

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Avebury Parish Council held online on Tuesday 4 May 2021.

In these minutes AGM stands for Annual General Meeting, APC stands for Avebury Parish Council, 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, FB for Facebook, 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 and WHS for World Heritage Site.

Present: Mr Stephen Stacey (Chair), Dr Mike Bedford (Vice-Chair), Mrs Maggie Lewis (Vice-Chair), Mr Ben Butler, Mrs Donna Byatt, Mr Mike Daniel (up to and including item 8), Mrs Lynzey Paradise and Ms Zandria Service.

In attendance: Miss Liz Moore (Clerk).

Time started: 19:32

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He proposed altering the order of business to substitute item 10 for item 6 because Cllr Daniel needed to leave the meeting early. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Service and carried unanimously.

1. **Public question time:** there were no members of the public present.
2. **Apologies:** Councillor Terence O'Connor.
3. **Declarations of interest:** there were none.
4. **Minutes of an ordinary meeting held on 6 April 2021: it was resolved** to accept the minutes as a proper record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Daniel, and carried unanimously.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a. **Min ref. 9a.ii. Slow moving vehicles exiting and entering Nash Lane:** Cllr Lewis reported that she and the Chairman had met Clare Charlton the previous week to listen to her concerns about the risk to slow moving vehicles exiting and entering the A4361 at Nash Lane and the A4 turning onto the byway towards Grange Barrow House. The Chairman explained that the installation of two T signs @ £40-50 at both locations had been approved by Martin Cook (Area Highway Engineer, WC). He reported that the Charltons had offered to pay 50% towards the cost of the signs with their handyman being available to help install the signs at no cost to the PC. **It was resolved** to allocate £100 for two warning signs recognizing that 50% would be reimbursed. Proposed by Cllr Service, seconded by Cllr Daniel and carried unanimously.

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

- b. **Min ref. 10d. Steps opposite the Waggon & Horses PH:** Cllr Lewis advised members that there were 22 steps in total and she was in the process of seeking quotations for installation of a handrail.

Item 10 was discussed next.

6. **National Trust Update:** Although it was not possible for a representative of the Trust to attend the meeting, an update was received after the meeting and is appended to these minutes (see appendix 1).
7. **Avebury Chapel:** community use proposed: The Chairman explained that the NT, concerned that the Chapel was currently unused, had offered the community the option of creating and running an exhibition space for local organisations on a strictly non-commercial basis. Not for profit groups such as the Community Orchard and the Marlborough Farmers could be invited to participate. The WHS Coordination Unit had confirmed its interest. The Chairman invited questions from members. The following points were raised:
 - Cllr Byatt asked who would be responsible for risk assessment, cleaning and maintaining the building as it would need to be handed back to the NT in its original state. Would someone need to be on hand? What was the NT seeking in return? The Chairman said that the NT would continue to be responsible for general maintenance and repair of the building. He added that the running, lighting and electricity would be the responsibility of the Community Group set up to oversee the project. Members noted that the NT had estimated that heating costs would be in the region of £200-250 per month and therefore running the space in summer only would be a cost effective option.
 - Cllr Paradise asked whether the space would be in competition with other local community buildings such as the Social Centre. The Chairman's view was that the space would be complimentary as opposed to competitive.
 - Cllr Lewis suggested that the space could be restricted to certain groups and that more tourist information was likely to be appreciated.

In further discussion, members felt that the NT's offer was a good opportunity but would clearly involve funding and would need a small group of enthusiastic people to run the project. **Action:** Chair to email proposal. **It was agreed** to set up an initial working party to do more research and find out the interest from local organisations; working party to consist of the Chairman with Cllr Byatt, Cllr Lewis and Cllr Paradise.

8. **Arrangements for Solstice:** a paper prepared by Cllr Service was circulated to members that afternoon (see appendix 2). The Chair thanked Cllr Service for the very comprehensive character of the paper and invited her to summarise it. Cllr Service explained that many groups were waiting on further government advice and therefore delaying decisions on preparations for Solstice. The police representative had advised her that they made general orders two weeks before Solstice but were planning to have the same level of policing as in the previous year. In her view, groups shouldn't be

