

## Avebury Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Avebury Parish Council held on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at the Social Centre, Avebury SN8 1RF.

*In these minutes APC stands for Avebury Parish Council, AONB for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, CES for Chapel Exhibition Support, ASSC for Avebury Sports and Social Club, ASSF for Avebury Sacred Sites Forum, AWHS for Avebury World Heritage Site, CATG for Community Area Transport Group, CES for Community Exhibition Space, FB for Facebook, GLEAM for Green Lanes Environment Movement, KV PC for Kennet Valley Parish Council, MADT for Marlborough Area Development Trust, MAB for Marlborough Area Boards, NT for the National Trust, PC for Parish Council, RoW for Rights of Way, SID for Speed Indicator Device, UKN for Upper Kennet News, WALC for Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, WC for Wiltshire Council, WHS for World Heritage Site and WI for Womens Institute.*

**Present:** Mr Stephen Stacey (Chair), Mrs Maggie Lewis (Vice-Chair), Mr Ben Butler, Mrs Donna Byatt, Mr Mike Daniel and Mrs Lynzey Paradise.

**In attendance:** Miss Liz Moore (Clerk).

Time started: 19:30

- 1. Public question time:** there was one member of the public present who introduced himself as Mr Robert Parker and said that he was interested in the role of Parish Councillor. He explained that he had lived at Rutlands Farm for the past 2 years and was a member of a police advisory group contributing on a wide range of subjects. He felt that installing a SID on the A4361 north Swindon Road was a fantastic idea. During the week he had witnessed 11 vehicles speeding within a 15 minute period on the A4361 and the SID's unhappy face had flashed up to remind the drivers that they were exceeding the 30 mph speed limit. Cllr Daniel noted that Adrian Turnbull was collecting data from all Councils using SIDs and it would be used to inform the police on where to concentrate their resources. The Chair thanked Mr Parker for his feedback. Cllr Paradise added that boy racers had become a recent problem in the village. She said that they had congregated last Saturday night in both NT car parks and asked whether the NT used barriers on the car parks. The Chair said that barriers had been an idea discussed in the past by the NT and that he would raise the issue with them at his next meeting.
- 2. Apologies:** Councillors Dr Mike Bedford (Vice-Chair), Zandria Service and Wiltshire Councillor Jane Davies.
- 3. Declarations of interest:** Cllr Butler declared an interest in respect of item 7.a.
- 4. Minutes of meeting held on 1 February 2022: it was resolved** to accept the minutes as a proper record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Byatt, seconded by Cllr Lewis and unanimously agreed.

## Avebury Parish Council

5. **Matters arising from the minutes:** a. Min. ref. 7a. Full planning permission at **Isobel Cottage**. Ref: PL/2022/00016. It was noted the planning committee had been unable to meet for logistical reasons and had not commented on the application.
6. **Membership:** Co-option was briefly discussed. Mr Parker said that he would like to stay and listen to the meeting before deciding whether to join the PC. The Chair proposed to alter the order of business and return to item 6 at the end of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.
7. **Planning applications:**
  - a. Prior Approval notice (granted by Wiltshire Council in July 2020) to build a **new Agricultural Barn at Manor Farm**, Avebury Trusloe: Cllr Butler explained that, although the PC had not been sent information about the new barn, due to a change in the planning rules, he wanted to update the meeting to be fully transparent. The following points were noted: **(i)** the barn was going to be used for purely agricultural purposes **(ii)** the current storage (220 tonnes of fertilizer) was going to be moved out of the centre of the village, which would mean a reduction in fire risk there **(iii)** the greater part of the outside of the building would be in green cladding, which would help it to blend with the natural surroundings **(iv)** it would be hidden from most viewpoints, except probably from Windmill Hill, because it would be in the shadow of the existing barn. **Members were invited to ask questions.** In discussion it was noted that there would be less vehicle movements in the centre of the village. Visibility from Windmill Hill would be reduced by using an appropriate planting scheme. It was unlikely that walkers would notice the grey concrete panels at ground level. The barn had been positioned about six metres from the nearest tree belt. Members felt that the position of the barn had been carefully considered by the applicant and thanks were expressed to Cllr Butler for choosing to update the PC. Cllr Butler said that he hoped to erect the new barn in the Spring.
  - b. Work to trees in a Conservation Area at **Rosemead**, Avebury. Ref: PL/2022/01415. **It was resolved** to support the application. Proposed by Cllr Byatt, seconded by Cllr Daniel and carried unanimously.
8. **National Trust:** the Chair explained that Eva Stützenberger was unable to attend the meeting that night and that the NT update would be circulated in due course. The Chairman reported on the NT's most recent work (see appendix 1).
9. **Project Updates:**
  - a. **SID Project:** the Chair reported that the SID was up and working on the A4361 Swindon Road. Cllr Daniel said that two extra brackets would be needed for the second pole in order to make installation easier when the SID moves location. In discussion it was agreed that extra brackets should be ordered. He said that he would check the specification and send the details to the Clerk to process the order. The Chair reminded members that the PC would need to decide how long the SID should be *in situ* (4 or 6 or 12 weeks) before being transferred to the southern location. Decision deferred to next meeting. He said that the PC might

