58,427.00	56,180.00	56,180.00	54,020.00
Storage Rooms - from Carnival Committee	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Toilets/Community room	600.00	800.00	800.00	668.24
VAT	3,100.00	3,100.00	6,400.00	5,185.86
Wayleave	13.58	13.58	13.58	13.58
Total receipts	62,737.58	61,040.58	68,236.12	60,909.64
Receipts less gross payments	-4,020.72	-7,236.72	4,888.67	15,800.39

Plus reserves brought forward	69,711.49	64,719.65	64,822.82	49,022.43
Total fund at end of year	65,690.77	57,482.93	69,711.49	64,822.82
Required for specific purposes	56,903.05	45,614.50	43,196.05	30,988.00
General reserve carried forward	8,787.72	11,868.43	26,515.44	33,834.82
	65,690.77	57,482.93	69,711.49	64,822.82

Band D amt per year	£71.92		68.92	66.45
Amt per month	£5.99		5.74	5.54
Difference on last year (mtly)	£0.25			
Difference on last year (yrly)	£3.00			
Percentage difference on last year (yrly)	4.35%			

Difference between 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 payments for Bands A -H

Year	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2025/26	£45.95	£53.60	£61.26	£68.92	£84.24	£99.55	£114.87	£137.84
2026/27	£47.95	£55.94	£63.93	£71.92	£87.90	£103.88	£119.87	£143.84
Difference for each Band £	£2.00	£2.34	£2.67	£3.00	£3.66	£4.33	£5.00	£6.00
% difference for each Band	4.35%	4.37%	4.36%	4.35%	4.34%	4.35%	4.35%	4.35%

Analysis of reserves

NB: Earmarked/unrestricted reserves can be vired to other reserves or new projects/expenditure if required (subject to agreement by Full Council). Only those which are restricted cannot be used for other purposes. Any underspent budgets for specified reserves from 25/26 will be moved to the relevant reserve at the end year (31 March 2026).

Actual 2025 + or – Forecast 2026

Reserve Purpose Description	Actual	Budget	Forecast	Budget	Notes for 2026/2027 reserves
	At 31/3/2025 £	2024/2025 £	At 31/03/2026 £	2026/2027 £	
Community Infrastructure Levy (restricted fund)	8,138.50	8,138.50	4,240.05	4,240.05	
Election costs	1,000.00	1,000.00	440.00	1,000.00	Increased to cover any future contested bye-elections and/or the next full council election in 2029.
Flood management/prevention	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	Increased to cover future expenditure in this area.
Maintenance & Replacement (for any area under the PC responsibility without a named reserve)	6,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	12,000.00	Reserve increased as the cost of M&R continues to rise.
Neighbourhood plan review	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	New reserve being built up ready for when the review is required due to the Locality grants no longer being available.
Recreational development (whole village)	9,003.00	9,003.00	9,003.00	12,000.00	Reserve increased as the cost of recreation equipment continues to increase.
Rectory Wood	5,000.00	5,000.00	6,500.00	7,500.00	Increased for future works.
Road Safety/Improvements	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	New reserve being built up for contributions towards works either undertaken via LHFIG or directly. Any LHFIG funds within the budget for 25/26 which are not used will be added to this budget at year end.
Toilets replacement equipment	6,162.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	9,000.00	Increased for future works. The sanitaryware will need to be replaced soon, and the plumbing may need to be updated.
Speed indicator device future needs	0.00	200.00	200.00	300.00	Reserve being built up for future upgrades or replacement items
Southward Triangle (restricted fund)	1,323.00	1,273.00	1,323.00	863.00	Reduced by 2026/2027 maintenance costs
Training	0.00	0.00	490.00	1,000.00	Ongoing councillor and Clerk development. The reserve will be built back up as required each year.
Vodafone fund (restricted to an all village event)	2,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	At the moment this is reserved for an 'all village event' but a vote to change this criteria could be taken at any time.
General Reserves	25,696.32	11,408.85	26,515.44	8,787.72	
Total funds held	64,822.82	57,023.35	69,711.49	65,690.77	

Forecast 2024/2025

Minus £4,731.60 for two Solar SIDs & minus £3,062.30 for basketball net.
Minus £560 for the uncontested May 2025 election.
Includes £1,500 not spent from 25/26 budget
£400 vired from general reserves as approved in June 2025 to increase the original budget of £200. Plus the unused original budget.
General reserves were very high at the end of 2024/2025 due to budgeted expenditure not being required. It was agreed that this would be looked at during the 26/27 budget setting, with a view to either increasing current reserves or setting up new ones.

Precept History 2022-2027

Year	Precept	Band D	Difference on PY	Tax Base
2022-2023	40,788	50.83	5.96	802.46
2023-2024	46,000	56.82	5.99	809.57
2024-2025	54,020	66.45	9.63	812.98
2025-2026	56,180	68.92	2.47	815.10
2026-2027	58,427	71.92	3.00	812.35

If you would like to view other parish and town council precepts in Wiltshire (or elsewhere) click on the link below and then scroll down to Council Tax statistics for town and parish councils in England: 2025/2026. Once the workbook opens, find the Local Authority Dropdown tab and then select Wiltshire as the LA. .

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-council-tax>