



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 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,
R. Oswald, J. Paterson, J. Rayner, C. Rust, P. Traves, R. Warren

Officers Present: Mrs K Clay, Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: 7 members of public
Cllr James Sheppard (Aldbourne & Ramsbury Ward)

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman signed his acceptance of office of Chairman.

35/26 Apologies

All councillors were present.

36/26 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

37/26 Minutes of the last meeting

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rayner/Cllr Oswald

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

38/26 Planning Committee Minutes

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Butler/Cllr Muirhead

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2026.

39/26 Outstanding Items Review

Update on the following items:

- a) (05/07/2023) 20mph project on roads to the south of the B4192 – The works order has been issued, and the traffic order comes into force on the 15 June.
- b) (10/01/2024) Resurfacing of Oxford Street – Works are due to be undertaken in mid July 2026. Works to clear/repair the gulleys along this road are currently being undertaken.
- c) (01/10/2025) Toilet/Community Room roof – All the required works have now been completed.
- d) (04/03/2026) Parking in The Square – A survey to find out what could be achieved was agreed at the May LHFIFG meeting. There is no timeline for when this will be undertaken, but hopefully before the September LHFIFG meeting.
- e) (06/05/2026) Bus stop electronic sign - The bus team at Wiltshire Council has confirmed that this has been added to the list of bus stop enhancements and will be reviewed and considered in accordance with the Bus Service Improvement Plan. There is no timeline for how long the process will take.

40/26 Accounts

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Lester/Cllr Trayes

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

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

41/26 Clerks Report

- a) The 95-day notice savings account has been opened. The account balance will be recorded on the monthly financial statements.
- b) No draft recommendations were made by the Committee as part of the Community Governance Review for the Aldbourn Ward, which means the boundaries and electoral arrangements will remain the same.
- c) The Wiltshire Local Plan Review was officially withdrawn on 19 May 2026 following receipt of the planning inspectors' letters in February & March 2026.
- d) The amount allowed to be claimed tax free for mileage has been increased to 55p a mile. This is for all claims from April 2026 onward. The Councils expense policy states that the rate to be claimed is at the current rate, meaning there is no requirement for a policy update.
- e) The vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Berisha after the last meeting has been advertised. If no election is called by 16 June, the Council will be able to co-opt to fill it.

42/26 Public Session

There were no questions from the members of public present.

43/26 Events

a) Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rust/Cllr Edmonds

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow the Blue Boar to use the village green to hold a ticketed Classic Car Meet on Saturday 18 July between 09:00-14:00, and that vehicles can be parked on the grass for the duration of the event, subject to the ground conditions being suitable.

b) Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Elms/Cllr Aplin

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow the Music & Song Festival Committee to hold their annual Music Festival on the village green on Saturday 1 August 2026, including set up and breakdown between 09:00-21:00 Friday 31 July and 08:00-12:00 Sunday 2 August. Vehicles required for delivery of equipment and those associated with the provision of refreshments can be driven onto the grass for the duration of the festival, subject to the ground conditions being suitable.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Muirhead/Cllr Warren

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to allow parking for the event on the football field (on the non-playing section) subject to the ground conditions being suitable, and there being no objections from ARC.

44/26 Local Policing & CCTV

The PCSO will be in the village on Monday 22 June at 11:00 in the Community Junction, in The Square.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Warren/Cllr Edmonds

The Council **RESOLVED** five in favour and four against with five abstentions to investigate the type and costs of purchasing and running a CCTV system, as well as any rules around data storage and data release in line with GDPR.

45/26 NDP

Proposed/Seconded: Cllr Rust/Cllr Lester

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the process of updating the current Aldbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan will be started. First steps will be to find out the cost of updating the plan and setting up a steering committee.

Cllr Adams, Cllr Aplin, Cllr Butler & Cllr Muirhead all expressed an interest in joining the steering committee.

46/26 Community-Led Housing

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that it would support a community land trust which would be led by residents. Cllr Edmonds agreed to be the lead of any group that is formed with support from Cllr Butler & Cllr Adams. This will provide a link to the Council and support for the group as is formed. The project will be advertised to recruit members.

47/26 Pond

An aquatic expert recently viewed the pond and advised it was in good health. After the recent hot spell the pond was topped up. Costs of a solar pump to aerate the water are being investigated and a proposal will be brought to the Council if required.

48/26 Grounds Maintenance

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Elms/Cllr Rayner

The Council **RESOLVED** 13 in favour, with one abstention, to approve the agreement listed below with Carbon Neutral Aldbourne for the maintenance of the six 'no mow' areas across the village, as well as all areas being completely cut in June and September 2026. A review of the project will be undertaken in the autumn of 2026.

Carbon Neutral Aldbourne will actively take responsibility for:

- a) The clearing of any litter that might accumulate within the uncut grass.
- b) The removal of any ragwort (or any other potentially injurious weed) before it goes to seed.
- c) The removal of any grass cuttings that might have erroneously been left by the grass cutting contractor.

49/26 Donation

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Edmonds/Cllr Oswald

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to donate £630 to Aldbourne Royals FC for the maintenance of the football field.