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

encouraging people to come to Avebury before 21 June. Universally the expectation was that there would be lots more visitors to Avebury that year as people's civil rights were fully restored and that implied all stakeholders would need to do more to ensure the smooth running of Solstice. In discussion members noted that they would need to wait for the ASSF meeting on 18 May to find out the plans of the faith groups and their approach. The NT had indicated at the last ASSF meeting that there were no plans to facilitate camping. Cllr Byatt expressed her thanks to Cllr Service for putting together an accurate, sensible and balanced paper. She said that she was nervous that the authorities were not looking at the event seriously enough but that, as a business owner; she was hoping for a busy period. Cllr Paradise reported that Matt Perrott (WC Highways) had a meeting the next day and had asked for the PC's requests for highway and byway restrictions. She had advised him that the PC would like the same restrictions in place as in the previous year; she had also reminded him of some of the main issues and talked about prevention. It was noted that there was no extra funding being allocated by WC for Solstice and they required a NT contact as Hilary Makins had left the organisation and they had not been advised of her replacement. In further discussion it was felt that the PC should research costs for additional security but also push for the Police to agree to have a greater presence at Solstice 2021. **Action:**

- Clerk to obtain pricing for security officers from a local resident who runs a security firm; as the cost of CSAS officers via WC was cost-prohibitive.
- Cllr Byatt, Cllr Paradise and the Chairman to action the WC process for requesting formal restrictions and preparation of the residents' parking permit scheme (Councillors to be formally mandated at the next council meeting to process public data for administration of the parking permits).

9. Planning applications:

- a. Full planning permission for replacement of a garden shed at **Rose Cottage**, High Street, Avebury SN8 1RF. Ref: 21/02196/FUL. **It was resolved** to support the application. Proposed by Cllr Service, seconded by Cllr Byatt and carried unanimously.
- b. Listed building consent for works to refurbish and redecorate various rooms at **Truslowe Manor**, Bray Street, Avebury SN8 1RB. Ref: PL/2021/03055. The Chairman reported that there were about 14 documents in total and suggested that it would be sensible for the PC to hold a Planning Meeting, and invite the architect to present the plans at that meeting. **It was agreed** to hold an extra meeting after the AGM on 18 May.

10. Project updates:

- a. **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) for A4361:** the Chairman explained that each socket for the SID would need to be set in about 1.4 tonnes/1m³ of concrete. He understood that Scheduled Monument Consent would be required and the NT had kindly offered the services of Briony Clifton to help with the application. He

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

added that the grant from the MAB had now been transferred to the PC and the PC was obligated to report back to WC within three months of receipt of funds. It was hoped that installation of the SID could be effected by mid-late summer. Cllr Paradise asked whether the SID could be installed on the road through Avebury Trusloe. In discussion it was noted that they had to be used within a 30 mph zone (the speed limit through Trusloe was currently the national speed limit), and mobility of the SID was limited by the need to use a socket. In further discussion, it was agreed that members could use the speed gun instead. It was not known what time of day the traffic was as at its worst although Cllr Service reported that delivery vans were always in a hurry. **It was resolved** to purchase two sockets at an additional cost of £300 to be taken from PC reserves. Proposed by Cllr Butler, seconded by Cllr Byatt and carried unanimously.

- b. **Petition to Wiltshire Council (40 mph on A4361):** the Chairman reported that the petition had been sent by Royal Mail to WC on 13 April 2021 and received at 8:33 on 14 April 2021. WC committed itself to provide an acknowledgement within 2 working days and a substantive response within 15 working days of receipt. **It was agreed** that the Chairman would write to the Chief Executive of WC should a substantive response not be received by 6 May.
- c. **Play Area:** proposal to consider loan: Options for funding new play equipment were discussed such as taking up a loan for not more than 100% of the precept (£14,200), sponsorship, a sponsored bike ride, lottery funding and match funding. Cllr Paradise reported that there was currently a UK-wide timber shortage, which might impact on timescales for implementation of new play equipment, and that the original quotations had varied from £29K - £78K. She suggested that a timber trail would be a more cost effective solution and provide exercise for all age groups. **Action:**
 - i. The original quotations would be reviewed by members.
 - ii. The Clerk was asked to contact Manton PC for any information / advice on the recent revamping of their Play Area.
 - iii. The Chair and Clerk to look at the detail on how to raise a public loan. The Clerk advised members that the PC would need to show that there was community approval for taking out a loan.

11. Local Issues:

- a. **Installation of bench at Play Area and repair to wire fencing:** Cllr Butler reported that the bench was in the process of being installed by Martin Nobbs and would be in-situ the next morning. The Clerk added that she had asked the contractor to renew the fencing at the entrance to the Play Area (on the right hand side) as it was in need of repair. It was noted that there was galvanized

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

wire left over from the previous fencing job, which meant that no new fencing material was needed to be ordered.

