

# TIDDINGTON WITH ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Tiddington with Albury Parish Council at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm.**

**Present** – Mrs V Baker - Chair (VB), Mrs T Smith - Vice Chair (TS), Mr C Hill (CH), Mrs R Stogden (RS), Mr K Field (KF), Mrs L Martin - Clerk (LM)

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Two parishioners attended.

William (Billy) Meadows was co-opted onto the Parish Council as Councillor to replace Russell Chaplin who resigned in November 2024. The Parish Council would like to thank Russell very much for all his input and work over the last 6 or so years and wish him well for the future. Bill signed the Declaration of Office and attended the rest of the meeting as a Councillor.

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**159. Apologies** – Mr R Chaplin (RC), Tim Bearder (TB)

**160. Declarations of interest** - None

**161. Approve and sign minutes** – Completed

**162. Matters to Report - Tim Bearder (TB)** - District and County Councillor

- Despite his absence TB raised the issue of the major reorganisation of a county's local authorities, as detailed in the Government's recent White Paper. The Paper proposes abolishing district councils and introducing larger mayoral combined authorities. The impact on Parish Councils, and Tiddington in particular, is unclear so hopefully TB will be able to attend the February meeting with an update **TB**
- Councillor Community Grant Fund submission (29/11/24): - Repairs to Fort (£2,208 inc VAT)
- County Councillor Priority Fund submission (29/11/24):- TNR consultancy project (£5,440)

**163. Election of new Parish Councillor**

- Ken Field resigned as Parish Councillor after 36 years of service. The Notice of Vacancy has been posted, and we hope to appoint a new Councillor in February.

**164. Flooding/Drains**

- Update on meeting held on 17th October with SODC and OCC regarding investigation into floods on 23rd September, not expected to hear more on the investigation until Spring - **LM**
- There are still some questions surrounding drainage in the Parish, specifically:
  - Where the brook comes under the railway line towards the Cricket Club
  - Draycot corner
  - Sandy Lane, where the Spring is seriously eroding the road surface and caused significant ice problems last week
- Update from Carl Stallwood requested (email sent 15/01/25) - **TS**
- Flood alert line is: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

#### **165. Neighbourhood Plan / Tiddington Nature Recovery (TNR) CH**

- Next working group is at end of January on Tiddington Nature Recovery Project - **CH**
- Applied for funds for Thame River Conservation Trust proposal from SODC Community Councillor Grants - should hear end of February - **LM**
- TOE visited Sandy Lane Farm on 15/10/24 to discuss introducing some funding for ponds on the site. TOE agreed it was possible, but work would need to be conducted through the PC including grant applications. Need an agreement letter from SLF to start the process - **CH**
- National Framework (NPPF) is at a Consultation level. **CH** advised that, based on reading this, we should always mention the NP in responding to planning applications and make specific reference of the impact of the planning on: flooding, infrastructure (sewage, water, etc.) affordable housing and dark skies - **ALL**

#### **166. Councillors' Update of Matters in Hand**

##### **166.1 Ickford Bridges:**

- Ickford Bridges are on the Highways Maintenance Map for 2024/25, probably just a structural survey. No update, but email **TB** to ask if anything is happening this financial year - **LM**
- Ickford Parish Council have given up & taken it off their agenda until new Councillors start- **LM**
- Continue to report on Fix My Street, new photos to be added - **TS/KF**

##### **166.2 20mph Consultation**

- 20mph signs all in place
- Freddie van Mierlo received (18/11/24) a response to his email to Matthew Barber & Andrew Gant (sent 22/10/24) but only from Matthew Barber. Not much can be done as Police are reluctant to repair speed cameras as income from speeding fines go back to Central Government and calming measures cost circa £250,000. No response from Councillor Gant received however, so chase via Freddie van Mierlo/TB - **LM**

##### **166.3 Hexagonal Bench**

- Base installed but joints are coming apart. Bench is out of its 12-month warranty (purchased in April 2023) but still needs to be pursued with supplier Stowe. Need invoice - **LM/TS**

