



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

Members Present:

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

Officers Present: Mrs K Clay, Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: 4 members of public

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman chaired the meeting.

58/26 Apologies

Apologies noted from Councillors: M. Adams, P. Lawler R. Oswald

59/26 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

60/26 Minutes of the last meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve and sign the Minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026 as a true and accurate record.

61/26 Planning Committee Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026.

62/26 Outstanding Items Review

- a) (05/07/2023) 20mph project on roads to the south of the B4192 – The Traffic Regulation Order for the variation of the speed limits on all the roads within this scheme was sealed on 3 June 2026 and is now in force. Works to install the road markings and signs will be commencing imminently.
- b) (10/01/2024) Resurfacing of Oxford Street – The resurfacing due this month has been deferred following the discovery of a damaged gully towards the top of the road. Wiltshire Council are contacting the utility company which caused the damage to get them to resolve this issue. There is no point the resurfacing being undertaken as scheduled as the road will need to be dug up to repair this gully.
- c) (03/06/2026) – Community Led-Housing – Details on how best to move this forward are still awaited. An article for the Dabchick will be produced as soon as the information is available.

63/26 Accounts

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

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

64/26 Clerks Report

- a) The electricity account for the toilets and community room has been moved to Scottish Power.
- b) Cllr Edmonds has been booked on the NALC Climate Comeback: Growing climate action locally event being held on 30 September.
- c) A letter was sent to residents on 23 June about the use of vehicles on bridleways, and a response is awaited.
- d) Following a meeting with Cllr Rayner (and Cllr Sheppard) the resident agreed to stop the excess of correspondence to the Council, and thus there was no requirement to invoke the vexatious policy.
- e) The market cross has been vandalised with graffiti being scratched into the stone. The stonemason will advise what course of action is required once they have viewed the damage next week. The cross is a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- f) A cut is being arranged of the verges along the B4192 between the edge of the village and New Barn, as well as the hedge on Farm Lane.
- g) Wiltshire Council continues to monitor the progress of the English Devolution Act 2026 and its implications for Wiltshire Council and towns and parish councils. There will be engagement with town and parish councils during the process.
- h) The first quarter finance v budget breakdown was sent to all councillors today.

65/26 Internal Audit

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to engage Working the Greener Way to undertake the Council's internal audits for the next three financial years (2026-2029).

66/26 Public Session

- a) Concern was raised about the vandalism to the market cross and how this could potentially be a catalyst for further graffiti there and in other locations. Question asked about what could be done to try and prevent this escalating.

67/26 Palmer's Field

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that it is recognised that the period set out in Clause 33.1d. of the Lease for "Land lying to the East of Southward Lane, Southfield, Aldbourne known as Palmer's Field", which was executed on 19 July 2019 ("The Lease"), and allows the Landlord (Aldbourn Parish Council) to re-enter the Property if the Tenant (ARC) has not commenced the development of buildings or structures within 5 years ("The Period"), expired on the 19 July 2024, and that the further two year extension granted on 3 July 2024 expires on 19 July 2026.

Acknowledging that despite some further delays, ARC has made progress towards submitting a planning application for the development of the ARC project, both parties wish to extend The Period further to that which was agreed on 3 July 2024. The Parish Council ("the Landlord") agrees that the Period is extended by a further two years to 19 July 2028, with a full review between both parties to be carried no later than three months prior to the end of this period.

This further extension is agreed, on the clear understanding that the Landlord will have the same rights of re-entry and termination of the Lease as set out in Clause 33 of the Lease, if the Tenant has not commenced the development of any buildings or structures (other than the Car Park and Access Road) on the Property at the expiry of this extension.

Clause 23.2

The Landlord (the Parish Council) and the Tenant (ARC) recognise that the period of five years set out in Clause 23.2 of the Lease during which the Landlord is responsible for contributing a fair and reasonable amount to cover the maintenance of all boundaries, fences, hedges and plantings on the Property owned by the Landlord and the cost of cutting the grass at the Property, expired on the 19 July 2024, and that the further two year extension granted on 3 July 2024 expires on 19 July 2026. The Landlord and the Tenant agree that the period the Landlord will contribute an amount to cover such costs for is extended by a further two years to 19 July 2028, with a full review between both parties to be carried no later than three months prior to the end of this period.

68/26 Future Housing Development

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the list presented in relation to housing type, density, affordability, flood risk, pedestrian access, road safety and accessibility will be used as a discussion piece for a meeting with the Windley Ridge developers.

69/26 Pre-Planning Application Meetings

a) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that a without prejudice pre-planning application meeting with the Windley Ridge developers will be held and that Cllr Rust, Cllr Muirhead, Cllr Elms and Cllr Traves will attend on behalf of the Council.

b) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that a without prejudice pre-planning application meeting with the agent about Little Acre Farm will be held and that Cllr Rust, Cllr Muirhead, Cllr Edmonds and Cllr Aplin will attend on behalf of the Council.

Both meetings will be conducted in line with the Councils current Pre-Planning Applications Meetings Policy.

70/26 Future Capital Projects

The following suggestions for use of surplus funds were made:

a) A community garden at the Lottage Farm site (once built)

There are likely to be other funds that could be used for this at a later stage.

b) Library at St Michaels School.