## Avebury Parish Council

like to think about purchasing a second SID. Cllr Paradise reported that the ASSC was unhappy with the location of the pole for the SID as they felt it might affect future plans to widen the entrance of their car park and wanted to know who had given permission for the installation. The Chair stated that Martin Cook (WC Highways) had decided on the location. In general discussion it was noted that the SID had different speed and warning settings and that the PC would need to decide how often data was collected and what happened to it. Cllr Daniel explained that Adrian Turnbull wanted the data every four weeks. The software pack and kit including manual was handed to Cllr Paradise who had agreed to install it on her PC.

- b. **Avebury Chapel:** the Chair tabled the draft lease (previously circulated to Councillors and see appendix 2) and explained that he had asked for some informal legal advice on the content and that the document had been deemed to be acceptable. Cllr Stacey explained that the budget anticipated total income in the first year of about £10,000 of which half had already been pledged. Other than the £1,000 already committed by the PC, he did not expect a financial burden to fall on the parish. **The following points arose:** was the NT going to be solely responsible for repair of the building, what was the cost of insurance, who was going to be responsible for the fire plan, PAT testing of sockets / equipment, and would the NT allow the PC to take donations for help towards the running costs? The Chair said that the PC would need to discuss this further. He noted that a meeting with exhibitors was planned at the Chapel for 17h on 10 March and suggested that members of the CES working group meet informally at 18h30 to discuss. The Clerk said that she had emailed the PC's insurance company and was waiting for advice. [Cllr Daniel left the room temporarily].
- c. **Play Area:** a draft questionnaire was tabled by Cllr Paradise (see appendix 3). In discussion it was agreed that residents should be asked whether they agree that the refurbishment of the Play Area should be the PC's major project for the year and, if not, what should be the major project. The PC should also ask how many people in a residents' family were likely to use the Play Area (e.g. grandchildren, friends' children, etc). The Chair invited Mr Parker to speak and he asked if the PC knew how many people would benefit from the plans to refurbish the Play Area. Cllr Paradise said that she had undertaken a survey when the project was first mooted and she would return to the data and refresh where possible so that as far as possible it reflects interest from children attending KV School, Lockeridge, and St. Johns, Marlborough. In further discussion it was agreed to enlist the help of the local postman to deliver the questionnaires to residents. Cllr Lewis offered to find out whether completed questionnaires could be returned to the Community Shop.

### **10. Consultations and reports by PC Representatives:** the Chair reported:

- a. **Government consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review** had come to the PC via GLEAM <https://www.gleam-uk.org> and their view was that it is an opportunity to stop 'off-roading' in the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). The Chair stressed that there needed to be a better approach to

## Avebury Parish Council

maintain sustainable access to RoW as WC was under-resourced. One way forward was to strengthen the powers of the AONBs. Cllr Butler informed members that he was part of a Natural England scheme whereby he chose not to plough deeper than 4 inches to protect buried archaeology yet on the adjacent RoW (AVE14), where presumably the archaeology is no less sensitive, many ruts were now eighteen inches to two feet deep. The Chair undertook to prepare a draft response and circulate to members.

- b. **WHS Governance Review:** to ratify PC's response due 28 February: **it was resolved** to ratify the PC's response (previously circulated to members and see appendix 4). Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Paradise and carried unanimously. Thanks were expressed to the Chair for his time and effort in preparing the paper.

### 11. Local Issues:

- a. **Play area surfacing:** the Chair was due to meet the Parish Steward the next day and would ask him about whether he would be able to remove the moss from the play area surfacing.

- b. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Her Majesty the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> year as our Monarch and head of the Commonwealth:** Cllr Lewis reported that she had met NT representatives (Hazel Barry-Scott and Janinka Diverio) and confirmed that the focus of the formal celebrations was going to be on 2 June. A Church Service was planned for 6-6:45pm followed by refreshments in the Social Centre, kindly hosted by the WI. The community would then walk to Waden Hill for the lighting of the Beacon at 9:45pm. The NT planned to use a Landrover to shuttle people less able to walk to the site. Cllr Paradise said that she was in the process of obtaining quotations for marquees and memorabilia, and Cllr Lewis offered to provide assistance. In discussion it was agreed that she could gather some feedback via FB on whether the community wished to have a formal celebration on the Sports Field or more informally with street parties.