50/26 Football

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Paterson/Cllr Butler

a) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the same conditions as 2025/2026 for use of the football field by Aldbourne Royals FC for the 2026-2028 seasons.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Rust/Cllr Muirhead

b) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the same conditions as 2025/2026 for use of the football field by Ramsbury FC U16 teams for the 2026/2027 season.

51/26 Palmer's Field

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Palmer's Field working group will meet with ARC to obtain a progress report and details of any extension to the Lease and Management Agreement and bring back recommendations for consideration at the July meeting.

52/26 Electricity Tariff

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Aplin/Cllr Rayner

The Council **RESOLVED** 13 in favour and one against, to change the electricity tariff for the toilets and community room to a Scottish Power renewable 2-year fixed tariff.

53/26 Councillor Reports

- a) Request from Cllr Edmonds to be booked onto the NALC Climate Comeback: Growing climate action locally event on 30 September. To be booked under existing financial training budget delegation.
- b) A section of the old fence at the entrance to the football field had become proud of the ground. This has now been removed.
- c) The costs for removing the Orchard Mammoth are still being sought. However, investigations are also being made into the cost of replacing all the wood sections, as some of the companies felt it may be possible to do this. It is hoped to have costs/options available for the July meeting.
- d) The parish steward was in the village yesterday and carried out a range of work including cutting back vegetation, cleaning signs and filling potholes.
- e) The SIDs continue to function well and record data.
- f) The culverts at the end of Lottage Road and near the post office on Marlborough Road are still in need of clearance.
- g) A sinkhole appeared on the edge of the path next to the winterbourne on South Street. This has been filled in and will be monitored to ensure it does not reopen.

54/26 Public Session

- Cllr Sheppard advised that despite efforts to allow for the Wiltshire Local Plan as it stood to be updated and resubmitted to the inspector, a vote was passed to completely withdraw it and start producing the whole plan again. This process will take at least 5 years and require more funding. Sadly, this does leave the whole of Wiltshire vulnerable to more planning applications and appeals if planning applications are refused, as there is currently only a 2 year housing supply. Every appeal which is lost costs Wiltshire Council more money.
- Cllr Sheppard noted comments made by Mr Hind in relation to recent questions by one resident in relation to the 20-mph scheme and their demands for its installation to be stopped.
- Comment about vehicles being parked on the footpath on Southward Lane which forces pedestrians in to having to walk on the road.
- Comment in relation to the good work being undertaken by the parish steward and thanks expressed to Cllr Warren for his continued efforts to keep the road drains/grips clear.
- Comment about landowners and their rights to use bridleways due to owning the land it passes over.

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in item 55/26 & 56/26. The Council further **RESOLVED** to allow Cllr Sheppard to remain as his advice on the two items would be valuable to the discussions and decisions.

55/26 PRow

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to write to the residents to enquire about their legal entitlement to use bridleways for vehicle movements.

56/26 Vexatious Policy

Prior to the commencement of discussions on this item, Cllr Edmonds, Cllr Lester & Cllr Oswald left the meeting.

Proposer/Seconder: Cllr Aplin/Cllr Muirhead

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that having considered the volume of correspondence received from one resident it is classified as vexatious. Cllr Rayner (with Cllr Sheppard) will arrange to meet with the resident to discuss the issues they are raising to try and better understand their concerns and hopefully reduce the volume of correspondence being received.

Should there be no engagement by the resident, or the volume of correspondence continues after any meeting, the Councils Vexatious Correspondence Policy will be invoked upon the resident for the following reasons:

- Repeated and persistent correspondence continues to be submitted concerning matters which have already been fully considered by the Council.
- All information held by the Council that is relevant to those matters has been provided or is already in the public domain.
- Further responses would not provide any additional information.
- The continued repetition of the same enquiries is placing an unreasonable and disproportionate demand on Council resources.

The Council will not enter into further correspondence with the resident for a period of three months from the date that they are advised of this resolution. Any subsequent correspondence may be retained on file but will not be acknowledged or responded to by the Parish Clerk or Councillors. The Council will review the restriction imposed at the parish council meeting being held closest to the end of the three-month period. The Parish Clerk will advise the resident of this decision.

It was further **RESOLVED** that should an appeal be lodged, as per item 5.4 of the Vexatious Complaints and Correspondence Policy, that Cllr Edmonds, Cllr Lester & Cllr Oswald will form the Councils appeal panel to consider this.

57/26 Next Meeting

Confirmed as Wednesday 1 July 2026 @ 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

The meeting concluded at 9.37 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 1 July 2026



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Account Balances as at 28/05/2026

	£
Current account	6,342.44
Deposit account	73,378.76
95-Day Notice	20,021.61
Total	99,742.81

Receipts	£
Category	Amount
Allotments	75.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	1,625.82
	1,700.82

Payments	£	£
Category	Net Total	VAT
Bank services fee	4.25	0.00
Football field maintenance (donation)	630.00	0.00
Office costs	61.00	0.00
Insurance	1,454.45	0.00
Pond	11.48	0.00
Staff/contract costs (inc all deductions)	754.10	0.00
Toilets/community room	1,478.58	15.55
Training/conferences	35.00	7.00
	4,428.86	22.55

Mrs K Clay
Responsible Financial Officer
03.06.26