



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2026
Memorial Hall, Oxford Street,
Aldbourne
7.30 pm

Members Present:

Councillors: P. Lawler (Chairman), S. Muirhead (Vice Chairman)
 M. Adams, J. Aplin, V. Butler, A. Edmonds, C. Elms, R. Lester,
 J. Rayner, C. Rust, P. Trays, R. Warren

Officers Present: Mrs K Clay, Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: 4 members of public
 Cllr James Sheppard (Aldbourne & Ramsbury Ward)

204/26 Apologies

Apologies noted from Councillors: T. Berisha, R. Oswald, J. Paterson.

205/26 Interests

Cllr Butler item 218/26 – Non pecuniary interest.

206/26 Minutes of the last meeting

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Edmonds/Cllr Elms

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

207/26 Planning Committee Minutes

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

208/26 Outstanding Items Review

Update on the following items:

- a) (10/01/2024) 20mph project on roads to the south of the B4192 – Awaiting update at the May 2026 LHFIG meeting.
- b) (04/03/2026) Parking in The Square – A request for additional parking bays and restrictions on long term parking has been submitted to LHFIG.

209/26 Accounts

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Adams/Cllr Muirhead

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

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

210/26 Clerks Report

- a) Cllr Adams has undertaken the fourth quarter finance check, and he has confirmed that the figures reported were correct.
- b) The fourth quarter finance breakdown was emailed to all councillors on 1 April.

- c) The internal audit will be carried out on 21 April. The finance group will be holding a meeting on Monday 27 April, to discuss the audit and the year-end accounts.
- d) The annual inspection of all trees within the Parish Councils remit has been ordered. The cost has been approved under the existing delegation.

211/26 Public Session

- Question in relation to the Horse Chestnut by the pond.
- Observations about how the Council could be more proactive in relation to the details and locations of any potential new housing in the village.

212/26 Signage

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Trayes/Cllr Aplin

The Council **RESOLVED** six in favour and two against, with four abstentions to decline the request by the Friends of Aldbourne Band to submit a highways improvement request for signage at the village entrances to promote Aldbourne Band.

Aldbourne is a diverse community with many successful groups and organisations within it. The Parish Council remains committed to supporting Aldbourne Band but felt that promoting one organisation above others in this way was not something it could support. Having such a sign would also set a precedent that could result in too much signage at the village entrances.

213/26 Events

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Aplin/Cllr Edmonds

The Council **RESOLVED** eleven in favour, with one abstention, to approve the use of the pond area on 16 May to hold a cake, produce and plant sale by St Michael's Church LCC.

214/26 Grounds Maintenance

ARFC is still considering what maintenance is needed and whether any funding will be required. It was agreed to remove the item from the agenda until a decision is required.

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the cost of one additional cut at £80 (net) is approved should it be required within the next couple of months.

215/26 Equipment

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Lester

St Michaels Church thanked the Council for their kind offer but are currently well served by the two mowers they already own. However, Aldbourne Scouts & Guides would be pleased to make use of the mower.

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Hayter mower will be donated to Aldbourne Scouts & Guides on a permanent loan basis. The Council will retain the Stihl brush cutter, and this will be stored by Cllr Elms. The mower will be moved the low value assets register.

216/26 Trees in Rectory Wood

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Elms

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to carry out the work to one Wild Cherry and one Field Maple in Rectory Woods, as recommended in the tree report from Certhia dated 12 March 2026. As there is no imminent danger of damage to adjacent property and both trees are healthy, the works will be carried out with any further works required in the autumn/winter following the annual all trees inspection.

217/26 Playing/Sports Areas

Sutcliffe has come back about the beams on the Orchard Mammoth, but their only recommendation was to replace them at a cost. It was felt that due to the age of the unit it would be better to save for a full replacement in the not-too-distant future, rather than replace odd beams. Checks for any further signs of rot or increase in existing rot, along with checks on stability, will continue at regular intervals and be recorded.

The fallen tree in Claridge Close has been removed. All inspections have been logged on the software and there were no new issues to report.

218/26 ACFA

A brief update on the progress of the Aldbourne-Creully Friendship Association was given, and a copy is attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Butler/Cllr Lester

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to underwrite up to £1,500 to the Aldbourne-Creully Friendship Association to use for the purchase of keepsakes that will be used to raise funds for the group. The payments for the purchase of items will be made from the Parish Council accounts. All payments from the sale of items will be paid into the Parish Council accounts. Any surplus (once the underwritten amount is repaid) will be ringfenced and paid to ACFA once they are set up as independent of the Council with their own bank account. A record of all funds in and out will be kept ensuring an accurate account record is held.

219/26 NDP

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rust/Alison

The Council **RESOLVED** ten in favour and one against, with one abstention, to start the process of a review of the current Neighbourhood Development Plan. Advice will be sought from Place Studio and North Wessex Downs National Landscape. An update, including any costs, will be brought back to the Council for consideration.

220/26 Public EV Chargers

LEVI – Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, will provide EV charging points in rural areas. 24% (55,121) of properties in Wiltshire have no off-street parking which would allow for their own chargers to be installed. Wiltshire has been provided with £4,000 of capital funding to support the deployment of infrastructure. Charging will be via lamp posts, bollards or conservation friendly floor units, with the AC type being considered for Aldbourne. 2000 chargers will be rolled out across rural areas, with up to 10 being considered for Aldbourne. Though, that number is likely to be less, with underground infrastructure being installed ready for future deployment. Wiltshire Council is currently putting together the tender for a charge point operator (CPO) and anticipate one will be selected towards the end of 2026. Roll out is expected to commence around Q2/Q3 of 2027. Aldbourne will be the 11th of 25 rural areas to have chargers installed. Discussions have been held with the WC EV team about possible locations and the issues there are across the village. There will be a full public consultation before any locations are approved.