No support for this to be moved forward at this time.

c) Making better use of the storage rooms on Farm Lane to allow for it to be multi-use building.

Support for the proposal to be further investigated, with discussions to be held with the current tenants in the first instance.

d) Outdoor table tennis table in Goddards Lane playground.

Support for the proposal to be further investigated.

e) Resurfacing of the tennis court.

Maintenance cost but a reserve budget will be considered later in the year.

f) A path between the village and New Barn along the B4192.

This issue was previously discussed and researched in 2018/19 with the costs to surface it being in excess of £38,000. After long discussions with Wiltshire Council about the cutting of this verge, the Council agreed in 2021 to pay for the verge to be cut each year to make it moderately safer.

Support for investigations into a way to even out the current surface.

g) Replacement football goals, as the current ones are not regulation.

Maintenance cost but a reserve budget will be considered later in the year.

71/26 Orchard Mammoth

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that following receipt of new information, to revoke the decision made on 6 May 2026 (item 27/26) to remove the Orchard Mammoth multi-play unit from the Goddards Play area. A budget of up to £10,000 is approved from the maintenance & replacement reserve to replace the wooden structures on the unit and for them to be installed by Cllr Adams firm (at cost) along with volunteers, if suitable. All parts to be ordered by the Parish Clerk. An independent post install inspection will be undertaken. Three other quotes for the work were sought and the one received was considered as part of this decision.

72/26 Flood Prevention

a) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to write to two properties at the top of Oxford Street which regularly transport waste along the road, to request that they ensure their loads cannot shed debris as they move it around.

b) Further investigations to be made in to the cost and practicalities of paying for and arranging road sweeping.

73/26 Winterbourne

It was agreed that the ATAC had not had a detrimental effect on weeds in the winterbourne as other areas above where discharge occurs are just the same. Weed spraying could be done, but hand clearance would still be required of the dead plant matter in the autumn. The current process of hand clearing the weeds in the autumn will continue. More volunteers to help with this are always very welcome.

74/26 Toilet Cleaner

The current cleaner for the public toilets has handed in their notice and will end their contract on 2 October (or before it possible).

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Cllr Rust, will review the current payment and draft a vacancy notice for publication.

75/26 Councillor Reports

- a) An update on the latest visit by the PCSO was given. It was held in the Community Junction and was better attended than previous ones, mostly due to advertisement by the Parish Council. Despite efforts to better engage with the PCSO since this issue was first raised in November 2025, frustrations remain about the lack of community policing in Aldbourn.
- b) Lots of complaints received about the current closure of Castle Street and how it was unclear exactly where it would be closed, along with timings and the diversion route.
- c) Issue of the cutting of a section of verge at the far end of Lottage Road raised.
- d) There is Ragwort growing in the wild verge areas.
- e) The raised path still needs overgrowth overhanging from the bank above it cut back.
- f) St Michael's School year 6 leavers are holding a party in the Scout hut and have asked to use Goddards play area for a bouncy castle – There were no objections in principle to this. Though, exclusive use of the area is not given. It was recommended that the parents check on any liabilities involved for the use of a bouncy castle in a public area.
- g) There are dead branches on the plum tree on the triangle.

- h) A picnic bench owned by The Crown has been moved over onto the pond area a couple of times recently, despite there being no agreement for them to do so.
- i) The Sarsen stones around the pond have been moved. A damaged chamber cover will be reported to the relevant utility company.
- j) A meeting with Mr Everet & Mr Cook is being held within the next few weeks to discuss drainage across the village.
- k) The Fire Authority has not moved forward their proposal to close eight fire stations, which included Ramsbury, provided that they are granted approval to raise council tax and that there will be no more cuts to D&WFRS by February 2027.

76/26 Wiltshire Council

No report as Cllr Sheppard had sent his apologies.

77/26 Public Session

- Comment on the continued frustration at the lack of response from local police, even when evidence is provided to them of crimes being committed within the village.

78/26 Delegation

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to give delegated authority to the Clerk over the summer recess, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, for all Paish Council functions where delegation does not already exist.

79/26 Co-option

No applications received. The vacancy will continue to be advertised with an aim to co-opt at the September meeting.

80/26 Next Meeting

Confirmed as Wednesday 9 September 2026 @ 7.30 pm in the Methodist Hall *[please note the change of venue for this meeting]*.

The meeting concluded at 9.08 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 9 September 2026



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Account Balances as at 25/06/2026

	£
Current account	3,126.93
Deposit account	73,408.60
95-Day Notice	20,062.00
Total	96,597.53

Receipts	£
Category	Amount
Wayleave	11.58
	11.58

Payments	£	£
Category	Net Total	VAT
Bank services fee	4.25	0.00
Grounds maintenance	2,753.33	550.67
Office costs	138.00	12.00
Pond	31.72	0.00
Staff/contract costs (inc all deductions)	1,567.47	0.00
Toilets/community room	347.22	7.08
Website	30.00	6.00
	4,871.99	575.75

Mrs K Clay
Responsible Financial Officer
01.07.2026