- c. **Community Litter Pick:** it was noted that the Great British Spring Clean 2022 was taking place from 25 March – 10 April. In discussion it was agreed to hold a community litter pick on **Sunday 3 April** and that everyone was invited to meet at 11am in the High Street car park. Cllr Lewis to collect the litter picking equipment from the Clerk and purchase some new sturdy bin bags.

- d. **Condition of byway 14:** Cllr Butler explained that the byway was now impassable for walkers and anyone trying to get access by vehicle was likely to get stuck. Every three weeks he was being called to rescue people in vehicles. He said that he would take a photograph of the condition of the byway for evidence and it was agreed that the Chair would report via WC online. Cllr Lewis said that she had a photo from a few years ago of how the byway used to look, for comparison with its current state, and offered to forward it to the Chair.

- e. **Other issues:** it was noted that there was foliage encroaching the road adjacent to Bray Street Cottages and the Parish Steward should be asked to cut it back. A street lamp in the High Street had been reported to WC as it appeared to be working intermittently. No further action was proposed. Cllr Byatt said that, when she reported a faulty street lamp outside Elements, WC removed it completely.

## Avebury Parish Council

- f. Request from a member of the public for a bus stop / **stopping point at East Farm**, home of the Gourmet Goat Farmer. The Clerk explained that some people working in the cafe used the bus and there were people wishing to visit the site by bus and that it would be safer for them if it could stop at the site. In discussion, it was noted that the request would need to go to CATG in the first instance and that the project was likely to be cost-prohibitive given that APC would have to fund 25% of the cost. Cllr Daniel reminded members of the unsuccessful project to secure a permissive pathway from Winterbourne Monkton to Avebury. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the member of the public stating that APC was unable to prioritise the request at this time but that it would not oppose a fully-funded offer from one or more residents.
- g. Cllr Byatt reported that a website called Pitchup was advertising free camping at the **Ridgeway** and this was probably the reason why there appeared to be more vehicles than usual at the car park. It was agreed that the organisation should be asked to remove the advertisement as it was factually incorrect. Cllr Byatt said she would contact them.

**12. Parish Steward Priority Sheet:** apart from highway work already discussed, priority highway jobs to be emailed to the Clerk in the usual way.

**13. Communications and Correspondence:** the Clerk reported:

- a. WC had asked Town and Parish Councils to nominate any grassed areas or public open spaces that could be designated as wildflower meadow, for reduced cutting or left for rewilding. This was subject to criteria. **It was resolved** to nominate the Beckhampton roundabout for rewilding. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Paradise and carried unanimously. There was general agreement that WC should also be asked not to cut the grass on minor roads immediately prior to Solstice as this encouraged illicit parking.
- b. **Wiltshire Museum**, Devizes was running lots of activities for everyone. See link to their newsletter published on PC website.
- c. **The Environment Agency** had emailed details about the Dorset Prepared Community Resilience on-line Event that was running from 7-11 March. Cllr Lewis said that she would not be able to attend due to the timing and it was an all-day event and she had other commitments.
- d. **WC** was running its next on-line **update meeting** for Clerks and Council Officers on 4 March.
- e. Cllr Lewis reported that **MADT** had closed after 10 years and would no longer be hosting the community WiFi. It was noted that the Social Centre had its own WiFi connection. [The Social Centre has a WiFi connection but it is not publicly available being only for use by SC users. There was a Community WiFi node but this has now been removed].

**14. Finance and admin including:**

- a. **Spare planters: it was resolved** to donate the two spare planters to Kennet Valley School, Lockeridge. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Byatt and carried unanimously.

## Avebury Parish Council

- b. **Draft Signage Policy:** discussion deferred to April meeting.
- c. **Cheques for payment: it was resolved** to sign the following cheque. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Byatt and agreed unanimously.
  - (i) Miss E. Moore: overtime and expenses for the period 22 January 2022 –  
21 February 2022 £236.70
- d. **Membership:** Mr Parker volunteered to provide further information on his skills and background. He said that he liked to think outside the box, was great at coming up with ideas for starting projects, and that he would like to join the PC. **It was resolved** to co-opt Mr Robert Leslie Parker to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Byatt, seconded by Cllr Lewis and carried unanimously. [Paperwork to be signed in the next few days].

**15. Date of next meeting:** 7:30pm on Tuesday 5 April 2022 [apologies received from the Chairman and Cllr Byatt].

The meeting closed at 21:40

### Appendices:

1. National Trust Update – March 2022
2. Draft Chapel Lease – prepared by the NT's Solicitor
3. Draft Play Area Questionnaire for residents – prepared by Cllr Paradise
4. PC's response to WHS Governance Review – prepared by Cllr Stacey