

## Avebury Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Avebury Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at the Social Centre, Avebury SN8 1RF.

*In these minutes APC stands for Avebury Parish Council, AONB for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ASSC for Avebury Sports and Social Club, ASSF for Avebury Sacred Sites Forum, AWHS for Avebury World Heritage Site, CES for Community Exhibition Space, DEFRA for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, ESAG for Event Safety Advisory Group, FB for Facebook, KV PC for Kennet Valley Parish Council, LHFIG for Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group, MAB for Marlborough Area Boards, NT for the National Trust, PC for Parish Council, RoW for Rights of Way, SID for Speed Indicator Device, TRO for Traffic Regulation Order, UKN for Upper Kennet News, WALC for Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, WC for Wiltshire Council, WHS for World Heritage Site.*

**Present:** Mr Stephen Stacey (Chair), Dr Mike Bedford (Vice-Chair), Mrs Maggie Lewis (Vice-Chair), Mr Ben Butler, Mr Mike Daniel, Mrs Lynzey Paradise (from item 6), Mr Robert Parker and Ms Zandria Service.

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

Time started: 19:40

1. **Public question time:** there were no members of the public present apart from Jane Davies (Wiltshire Councillor: up to and including item 9c).
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Donna Byatt.
3. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Butler declared an interest in respect of item 7.a.
4. **Minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2022: it was resolved** to accept the minutes as a proper record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Daniel and unanimously agreed.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:** the Chairman reported:
  - a. **Min. ref. 9a. SID Project:** in his view WC had too strictly interpreted the application of the highway rules by installing derestriction signs at the entrances to Avebury Trusloe and elsewhere, having put up new 50mph speed limit signage on the A4361. It was agreed that Cllr Parker would follow up the matter at the next LHFIG meeting on 26 May 2022.
  - b. **Min. ref. 10c. Damaged Tree:** the fallen tree near AVE21 had been logged with WC.
  - c. **Min ref. 11.a. SSE Resilient Communities Fund:** Cllr Lewis confirmed that she would review the Avebury Emergency Plan with Judy Farthing.
  - d. **Min ref. 14.a. Draft Signage Policy:** Cllr Lewis said that she would add it to the Ts &Cs and circulate to the Trustees for approval.

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- 6. National Trust update: including Jubilee arrangements:** the Chairman reported that neither Jan Tomlin nor Eva Stützenberger was able to attend the PC's meeting that night. However the NT update had been previously circulated to members (see appendix 1). Cllr Lewis said that she had been working with NT staff Hazel Barry-Scott and Janinka Diverio on the Jubilee arrangements and asked whether the PC could provide evening refreshments. Cllr Daniel stated that he would supply prosecco free of charge; members were delighted to accept his generous offer. In discussion, it was noted that feedback via social media and other channels suggested that the community wished to have informal street parties rather than an organized event. Cllr Paradise reported that ASSC was planning to host a Jubilee celebration on the Sports Field on Saturday 4 June 2022 to tie in with their re-opening, and there would be a BBQ and other activities for everyone to enjoy. They were also planning to re-instate a new plaque next to the Sportsfield's 70 year old copper beach hedgerow, which formed the boundary to the field.
- 7. Solstice Planning: including TRO restrictions and permits:** the Chairman reported that WC's ESAG advisory body had met and he understood that Highways had decided that closure of the High Street was planned from 6am on Monday 20 June until the end of the day on Wednesday 22 June 2022. Parking restrictions would be in place from 6am Sunday 19 June until 12 noon Wednesday 22 June 2022. They were also considering temporary closure of AVE5. Cllr Davies was invited to speak. She explained that a TTRO on the Ridgeway was still a possibility but that the Police were concerned that closure would displace vehicles elsewhere. She confirmed that WC's Cabinet policy remained to continue to investigate a TRO for all year round closure of the Ridgeway in order to protect the archaeology.

Parking permits: **it was resolved** that all members be authorized by the PC to process public data for administration of the parking permits for Solstice 2022. [Under Data Protection rules members processing public data must have a mandate from the council to do so, the council being the data controller]. Residents would be able to collect permits from Elements Shop, Green Street in June, at times and dates to be confirmed. The PC will publish the dates in UKN, on the website, and through social media.

### **8. Planning applications:**

**It was resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21 April 2022 as an accurate record (previously circulated to members and see appendix 2). Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Daniel and carried unanimously.

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### 9. Project Updates:

