



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026
Memorial Hall, Oxford Street,
Aldbourn
7.30 pm

Members Present:

Councillors: P. Lawler (Chairman), S. Muirhead (Vice Chairman)
M. Adams, M Britton, A. Edmonds, J. Paterson, C. Rust, P Traves,
R. Warren, R. Lester (until item 118/26)

Officers Present: Mrs K Clay, Parish Clerk/RFO

In attendance: 3 members of public
Cllr J Sheppard (Aldbourn & Ramsbury Ward)

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman extended the Councils congratulations to Aldbourn Band on their 2nd place at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain.

104/26 Apologies

Apologies noted from Councillors: J. Aplin, V. Butler, C. Elms, R. Oswald, J. Rayner

105/26 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

106/26 Minutes of the last meeting

Proposed/Seconded: Cllr Edmonds/Cllr Adams

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve and sign the Minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2026 as a true and accurate record.

107/26 Planning Committee Minutes

Proposed/Seconded: Cllr Edmonds/Cllr Adams

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Planning Committee Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2026.

108/26 Outstanding Items Review

- a) (05/07/2026) 20 mph project on roads to the South of the B4192 - The works were due to be completed on 22 September 2026, but as yet have not been. Mr Hind will be carrying out a post-installation inspection to ensure all required works have been undertaken. Discussions are ongoing in relation to post monitoring of the scheme.
- b) (10/01/2024) Resurfacing of Oxford Street - The works to repair the damaged gully are currently being undertaken. Resurfacing of the road will be undertaken during the October half term (subject to weather conditions).
- c) (04/03/2026) Parking in The Square - No obvious solution was identified and discussions centred on a topography survey. However, LHFIG members felt this was an expensive solution when there are cheaper/free options available. The Council will put together a suggested new layout to discuss with Mr Hind.

- d) (01/07/2026) Overhanging plants on the Lottage Rd raised path - Cleared by the Parish Steward earlier this week.
- e) (09/09/2026) Vegetation overhanging footpaths/highways - Some areas were cut back prior to the Council making contact. Letters have been sent to other properties. Several residents felt the areas in question were not overhanging or the area in question was highways land.

109/26 Accounts

Proposed/Seconded: Cllr Lester/Cllr Rust

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the financial statement as presented by the Clerk. Cllr Trayes and Cllr Lester will carry out the authorisations this month.

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

110/26 Banking

Proposed/Seconded: Cllr Lester/Cllr Rust

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to add Cllr J. Patterson to the Lloyds Bank mandate as a signatory.

111/26 Clerk's Report

- a) The electrical safety check has been undertaken in the toilets/community room.
- b) The Q2 finance breakdown was sent to all councillors on 1 October 2026.
- c) The Q2 finance check has been assigned to Cllr Adams.
- d) Cllr Britton will be undertaking the Councillor Fundamentals training on the 18 November.
- e) The finance group will be meeting at the end of October to discuss the budget & precept for 2027/28 with a view to a draft being available for discussion at the November meeting.

112/26 Public Session

- Comment about Royal Mail undertaking surveys outside the Post Office and other locations in preparation to site a parcel locker within the village, without any prior notice or planning permission. A locker like this would take away revenue from the Post Office.

113/26 Local Plan

The Council **NOTED** the response to the Wiltshire Council Local Plan Scoping Consultation, which was sent under the delegated authority approved at the 7 September 2026 meeting.

114/26 Trees

The latest inspection of the trees in Rectory Wood and on Palmer's Field by Certhia Consulting Limited has been undertaken. Whilst noting the continued presence of Ash Dieback, and some trees showing small signs of decline (most likely due to the dry/hot weather), no works are required to any trees at this time. The continuation of annual inspections was recommended.

The small-scale works to the trees agreed earlier in the year are being organised. An enquiry about the tree maintenance from a resident in Rectory Wood has been received. Cllr Rayner has spoken with them, and they have been provided with previous years' inspection reports.

115/26 CCTV

Proposed/Seconded: Cllr Edmonds/Cllr Warren

The Council **RESOLVED** seven in favour, with three abstentions, to defer the issue of CCTV and revisit it at a later date if necessary.