- b. **Fitting of new cabinet for defibrillator located in 'phone kiosk in Avebury Trusloe:** Cllr Lewis to check that the new circular cabinet had been ordered from SW Ambulance.
- c. **Cleaning of the 'phone box in Avebury Trusloe:**
 - i. Cllr Lewis and the Chair volunteered to clean the 'phone box.
 - ii. The Clerk would continue to seek quotations for part sanding and repainting of the 'phone box.
 - iii. Cllr Lewis to find out if there was any planned defibrillator training.
- d. **Combined Parishes Rights of Way (meetings 22 April, 21 May):** the Chair reported that there was a public meeting planned for the autumn and that he would circulate a note in due course.

12. Parish Steward Priority Sheet:

- a. **Jobs carried out in April:** the Chairman reported that, in addition to his usual jobs, Will Lee had removed an unofficial sign and its post in Avebury Trusloe and cleaned the gully by the community shop entrance.
- b. **Job requests for May:** Cllr Service requested repair to a section of road opposite 1-3 Bray Street Cottages.

13. **Communications:** the Clerk reported that PC Headlines had been submitted to the May 2021 edition of UKN, with thanks to the Chairman who had put together the update.

14. **Correspondence:** the Clerk reported:

- a. **Cllr O'Connor had provided an update on the broadband upgrade voucher scheme** from MP Danny Kruger. She read out the report as follows: "Project Gigabit (in which more than one million hard to reach homes and businesses will have next-generation gigabit broadband built to them) will work in Wiltshire will not be made public until the summer. At this point we should know more about which rural locations will benefit from the project, and therefore who will be eligible for alternatives such as the voucher scheme.

Conversations with Wiltshire Council and BT Openreach have therefore led to the conclusion that it would be most beneficial to hold the summit once details of the Gigabit programme are available."

- b. **Email received from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust:** as an introduction to their specialist team offering a range of services to improve green spaces for the benefit of wildlife (and people).

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

- c. **WC Highways urgent closure notice for A4361** (Part), Winterbourne Monkton commencing 30th April 2021.
- d. **Next dates from Marlborough Area Board for the new financial year:** A significant change comes with the move from six to four area board meetings per year. This reduction in the number of “business” area boards means that WC will be able to concentrate on running engagement events separate to these formal meetings that will focus on key local issues. They will be staying with four Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meetings per year.

15. Finance and admin:

- a. **Cheques for payment: it was resolved** to pay the following cheque payments. Proposed by Cllr Service, seconded by Cllr Byatt and carried unanimously.
 - i. Community First Trading Limited: annual insurance within a LTA year 2/3
£388.82
 - ii. The Friends of The Ridgeway: annual membership £15.00
 - iii. Mark Paradise: 9 x large wooden planters £450.00
 - iv. Miss E. Moore: expenses for April 2021 £32.00
- b. **Cheques for ratification: it was resolved** to ratify the following cheque payments previously raised. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Service and carried unanimously.
 - i. Wiltshire Council: CATG contribution to design work on A4 at Beckhampton and West Kennett (PC's agreed contribution) £4,694
 - ii. Wiltshire Council: CATG contribution to design work on A4 at Beckhampton and West Kennett (includes donation pledged by the community + PC's additionally agreed contribution of £712) £4,694
 - iii. WALC: Annual Subscription 2021/22 to WALC and NALC (includes VAT) £195.47
 - iv. Mrs M. Lewis: re-imburement for purchase of mirror and pole from Barriers Direct (includes VAT) £370.43
 - v. Miss E. Moore: lock down pay and expenses for March 2021 £155.52

16. **Date of next meeting:** the Clerk reported that the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** was scheduled for **7:30pm on Tuesday 18 May 2021** and next ordinary meeting 7:30pm on Tuesday 1 June 2021; both meetings would be held in the Social Centre.

The Clerk reminded members of the current advice from government: “Local authorities have legal obligations to ensure that members of the public have access to most of their

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

meetings. For physical meetings, the government would actively encourage local authorities to continue to provide remote access until at least 21 June, at which point it is anticipated that all restrictions on indoor gatherings will have been lifted in line with the Roadmap. However, it is for individual local authorities to satisfy themselves that they have met the requirements for public access.” In discussion, members felt that a hybrid meeting was not practical and that a physical meeting would suffice.

17. **Any other business:**

- a. The Clerk reported that WALC was delivering **Councillor Training** via Zoom. It was £30 per member for a two hour training session and aimed at new parish, town and city (local councillors). It was also suitable for returning councillors seeking a refresher and she encouraged members to register for the training. There were lots of dates available on WALC’s new website: <https://www.wiltshire-alc.org.uk/>

The meeting closed at 21:23

Appendices:

1. National Trust Update – May 2021 (not seen by the meeting but added subsequently)
2. Solstice Paper prepared by Cllr Service – dated 4 May 2021