



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2026
Memorial Hall, Oxford Street,
Aldbourn
7.30 pm

Members Present:

Councillors: P. Lawler (Chairman)

M. Adams, T. Berisha, V. Butler, A. Edmonds, C. Elms, R. Oswald,
 J. Paterson, J. Rayner, C. Rust, P. Trayes, R. Warren

Officers Present: Mrs K Clay, Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: 4 members of public

Cllr James Sheppard (Aldbourn & Ramsbury Ward)

183/26 Apologies

Apologies noted from Councillors: J. Aplin, R. Lester, S. Muirhead

184/26 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

185/26 Minutes of the last meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

186/26 Planning Committee Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2026.

187/26 Meeting Dates

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to move the Planning & Full Council meetings due to be held on Wednesday 9 September 2026 to the Methodist Hall to allow the Memorial Hall to be used by Aldbourn Band.

188/26 Outstanding Items Review

Update on the following items:

- a) (10/01/2024) 20-MPH project on roads to the south of the B4192 – There was no further update at the LHFIC meeting held on 5 February. The Clerk has been liaising with Mr Hind re pedestrian safety signs on Marlborough Road, but he refuses to review this until the 20-mph has been in place for at least 3 months.
- b) (04/06/2025) Affordable rural housing – The rural enablers will be attending the annual assembly to give a presentation to the village.
- c) (01/10/2025) Oaks at 80 – The tree was planted on Palmer's Field on 14 February 2026. Thank you to Cllr Oswald for arranging this and Mr Oswald for helping with the planting.

- d) (07/01/2026) Proposed closure of Ramsbury Fire Station - The public consultation is now open and runs until 15 May 2026. All councillors and residents are encouraged to respond to the survey. The Council will be sending a response. There is an online public meeting on 15 April. Links to all information on the consultation and help with completing the survey are on the Councils Facebook page and the village website. Councillors and residents are also urged to write to Danny Kruger MP, to protest the continued cuts to the fire services in Wiltshire, which has led to underfunding of D&WFRS and the need for savings to be made.
- e) (04/02/2026) Withdrawal of funding for the Link Driver Scheme – Wiltshire Council has reversed the decision to remove this funding.

189/26 Accounts

a) Ratify expenditure

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Adams/Cllr Trayes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to ratify the expenditure of £2,332.00 for urgent repairs of the roof on the toilets/community room.

b) Payments and payment approval.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Elms/Cllr Edmonds

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the financial statement as presented by the Clerk. Payment approvals will be carried out by Cllr Rayner & Cllr Rust

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

190/26 Clerks Report

- a) All councillors are now using their .gov emails.
- b) Following Wiltshire Council's budget decision there are going to be some changes to the parish steward scheme. There has been confirmation from highways that they are not walking away from the scheme, but it will be updated to make it more efficient. Details of the changes will be sent to councils as soon as they are available. The Parish Stewards are currently still tasked with pothole repairs, rather than their usual jobs within parishes. The Council does not pay anything towards the steward scheme.
- c) The Clerk has alerted Cllr Rayner that she is going to be over my total hours for the year this year. The Council will be asked to consider payment for these at the April meeting. It has been a busier than normal year due to the elections and there being so many new councillors and the additional work for Assertion 10.
- d) The damage to ALDB20 (Peaks byway) was reported to Wiltshire Council. The PRow officer advises that he has spoken to the landowner and when the byway dries out, they will carry out repairs. Sadly, this is not the first time this byway has been damaged by the landowner in this location.

191/26 Public Session

- Comment about the amount of funding that Aldbourn & Ramsbury residents pay towards the fire service from their council tax.
- Compliments to Cllr Warren and the flood wardens on their hard work to increase water flow throughout the village to reduce flooding. Despite the higher than usual groundwater levels this year flooding has been much less than in previous ones.
- Question about additional funding for road repairs to Cllr Sheppard.

192/26 Policies

a) Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Butler/Cllr Rust

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Policy for use of Parish Council Land for Events and that the current conditions for use system will no longer be used.

b) Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Edmonds/Cllr Rust

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Reserves Policy & Data Audit as presented.

c) Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Elms/Cllr Rayner

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the updated Privacy Policies, Dignity at Work Policy, Expenses Policy and Press & Media Policy as presented.

All the required policies will be added to the website.

193/26 Events

a) Annual Easter Eggstravaganza (Memorial Hall Committee).

b) Churches Together annual village fete.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Adams/Cllr Berisha

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the use of the village green on 4 April for the Easter Eggstravaganza and 27 June for the village fete, subject to both organisers completing the new form as part of the previously adopted Policy for use of Parish Council Land.

194/26 Internal Auditor

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Elms/Cllr Trayes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to contract Working the Greener Way as the internal auditor for the 2025/2026 audit. Consideration of using the same company for future years will be given after the completion of this year's audit.

195/26 Grounds Maintenance

Deferred to the April meeting as ARFC have still not made a decision on what works they would like to request. They will attend the April meeting.

196/26 Equipment

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to offer the Hayter mower and Stihl brush cutter, which are no longer required, to St Michaels Church on a permanent loan basis. Should they have no need for them, consideration will be given to selling both items.