116/26 SID

Proposed/Seconded: Cllr Lester/Cllr Adams

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to purchase one Elan City Vision Solar Speed Indicator Device (SID) at a net cost of £2,339.99. Funding to come from CIL reserves.

117/26 Highways – Double Yellow Lines

Whilst noting that illegal parking has always been an issue across the village, the main concern currently is the recent increase in dangerous parking. However, there was no support for a request to be made for double yellow lines to be installed. The Council will continue its campaign of raising awareness of the dangerous parking and how it affects the safety of others.

Cllr Sheppard advised he would speak to the cabinet member for highways about enforcement for dangerous parking.

(20.36 - Cllr Lester left the meeting)

118/26 Bus Shelter

The costs for rethatching the ridgeline are awaited.

119/26 Events

a) Proposed Cllr Lawler

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the use of the village green by Aldbourne Band for their summer series band concerts on Sunday, 6 June 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm, Sunday, 4 July 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm, Sunday, 1 August 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm, Sunday, 5 September (Carnival Concert) 6.15 pm – 8.30 pm. Set-up/clear-down 30 minutes either side of each event. Use of tents/marquees for the 1 August event is approved. Vehicles may be driven onto the grassed area to deliver equipment as required, subject to the ground conditions being suitable at that time.

b) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously that there were no objections in principle to Aldbourne Band holding a band contest on the village green on Sunday 6 June 2027, subject to further information being received on the event. Cllr Rust will be the Council's liaison to discuss organisation of the event, prior to any formal proposal being brought forward for consideration.

120/26 Councillor Reports

- a) Cllr Edmonds recently attended the WALC Climate Change online seminar. Thanks to the work already, and continuing, to be undertaken by Carbon Neutral Aldbourne and St Michael's School, Aldbourne already fulfils many climate change objectives.

- b) The SID statistics for Castle Street show a small reduction in speeds since the 20 mph scheme was installed. It is hoped that once all the road markings are complete speeds will reduce further.
- c) Following widespread clearance work, drainage across the village is in good repair and ready for any significant rainfall. Investigations have shown that there is no underground pipe between The Butts and the Post Office, so water will run down the road during periods of rain.
- d) Cllr Warren continues to work with Thames Water's asset management team on proposals to tackle water ingress. However, he has concerns that their current proposals will not resolve the issues.
- e) A letter will be sent to Royal Mail about the potential parcel locker installation.
- f) The top layer of the chippings at the bottom of the Four Barrows track are very loose and making it difficult to walk there. If the work at the neighbouring property is complete, they should now be removed.
- g) There is currently Haras fencing around the front of The Blue Boar due to structural issues with one wall. Wadworth will be asked to ensure the site is tidied up so as not to detract from the village green conservation area and also be asked to expedite the repair works.

121/26 Wiltshire Council

Cllr Sheppard has been in contact with the Police & Crime Commissioner to discuss the issues in Aldbourn and the continued lack of policing. He has also been in contact with Inspector Lemon who is still keen to engage with the village and would like to attend a future meeting. Inspector Lemon advised that the police need intelligence on activities, particularly vehicles seen on a regular basis, but that only one report has been received recently.

The Council was extremely surprised to hear about the apparent lack of reports raised, as it is known that many incidents have been reported in the past and more recently. Inspector Lemon will be invited to attend the November meeting.

122/26 Public Session

There were no questions or comments from the member of the public still present.

123/26 Next Meeting

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

The meeting concluded at 9.07 pm

Signature of the Chairman: _____ Date: 4 November 2026



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Account Balances as at 01/10/2026

	£
Current account	9,709.47
Deposit account	88,774.38
95-Day Notice	20,204.16
Total	<u>118,688.01</u>

Receipts

	£
Category	Amount
Aldbourn-Creully FA	210.00
Precept	29,213.50
Toilets/community room	154.28
Wayleave	2.00
	29,579.78

Payments

	£	£
Category	Net Total	VAT
Amenity upkeep	30.00	0.00
Bank services fee	4.25	0.00
Donation	100.00	0.00
Library	2,700.00	0.00
Office costs	85.28	0.00
Pond	14.55	0.00
Staff/contract costs (inc all deductions)	696.00	0.00
Toilets/community room	625.63	60.13
Venue hire	50.63	0.00
	4,306.34	60.13

Mrs K Clay
Responsible Financial Officer
07.10.2026