##### **166.4 Fix My Street**

- Drains around Draycot Corner are blocked, reported to Carl Stallwood 15/01/25 - **TS**
- Drains appear to be blocked higher up Albury View, report on FMS - **KF/CH**
- Bottom of Albury Lane, drain blocked, report on FMS - **RS**
- Worn road surface in Sandy Lane, near Spring, reported as to Carl Stallwood 15/01/25, also put on FMS again - **TS/LM**
- Blocked drains in Brookside Close put-on FMS by LM, a 'reactive gully cleaning to address the blockage initiated' by OCC, need to check completed - **LM**
- Put information in next newsletter on how to use Fix My Street - **LM**

##### **166.5 Spelling of Draycot – change to one T**

- No update from Royal Mail - **LM**

##### **166.6 Defibrillators**

- All three defibrillators checked. Need a new battery for VH and CC but have one spare so order one battery for CC - **LM**
- Sourced some training for using Defibrillators & basic first aid from South Central Ambulance Service who require min 20 people & a donation. Put article in Newsletter to gauge interest - **TS**
- Need stickers with What3words on them to be applied - **TS**
  - newlywed.split.adjusting - Cricket Club
  - tickling.decency.rumble - F&G
  - intricate.panning.limelight - VH

##### **166.7 Albury Lane repairs**

- The road remains a restricted by-way, but there is a recognition that it shouldn't be. Will need further dialogue to sort out longer term so it gets on the Highways Asset register - **TB**

#### **166.8 Installation of Ultrafast Broadband – Gigaclear**

- Gigaclear are hoping to get a response from Government in January - **LM**
- Emailed the Digital Infrastructure Programme team (04/12/24), still awaiting response - **LM**

#### **166.9 Road Sign cleaning kit - on loan**

- We have been given a loan of a Road Sign cleaning kit for use by volunteers.
- Give kit to Tiddington village volunteers, when weather improves - **LM**

#### **166.10 Milton Common**

- The white village gates at MC are falling down and look awful. Two quotes were discussed: JACS £2,780 and OCC £4,361.82. Leave for moment as OCC looking at alternative solutions - **LM**

#### **166.11 South Central Probation UPW Consultation 2024**

- The PC had a survey from South Central Probation UPW (Unpaid Work) Community Service Team regarding utilising these resources in the Parish. LM completed the survey and requested more information, awaiting response - **LM**

#### **166.12 Trees**

- The tree on the corner by the entrance to Village Hall car park needs assessing asap. Tim was emailed in December but no response - **TS/KF**

#### **166.13 Parking Restrictions for School Bus**

- Submitted parking measure request, now awaiting response - **LM**

#### **166.14 Smokefree signage for play area**

- We can obtain signage to indicate the play area is smokefree, need to apply - **LM**

#### **166.15 Dog fouling bins**

- Look back to original survey on obtaining more dog fouling bins - **LM**

### **167. Planning**

#### **167.1 Planning Applications received:**

- **P24/S3904/S73 - Walters Farm:** amendment to original design. The PC had **no objections**. End Consultation 15th January
- **P24/S3204/O - 46, Ickford Road:** Replacement of one dwelling with four but no house sizes specified. PC discussed at length and agreed to comment (**LM/CH**) covering the following concerns:
  - The road though to the garages, leads to assumptions that the field behind the plot will also be built on. Garages can be placed beside the houses
  - This plan is also utilising significantly more hard surfaces which impacts negatively on drainage which could lead to more flooding.
  - Does current infrastructure have sufficient capacity for increase in utilization?
  - Could two of the houses be affordable homes?
  - The rest of the road are Chalet Bungalows; the proposed houses appear significantly higher and out of keeping from the rest of the area
  - Need to consider other impacts on NP such as the impact on dark skies.

#### **167.2 Planning Decisions to be noted:**

- **P23/S2584/FUL** – Oakfield, Oxford Road. Creation of the drive and impact on public footpath appear not to match submitted and approved plans. Request and photos sent to Planning Officer who have passed it to the Enforcement Team
- Parishioner, attending the meeting, clarified the issue and stated, “as a Public Footpath it is subject to restrictions and conditions relating to a Field Path which is how that path is officially designated.” Parishioner also requested the following statement be included: “Councillor Ken Field said that he had been and measured the footpath and that the width of the footpath is at least a metre wide along its length across the garden.” **NB.** measurement was subsequent to report having been submitted to the Enforcement Team.
- Still waiting response from SODC Enforcement Team