221/26 Local Policing

Poor community engagement from the Neighbourhood Policing Team was discussed. Efforts have been made to find a suitable location for community engagement meetings, but a recent event organised by the PCSO was poorly advertised and had no residents in attendance. It was noted that neighbouring policing areas have regular community events and good community engagement.

The Council has been alerted to drug issues in several areas across the village which residents have been regularly reporting to the police. However, there has been no obvious action taken by the police, and the problem persists.

Cllr Edmonds and Cllr Lawer (with Cllr Sheppard) will arrange to meet informally with the NPT PCSO to discuss ways that community engagement could be improved in Aldbourne, as well as the issues raised in relation to drugs. Cllr Sheppard confirmed he would also speak to the Police & Crime Commissioner about both issues and report back.

222/26 Clerks Hours

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Elms/Cllr Rust

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to pay 25 hours to the Parish Clerk, which are above the total yearly hours already agreed for the 25/26 year. The additional hours will be paid at the 25/26 hourly rate and be subject to PAYE and NIC.

223/26 Councillor Reports

- a) The first round of grass cutting has been undertaken. The contractor will be reminded about the need to provide photographs.
 - b) There are no plans by Operational Nightingale to request to dig in Aldbourne this year.
 - c) The old SIDs and associated accessories needs to be disposed of.
 - d) The Oxford Street gullies have been cleaned.
 - e) Thames Water's strategic team are working on a presentation to obtain funding to line the remaining sewer pipes to prevent water ingress from groundwater.
 - f) The pond is looking in poor health currently. Everyone was asked to take a look and consider what action could/should be taken.
 - g) The NALC Housing Needs conference was very interesting. With the right support and drive a lot can be achieved. The Devon village featured was gifted the land and all houses built are for local people only, with no right to buy.
 - h) Question about planning and the lack of enforcement when required.
- Cllr Sheppard recommended writing to the leader of the Wiltshire Council and the Planning Cabinet member to raise the issue.

224/26 Wiltshire Council

Cllr Sheppard advised that whilst the resurfacing of Oxford Street is tabled to be undertaken, he continues to chase for an exact and imminent date for the works rather than a vague 'during this financial year'.

225/26 Public Session

- Comment about the redundant aldbourne.org.uk signs.
- Question in relation to site allocations and the NDP.

226/26 Next Meeting & Annual Assembly

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

Annual Council Meeting - Wednesday 6 May 2026 @ 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

The meeting concluded at 9.25 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 6 May 2026



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Account Balances as at 26/03/2026

	£
Current account	1,309.06
Deposit account	<u>82,802.25</u>
Total	<u>84,111.31</u>

Receipts	£
Category	Amount
VAT	1,989.10
	1,989.10

Payments	£	£
Category	Net Total	VAT
Bank services fee	4.25	0.00
Office costs	96.92	3.78
Pond	5.18	0.00
Speed Indicator Devices	5.88	1.18
Staff/contract costs (inc payments to HMRC)	1,300.51	0.00
Toilets/community room	68.76	3.08
Training/conferences	35.00	7.00
Website	300.00	60.00
	1,816.50	75.04

Mrs K Clay
Responsible Financial Officer
01.04.26

Aldbourne-Creully Friendship Association - Update by Cllr Butler

The Aldbourne-Creully Friendship Association continues to plan events and forge a Friendship with the residents of Creully sur Seulles. They now have a dedicated email address (aldbournefriendship@gmail.com) and Facebook page.

Children from École Cecil Newton will be visiting the village next Wednesday, 8th April. They will be undertaking a range of activities at St Micheal's School and will be assisted by some current and former pupils. After lunch they will be undertaking a Cecil Newton Trail around the village with adult volunteers and children from the village, as well as members of ACFA. Thank you to Mrs Jenny Greaves who has been the driving force behind this visit.

A couple of the steering group members are going to Creully in June as part of the D-Day events, which includes commemorations of Cecil Newton. Whilst they will be there in a personal capacity, they will be having a brief meeting the mayor and representatives from the Amitié Aldbourne-Creully-sur-Seulles group.

There are still plans to visit France in September 2026 to formalize the Friendship between Aldbourne and Creully. This trip is open to everyone. If you would be interested in coming along, please contact us via our email. The trip is being self-funded by those taking part.

A cheese and wine event is being discussed, and it is hoped this can be arranged soon to raise the profile of the group and what its purpose is.

The steering group is part of the Parish Council until July 2026, though it may continue under that banner for a short while after that. However, the plan is for the group to become independent of the PC. Which is why they are asking for some help with funding some revenue streams to help pay for items such as insurance.

Some new members have joined the group, and the original members of the group are continuing for the present time, but some will be looking to move on in the not-too-distant future. Anyone who would be interested in joining the group, please get in touch. You do not need to speak French, just have an enthusiasm for a friendship between the two areas, and helping to forge connections with groups in both. Someone to oversee the administration will also be required, though that person can also be a member of the steering group.