- a. **SID Project:** Cllr Daniel reported that on the 1 May the SID had been transferred to the southern location near ASSC and would remain there for eight weeks. He had noticed that people were moving at slower speeds along the A4361 (near Rawlins Park), where the SID had previously been in-situ. Cllr Paradise was asked to provide an overview of the data / statistics collected from the SID. She said that 200,000 vehicles / month were using the road; members were surprised that the figure was so high. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 38.6 mph which according to Cllr Paradise suggested that vehicle speeds were not decreasing [“85<sup>th</sup> percentile” speed is a speed at which 85% of traffic will be travelling at, or below, along a street or road under free flow conditions]. In further discussion, members wondered at precisely what point a vehicles’ speed was recorded. Was it when the device first picked up the vehicle in question or at a later point? **It was agreed** that Cllr Paradise provide a summary of the statistics for publication in UKN. Cllr Parker said that he was bothered by the volume of traffic and people crossing. On the question of informal crossings, it was noted that the NT supported the idea and that informal crossing had been included in the WHS Transport Group Strategy. Cllr Davies was invited to speak. She urged members to think about a mind education solution and to put in a substantive bid via CATG. One idea would be to implement visual narrowing of the roads instead of crossings because WC would not support formal crossings with lights in the Avebury WHS and informal crossings might put people in greater danger. Cllr Daniel said that feedback from other Parishes was that SIDs had calmed traffic in their villages. In his view, the mind education approach mooted by Cllr Davies was a good suggestion in light of the volume of traffic recorded by the SID. The Chairman said that the PC would consider a meeting of the Transport Group.
- b. **CATG:** the Chairman to brief Cllr Parker before the next meeting on 26 May.
- c. **Chapel Project / exhibition space: including: signing of the Lease, arrangements for cleaning the Chapel and update on Fire and Risk Assessments:** the Chairman stated that the declaration document had been signed by him, as requested by the NT’s lawyers. The schedule was for a soft opening on the 14 May with six exhibitors planning to set up their stands. It was agreed that members would informally arrange a date for cleaning the Chapel on either a Monday or Thursday at 6pm or at a weekend between 10am – 4pm. Cllr Daniel reported that the Fire and Risk Assessment forms had arrived from Frazer McDonald (Fire Officer) and undertook to complete the assessment.
- d. **Play Area:** the draft questionnaire was tabled by Cllr Paradise (see appendix 3). It was noted that the form needed a return date and would then be ready for printing.

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### 10. Local Issues:

- a. **Rewilding of Beckhampton roundabout:** the Chairman and Cllr Lewis had met Martin Cook (WC Highways) to confirm what needed mowing. He was happy to instruct the mowing of vision splays only on verges but had advised that WC would need to mow a border of about three metres around the base of the roundabout for visibility / road safety. Clearing back encroaching vegetation on the footpath from the bus stops past Beckhampton House could be given to the Parish Steward as a job to do.
- b. **Race to the Stones 9-10 July 2022:** the Chairman reported that the NT had refused to give the event organisers a licence to use NT land for the route. In his personal view, it was a commercial event and the village should benefit.
- c. **Moss on play area surfacing:** Martin Cook had advised that salt kills moss and it was agreed to do a test patch on the play area surfacing. Dr Bedford offered to take charge of the experiment and report back to the PC.
- d. **Arrangements for Village meeting 24 May 2022:** in discussion, it was agreed to use the ASSC as the venue as it had been recently refurbished to a high standard and there was a bar available for refreshments. Cllr Paradise confirmed that the date was available. The Chairman and the Clerk to put together a 3-4 page account of the PC's work during the past year with photographs. It was felt that the document should also encourage people to support their PC and to feel free to speak to members about what issues were important to them.
- c. Residents had reported that from 1 May 2022, **two campervans** had parked without permission on Centurion Western land at the nursery site, adjacent to the Play Area in Avebury Trusloe. Action: PC to inform the land owner.
- d. **Motorcycle noise:** Cllr Bedford explained that since about 2008 Beckhampton had been suffering from high levels of noise pollution from modified motorcyles. He asked whether it would be possible to take part in an experiment and request noise abatement cameras for the A361. Cllr Bedford added that the A4361 would also benefit from the same. It was agreed that Cllr Bedford draft a letter to Peter Binley (Interim Director of Highways) to make the request on behalf of the PC.

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

**12. Communications:** Cllr Stacey reported that he had attended the exhibition about the proposed housing development at RAF Yatesbury put on by Cherhill Parish Council and that members of the public had until 13 May 2022 to comment. He noted that Earthline Exchange Ltd (an earth moving company) had a lease on Wroughton Airfield but had gradually expanded their operation without planning permission. They had subsequently put in retrospective planning permission and an appeal and public inquiry was being held at 10am on 10 May at Swindon Borough Council. Residents in neighbouring Parishes including Wroughton, were concerned about the increasing heavy vehicle movements.

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**13. Correspondence:** the Clerk reported that the majority of correspondence for public consumption was published on the PC website.

**14. Finance and admin including:**

- a. **Banking arrangements:** it was agreed that the Clerk should research the process for on-line banking via the current provider: HSBC.
- b. **To review the PC's Policy on Runs and Walks:** in discussion, it was agreed to remove point 6. (avoid use of the Sports-field which is only available for sports and village events). A fresh draft would be tabled for approval at the next PC meeting.
- c. **Cheques for payment: it was resolved** to sign the following cheques. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Paradise and agreed unanimously.
  - (i) WALC: annual subscription 2022/23 (including VAT) £202.09
  - (ii) Community First: annual subscription 2022/23 £40.00
- d. **Cheques for ratification: it was resolved** to ratify the following cheque payments. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Bedford and carried unanimously.
  - (i) Miss E. Moore: overtime and expenses for the period 22 March 2022 – 21 April 2022 £137.43
  - (ii) Westcotec Ltd: additional bracket set and solar bracket (includes VAT) £197.50
- e. **Ash Trees:** Cllr Service reported that DEFRA had published a definitive statement on the management and care of Ash Trees. It was agreed that she provide the detail to the Clerk for inclusion as information in the next addition of UKN.

**15. Date of next meeting:** 7:30pm on Tuesday 7 June 2022

The meeting closed at 21:20

**Appendices:**

1. National Trust Update – May 2022
2. Planning Committee Minutes 21 April 2022
3. Play Area Questionnaire