**167.3 Planning Decisions Pending** (awaiting decision from SODC planning department):

- None

**167.4 Planning Appeals in progress:**

- **P23/S2384/O - Jn 8a, M40 Waterstock, Appeal ref: APP/Q3115/W/24/3343775.**
  - The Inquiry started on 15/10/24 in Cholsey and was attended by CH and RS to make representations on behalf of the PC and in support of Waterstock Parish. The inquiry is due to conclude at the end January with final report due end of March - **CH**
  - Waterstock are still considerably short of funds to pay the legal fees. Mention in Chairs report in Newsletter - **VB**

**167.5 Planning Consultations**

- None

**168. Finance**

**168.1 Applications for routine subscriptions and donations**

- a. None

**168.2 Accounts for payment this month**

- a. Administration to the Parish Council (Luci Martin) £364.88

**168.3 Invoices approved and signed at the previous meeting under AOB:**

- a. Battery for defibrillator £267.60

**168.4 Receipts:**

- a. Interest (deposit account) £2.30

**168.5 Balances at bank on 9th January:**

- a. Current Account (Lloyds Bank) £988.37
- b. Deposit Account (Lloyds Bank) Precept April 2025 £7,002.30
- c. Current Account (Nat West Bank) £0

**169. 2024/25 accounts**

- VAT reclaim to be completed, ASAP but accessing it online is proving very difficult and HMRC are no help - **TS**
- CIL form submitted by 31st December 2024 - **LM**

**170. Budgets 2025/26**

- Final draft approved at meeting, subject to minor amends - **LM**
- Precept agreed for 25/26 at £14,500, a total increase of £500 for the Parish, after lengthy discussion - **ALL**
- Article for April/ May newsletter explaining increase to be written - **VB**

**171. Financial Regulations**

- New Financial Regulations approved

**172. Standing Orders**

- Meeting to investigate requirements still to be confirmed, need to be finalised before new Councillor joins - **VB**

**173. Newsletter**

- Investigating additional revenue and income from current advertising. The PC discussed at length the presentation from the editor and agreed the following:
  - To continue funding circa 50% of the cost of the printing
  - Invoice current advertisers for 6 editions this financial year (rather than 8), contacting each to request payment and apologising for not being in touch sooner

- Aim to reduce contribution by increasing the number of advertisers and, advertising fees to (From April 2025):
  - Full page: £20
  - Half page: £12
  - Quarter page: £7
- Keep 10% full year discount but remove discount for Parish businesses
- Look at cost impact of colour back page
- Review communication strategy at February meeting including online options and website
- For inclusion next edition (submission due 15/01/25): Chairs report (inc. Waterstock inquiry), defibrillator/first aid training

#### **174. Additional Play Equipment in Playground**

- Balls to be put in a bag on a hook under table, bats to be stored in VH - **TS/KF**
- Successful submission for playground extension funding!
- SODC have awarded £10,000 BUT this is a proportion of the total cost, so it will go down. The National Lottery has awarded us £11,000. With this slightly reduced amount, the PC agreed to lose the Adventure Trial but keep the Spinner. Finalise budget and plan at end of February when all grants have been awarded - **LM**

#### **175. Playground Maintenance**

- Checked weekly - all forms for 2024 completed - **RS**
- May list to be followed up - **RS/TS**
- Some bark to be moved from baby swings to main swings, if possible - **RS/KF**
- Green bench to be renovated - **TS**
- New basketball net purchased and to be installed - **LM**
- Applied for Councillor Community Funds for repairs to Fort (£2,208) - decision 21st Feb - **LM**

#### **176. Community Emergency Plan**

- Need to update existing plan urgently given recent floods - **VB**
- Received a toolkit and templates from OCC.
- Team to work on plan - **VB/TS**

#### **177. Sewage dispersal into River by Thames Water**

- Presentation from Thames Water received by CH shows plans to mitigate sewage dispersals, looks positive on paper, await actions

#### **178. Correspondence Received:**

- Rural Bulletin, Rural Services Network, Public Sector Network Newsletter, Thames Valley Alerts, Citizen Advice, Neighbourhood Watch newsletter, CommunityFirst, Wheatley Parish Council Newsletter, Haseleys Newsletter plus other general correspondence - circulated
- SODC general communications - circulated
- OCC general communication - circulated
- OALC general communications - circulated

**AOB: None**

**Next meeting: Tuesday 10th February 2025 at 7.30pm, Tiddington Village Hall**