

## Avebury Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Avebury Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 July 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, AWHS for Avebury World Heritage Site, CES for Community Exhibition Space, CPRE for Campaign to Protect Rural England, 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, SIA for Security Industry Authority, SID for Speed Indicator Device, SWAST for South Western Ambulance Service Foundation Trust, 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 (Chairman), Mr Ben Butler, Mrs Donna Byatt, Mrs Lynzey Paradise and Ms Zandria Service (from part way through item 1: up to and including item 11).

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

Time started: 19:30

- 1. Public question time:** there were five members of the public present for all or part of the meeting including Jane Davies (Wiltshire Councillor) and Jan Tomlin (General Manager, Wiltshire Landscape: up to and including item 7). The Chairman proposed that any feedback relating to Solstice be taken at item 7. A member of the public asked that the Parish Steward be granted more allocation of time for footpath strimming. The Chairman explained that the Parish Steward had only four hours per month allocated for highways related work. Jane Davies reported that there was potentially going to be more funding available for white lining, gully cleaning, and Parish Steward work. She advised that the PC write to Cllr Dr Mark McClelland (Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding) and put in a request for more Parish Steward time in Avebury. The Chairman undertook to do this.
- 2. Apologies:** Councillors Dr Mike Bedford (Vice-Chair), Maggie Lewis (Vice-Chair), Mike Daniel and Robert Parker.
- 3. Declarations of interest:** there were none.
- 4. Minutes of meeting held on 7 June 2022: it was resolved** to accept the minutes as a proper record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Byatt and agreed unanimously.
- 5. Matters arising from the minutes:** there were none.

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**6. National Trust update:** it was noted that the NT update had been previously circulated to members by email (see appendix 1) and Jan Tomlin tabled hard copies of the update for all present. Jan explained that the NT was pushing forward with the summer programme and that the 'Lost' tours had proved very popular. Jan provided a summary and added to the main points as follows:

- the NT's view of Solstice was that it had been the most friendly and joyous event for a decade. There had been 2,000 – 3,000 attendees for Solstice and this was consistent with previous years. Stonehenge had about 6,000 attendees, which was a massive drop in the usual 18,000 visitors.
- Jan apologized that the PC had not yet received the lease for the Chapel. She expected it to arrive in the next couple of weeks. It was noted that Estate Manager Tim Barton would be joined by a new staff member, James Bradshaw, and he was the new Rural Surveyor. She added that the NT had instigated a project to improve connectivity across its estate which, if successful, would also benefit the Chapel.
- the NT had decided to use the milk machine on the High Street as their sole source of milk to support the local farmer and as a green initiative.
- the new gate on South Drive had been installed so that the smart side was facing away from the farmyard and there was a two leafed gate for pedestrian access. The main gate would remain closed to deter delivery drivers from using the area as a turning point. This had been flagged up as a safety issue by people using the Church.
- Jan confirmed that she would be able to share the data on visitor demographics and expectations post pandemic after the research work had been carried out by the NT.
- the NT was waiting to hear from WC about the proposed work to the lay-by on the B4003.

The Chairman invited Jane Davies to comment on the B4003 project. Jane reported that she had escalated the issue and also highlighted what she saw as a need for WC Highways to have more support in getting the job done. For example, she had identified that assistance in applying for Scheduled Monument Consent would help move the project forward. She had set up a Teams meeting on 14 July with WC colleagues, the NT, and APC to scope next steps. Relief was expressed by members when she reported that neither the PC nor LHFIFG would have to pay for the yellow lining on the B4003 or remodelling work for the lay-by.

The Chairman thanked both Jan and Jane for their positive feedback.