197/26 Parking

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to submit a request to LHFIG for additional parking bays to be installed in The Square as well as measures to stop vehicles parking down the centre, to make the area safer for all users. There was no support for a notice to be put on vehicles.

198/26 Donations

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Edmonds/Cllr Butler

The Council **RESOLVED** twelve in favour with one abstention to decline the request for a donation of £750 to the Aldbourne Children's Book Group. It was suggested that other sources may provide funding or help, such as Aldbourne Library (which the Council already helps fund), the Marlborough Area Board or the White Horse Bookshop.

199/26 Playing/Sports Areas

The inspections have been logged on the software, including extra checks on the Mammoth unit. There were no new issues to report.

A small party of councillors will look at removing the tree in Claridge Close, but a tree surgeon will be called if it proves to be too big a job.

200/26 Councillor Reports

- a) Cllr Adams having recently helped Cllr Warren with clearing blocked drains, found it was a real revelation into the issues in the village due to groundwater and flooding and the actions and measures which have been, and continue to be, undertaken. He suggested an action plan in relation to what has already been done, needs to be done and measures that are in place, which would ensure continuity if/when people leave the Council and/or flood warden group.
- b) Cllr Oswald and Cllr Aplin recently attended the Wiltshire Council Environmental group meeting. It was very interesting and helpful to speak to other councils and trade information. The meetings will continue be held monthly, and any information pertinent to Aldbourne will be fed back to the Council.
- c) There is Local Environment Open Forum on 21st March (3.00 – 5.00 pm) at St Michael's School, which is being jointly hosted by St Michael's Church and local environment groups. Everyone from the village is welcome to attend.
- d) Cllr Warren thanked Cllr Adams for his recent help with drain clearing. Several blocked drains were cleared, including the one near Lottage Rd/Goddards Lane and the one across Palmer's Field. Clearing of the Palmer's Field drain means that the expenditure for a jet clear should no longer be required. The culvert at the end of Lottage Road by ALDB20 byway has been cleared as much as possible but still requires additional work by Wiltshire Council. Cllr Warren recently met with Cllr Sheppard to discuss all the issues outstanding with drain clearance.
- e) The ATAC has been unreliable yet again this year, with one breakdown taking over 18 hours to resolve. There have been issues with fuel filters and batteries. Sewer surcharging has been occurring. The Environment Agency has been testing the water in the winterbourne and confirm that they are within permitted levels. Groundwater levels are beginning to fall again, and it is hoped with no more heavy rain forecast currently this trend will continue and the issues that higher groundwater levels cause will reduce.
- f) Cllr Warren managed to work alongside Thames Water contractors in Lottage Road and together they located several areas where there is groundwater infiltration into the sewers. He plans to meet further with Thames Water contractors soon to discuss the current system and possible ways to upgrade or improve it to prevent groundwater ingress. The Council thanked Cllr Warren for his continued works with all issues of flooding in the village.
- g) The new SID is installed on Castle Street and is currently set to school mode. An additional solar panel kit has been fitted to the South Street SID, meaning all units are now powered by solar.
- h) A suggestion has been made by residents of making roads around The Green one way. It was confirmed this had been discussed in the past. It was suggested that a temporary trial could be undertaken if there was support for this suggestion to be considered.
- i) Concern has been raised about a couple of trees in Rectory Wood which are encroaching on a neighbouring property. Cllr Rayner confirmed he was meeting with Mr Watson next week to discuss them and any action required.

201/26 Wiltshire Council

Cllr Sheppard confirmed he continues to push highways for action on drainage clearance, and highway repairs. He confirmed that Oxford Street is on the list for resurfacing during the 2026/2027 year.

The Lottage Farm application Section 106 was agreed on 24 September 2025. Reserved matters will be considered soon. Whilst it is not possible during this stage to object, new information on flood risk, design, landscaping, layout scale or access, can be submitted for consideration by the planning officer.

202/26 Public Session

- Suggestion of some sleepers on the banks of the football field to help with walking up there.
- Suggestion of some wood chippings to be put down at the entrance to the football field and Palmer's Field due to them being very muddy and slippery currently.
- PCSO Camilleri will be in the village on 24 March to hold a community engagement meeting. She will be in the school lodge between 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm and everyone is welcome to go along to raise any issues they have.

203/26 Next Meeting & Annual Assembly

Confirmed as:

Full Council - Wednesday 1 April 2026 @ 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

Annual Parish Assembly - Wednesday 29 April at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

The meeting concluded at 9.04 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 1 April 2026



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Account Balances as at 26/02/2026

	£
Current account	2,327.57
Deposit account	81,270.63
Total	83,598.20

Receipts	£
Category	Amount
Toilets/community room	251.06
	251.06

Payments	£	£
Category	Net Total	VAT
Bank services fee	4.25	0.00
Office costs	76.00	0.00
Pond	106.72	0.00
Speed Indicator Devices	2,358.31	471.67
Staff/contract costs (inc payments to HMRC)	918.24	0.00
Toilets/community room	361.01	19.56
Website	200.00	40.00
Venue hire	52.50	0.00
	4,077.03	531.23

Mrs K Clay
Responsible Financial Officer
04.03.26