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- 7. Summer Solstice 2022:** the Chairman invited opinions and feedback on the Solstice arrangements from all present. The following points emerged:
- a) A member of the public said that Solstice 2022 had been very peaceful and he had appreciated the King's Drummers. He said that he had no complaints and thought that the event had been well put together.
  - b) A member of the public said that she had missed seeing the usual horse-drawn carts and meeting members of Romany gypsy community.
  - c) A member of the public said that it had been noticed that Security Officers wearing hi-viz jackets had not had their SIA badges / licence visible. Cllr Paradise said that she would feed this back to the organisation.
  - d) A member of the public who was representing her daughter (who works within an Outreach Services organization) expressed concern that the height restriction bar on the main NT car park meant that any live-in vehicles could not park close to the site. She felt that this setup potentially impacted some of the most vulnerable families living on the road as they would be pushed out of safe park ups.
  - e) It was reported that Honey Street and The Barge Inn had experienced lots of people parking and leaving their vehicles to walk to Avebury. Milk Hill car park and Boreham Bottom leading to West Woods near Lockeridge had been full of vehicles, too. Many people had parked and walked through Avebury Trusloe to get to the centre of Avebury.
  - f) Jan Tomlin stated that the NT was not permitted to allow people to sleep in vehicles overnight, as per the rules of their agreement with Wiltshire Council.
  - g) It was suggested that perhaps a farmer's field might be an option for future parking as it was understood that anyone who owned land could open up a campsite for up to 28 days without needing to apply for a licence from the Local Authority.
  - h) The Chairman reported that two residents at West Kennett had complained that the lay-by adjacent to the A4 had not been coned by WC. It was thought that cones may have been moved by someone although residents dispute that. One resident had reported to Cllr Byatt that she couldn't get back into the lay-by to park next to her home as it had become full up with visitors' vehicles. Jane Davies stated that vehicles not displaying a parking permit had been ticketed.
  - i) A resident from Avebury Trusloe had complained that cones had not extended onto the housing estate and there had been issues with vans parking on the side of the road. It was noted that WC was not responsible for the highway on the Aster housing estate. AHA might be able to provide cones.

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j) There was confusion with the dates on the parking permit, which had purportedly been checked by the WC Highways Officer. The coning of the highway was meant to be from the 19 June. (Information from ASOPM meeting 7 July: WC's coning contractor had come to site later than expected.)

k) Two businesses had complained about the noise of the diesel generators set up by WC for the Welfare Units (located in the small High Street car park and at the Chapel) and that it was above legal levels.

l) Jane Davies explained that the organiser of an event normally had to undertake a quality impact assessment. Solstice fell outside of this requirement because it was an observance.

m) There was a complaint about security guards sleeping overnight in vans on the Ridgeway because it was felt that this was unfair on visitors / travellers wanting to overnight in their vehicles. It was noted that overnight camping was prohibited on the Ridgeway and that security guards were providing a 24 hour service. Jane stated that WC has a legal duty to protect the Ridgeway in order to protect buried archaeology in a WHS and preventing potentially 200 + vehicles descending on the Ridgeway was part of that remit.

The Chairman stated that Solstice had been a much better experience for Avebury and the PC owed WC, the Police and the NT a debt of gratitude for stepping up the resources, particularly as the previous year had been so difficult. **Action:** Chairman to write a letter of thanks to each organisation. It was noted that a wash up meeting with all stakeholders was scheduled for Thursday 7 July to review the overall impact of Solstice.

A final question was raised about the cost of Solstice 2022 including the extra security and whether it would impact on the Council Tax. Jane said that she was not sure about the final figure but costs would be spread over WC's budget for future years and would not affect Council Tax.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their feedback.

### 8. Planning applications:

- a) Householder Planning Permission for a detached store and sun room at **Vine Cottages**, South Street, Avebury Trusloe SN8 1QX. Ref: PL/2022/04390
- b) Householder Planning Permission for a single storey rear extension at **25 Trusloe Cottages**, Avebury Trusloe SN8 1QZ. Ref: PL/2022/04638
- c) Consent under Tree Preservations Order for A1 Walnut (Jugulars Regia) (T1 of TPO E/316) - Remove 1x lower limb overhanging drive. Pictures attached AR/01 This branch has historically been damaged by delivery lorries. Due to this damage the branch is growing at a right angles, looking very unnatural. It also limits access to

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the property with the risk of further damage to the entire tree if caught again. At **North Rutlands**, Swindon Road, Avebury SN8 1RH. Ref: PL/2022/05093.

**It was resolved** to consider items 8 a-c at an on-site Planning Committee meeting to held at 7pm on Tuesday 12 July 2022.

The Chairman reported that the resident in Fosse House had asked whether he needed planning permission to remove a dead tree. It was noted that, as the property was within the Conservation Area, the answer was most likely to be that he did.

### 9. Project Updates:

- a) **Speed Indicator Device:** Cllr Paradise reported that she had not yet downloaded the data due to a technical issue; there had been a lot of data and it had crashed her computer. Cllr Byatt said that she felt that there was a real need for a second SID. She explained that her business, which was adjacent to the A4361, experienced a lot of loud vehicles that were regularly speeding as they came into Avebury from the north of the village. The perception was that the SID had already helped a lot to decrease vehicle speeds; also the public had shown strong support for a second SID at the Annual Parish Meeting. (It was noted that the SID was being moved back to the northern position near Rawlins Park on Friday). Jane Davies reminded members that small, incremental work to the A4361 was possible via LHF1G and encouraged members to consult the recommendations outlined in the Avebury WHS Management Plan, such as extending the pedestrian area at the entrance to Green Street and road narrowing. **Action:** Cllr Byatt to contact Ann Carney to seek her support and a Transport Group meeting would be organized in due course.
- b) **Chapel Project / exhibition space:** including appointment of Parish Council representatives to the Avebury Chapel working group. The Chairman reported that exhibits had been temporarily taken down to accommodate the welfare unit over Solstice. Two more exhibitors had joined the group: CPRE and the NT. There were now five exhibitors in total with more set to join including the Avebury Society and the Orchard Group in the autumn. In discussion, it was noted that the Chapel was in urgent need of volunteers and members wondered if the exhibitors themselves could offer some of their time. The plan was to have two shifts between 11am – 5pm at the weekends only. Adverts asking for help had been put up on all notice boards and in the UKN. An appeal would go out on the community WhatsApp, too. A sign-up sheet for prospective volunteers is behind the counter in the community shop. **It was resolved** to formally set up a Chapel working group with the following members: Cllrs Byatt, Lewis, Paradise and Stacey, and that members of the community would be welcome to join the group, too.
- c) **Play Area:** Cllr Paradise reported that the PC had received 35 responses to the Play Area questionnaire; half of the responses had been on paper and the other half had been on-line. She said that 18 people wanted the most cost effective solution and 19 had requested a totally new Play Area. In discussion, it was felt that the best way forward was to implement the project incrementally by selecting

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the most requested equipment first. Jane Davies warned against making the Play Area too attractive to visitors as there was limited parking. In the meantime, it was felt that the PC needed a clearer idea of the demographics. **Action:** Clerk to research the latest census results for Avebury.

### 10. Local Issues:

- a) **Planters:** Cllr Paradise reported that the planters were looking untidy; she was currently looking after four and needed other households to come forward to help out. **Action:** PC / Cllr Paradise to write to the sponsors to thank them for their support to date and ask whether they still wished to manage their planter.
- b) **Footpath adjacent to 1 Chapel Corner Cottages:** the Parish Steward would be advised that the footpath needed strimming; there was also an issue of cars on the footpath. Jane Davies said that this was a matter for enforcement by Wiltshire Highways.
- c) **Noticeboards:** the Clerk advised that the PC should look into replacing the noticeboards at Beckhampton and Avebury Trusloe as both were aged and warped, and include a line in the budget for 2023-24. **Action:** Clerk to research pricing for similar size noticeboards in maintenance free materials versus wood.

**11. SWAST Defibrillator Scheme:** the Chairman reported that the location of fourth defibrillator for Beckhampton needed to be confirmed by Cllrs Bedford and Lewis. The PC was currently waiting for the new rental agreement from SWAST.

**12. Parish Steward Priority Sheet:** the Clerk reported that the Parish Steward had completed strimming of the footpath from the Beckhampton bus shelter, northbound side, towards the roundabout / front of Beckhampton House, Church Walk footpath and he had washed the bus stop signs at Rawlins Park. He had also collected WC plastic barriers that had been used on the High Street over Solstice. The strimming of other footpaths (South Street to bus shelters on A4361) had yet to be completed. It was noted that he was planning to come back to do these as soon as possible. Cllr Byatt reported that the visibility splays at the southern end of the Avenue had still not been cut by WC's contractor and that this was dangerous for vehicles turning out onto the A4.

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

- a) WALC monthly update received.
- b) WC Invitation: members invited to join the launch of a new Positive Conduct campaign via webinar: 'Positive Conduct equals Positive Democracy' start time: 5pm on 7 July 2022 and featuring Jackie Weaver.

**14. Finance and admin including:** the Chair reported:

- a) **Banking arrangements:** mandate for electronic banking via HSBC not yet been actioned; item deferred to next meeting.

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b) **Cheques for ratification: it was resolved** to ratify the following cheque payments. Proposed by Cllr Byatt, seconded by Cllr Stacey and carried unanimously.

(i) Miss E. Moore: overtime and expenses for the period 22 May 2022 – 21 June 2022

£290.09

(ii) Kennet Print Ltd: printing A5 parking permits x400 (inclu VAT) £84.00

**15.Date of next meeting:** 7:30pm on Tuesday 6 September July 2022 [Apologies received from the Chairman and Cllr Byatt].

The meeting closed at 21:06

### **Appendices:**

1. National Trust Update – July 2022