

Avebury Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Avebury Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 September 2021 at the Social Centre, Avebury SN8 1RF.

In these minutes APC stands for Avebury Parish Council, ARK for Action for River Kennet, 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, EMF for ear marked reserves, FB for Facebook, MAB for Marlborough Area Boards, MOU for Memorandum of Understanding, NT for the National Trust, NWPW for North Wiltshire Path Wardens, PC for Parish Council, PEAS for Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme, 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: Dr Mike Bedford (Vice-Chair), Mr Ben Butler, Mrs Donna Byatt and Mr Mike Daniel.

In attendance: Miss Liz Moore (Clerk): online

Time started: 19:33

1. **Public question time:** there was one member of the public present and he asked why the **footpath opposite Rawlins Park** had become so badly maintained. It was noted that he had emailed the Clerk that day with his concerns. In response, she said that she had already raised the issue with Eva at the NT so they could address any NT areas, as well as the Parish Steward. She was pleased to report that Will (Parish Steward) had been able to add the strimming to his 'to do list' that day. The resident said that he would like the NT to better manage some Beech trees near to his home because they interfered with the TV reception. The Clerk said that she would email him the contact details for Peter Oliver (Countryside Manager) who had recently replaced Hilary Makins.
2. **Apologies:** Councillors Stephen Stacey (Chair), Maggie Lewis (Vice-Chair), Lynzey Paradise and Zandria Service. Eva Stützenberger (NT) had also given her apologies.
3. **Declarations of interest:** none declared.
4. **Minutes of meeting held on 6 July 2021: it was resolved** to accept the minutes as a proper record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Daniel, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a. Min ref. 11.c. ASSF and Solstice Debrief 15 July: draft minutes had been received. In discussion, members were upset about the anguish suffered by local people because of the illegal rave on the Ridgeway over Solstice. Members agreed that it could not have been foreseen; it was not the usual Solstice attendees and was hopefully just a one-off event in reaction to the opening up

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after lockdown. People were legally allowed to travel along the Ridgeway between March and October and therefore it had not been possible to lock any gates. It was noted that the NT was planning to provide camping in the NT overflow car part at Autumn Equinox, for one night, on Saturday 18 September.

6. **Membership:** Dr Bedford reported that a further expression of interest in joining the PC had been received from Mike Pinch who lives in Beckhampton and this was in addition to one other person who had verbally expressed an interest. Members agreed that they would like more time to interest more people in the role and a decision on who to co-opt to the seat was deferred to the 5 October meeting.
7. **Planning applications including:**
 - a. **Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 20 July 2021: it was resolved** to accept and receive the draft minutes as a proper record of the meeting (see appendix 1). Proposed by Cllr Byatt, seconded by Cllr Daniel and carried unanimously.
 - b. **Work to trees in a Conservation Area.** Proposal: fell two Sycamore trees to ground level at **Ashcroft**, High Street, Avebury, SN8 1RF. Ref: PL/2021/08539. Members noted that the proposal was for two sycamores close to the applicant's boundary to be removed in order to allow more room and light for the remaining beech trees to mature. Also, the applicant was planning to replace / plant other specimen trees around the property in the near future. **It was resolved** to support the application. Proposed by Cllr Byatt, seconded by Cllr Daniel and carried unanimously.
8. **National Trust:** update received: see appendix 2. It was noted that the Café was not open on a Monday or Tuesday due to staff shortages.
9. **Project Updates and WC Consultations for discussion and response:**
 - a. **Installation of sockets for SID:**
 - i. **Members to consider the quotation received from Ringway for necessary groundworks to install the PC's SID at two sites on WC highway adjacent to the A4361.** [Quotation previously circulated to members]. Cllr Daniel reported that he had originally obtained three quotations but in the meantime, Martin Cook's boss had insisted that APC use Ringway as the work was being done on WC highway and Ringway was their approved contractor. He was pleased to report that Ringway's quotation was extremely good value for money as the other contractors

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had quoted about £1,500 per site. **It was resolved** to accept Ringway's quotation of £1,204.85 (ex VAT) for groundworks at two sites on the highway adjacent to the A4361 (site locations previously agreed and identified with WC) and that the funds be taken from the Transport Project EMF currently set at £4,418 for the current financial year. Proposed by Cllr Daniel, seconded by Cllr Byatt and carried unanimously. Cllr Daniel confirmed that Martin Cook had agreed to provide the pole, to which the SID is to be fixed free of charge.

- b. **WC Consultation** on proposed traffic regulation orders for reducing the speed to 50 mph on parts of the A4 and A4361: Cllr Bedford read out the email received from WC 9 August 2021: '...Further to previous correspondence regarding the above proposals I can confirm the consultation period has now ended. As objections were received for the same, details of all letters of objection or support will be considered in a report placed before the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste. I will contact you again when a decision has been made regarding this proposal. Kind regards **Lianne Bartle** Senior Traffic Order Technician, Wiltshire Council...'
 - c. **WC Consultation** on draft 'Climate Strategy' and 'Our Natural Environment Plan' www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate. Members had not yet had time to read the plans. Member of the public are encouraged to respond.
 - d. **Avebury Chapel:** Cllr Bedford reported that a written update had been received from Cllr Stacey (previously circulated to members and see appendix 3). It was noted that a meeting had been held in the chapel on 20 July and representatives of about six organisations had expressed at least some interest in exhibiting. The group would be seeking a contribution from APC and there would be a further meeting held in the second half of October.
10. **Local Issues:** Cllr Bedford said that the BT 'phone box at West Kennett was still missing a small pane of glass. **Action:** Clerk to follow this up with BT as they had been asked a couple of months ago to mend and clean the 'phone box.
11. **Parish Steward Priority Sheet:** Cllr Bedford reported that the Parish Steward had been asked to do the following additional jobs in August: trim the footpath from WC bus stop on A361 to Beckhampton roundabout, clear encroaching growth on path of church walk which is the path from the churchyard to Hunter's Lane and cut back the growth on the lower branches of the tree on the triangle at the top of the High Street to aid drivers'

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vision when joining the main road. It was noted that the Parish Steward was in Avebury that day and any new requests for highway jobs would be added to his next visit which was in October. In addition, Clerk to log the following highway issues raised that night: verges need cutting at the end of West Kennett Avenue adjacent to the A4 and pot holes need filling on the west side of the Avenue / B4300 also at the southern end. Cllr Butler said that there was a leaking fire hydrant at the junction into the housing estate in Avebury Trusloe and he had reported it last Friday to Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service.

12. **Communications:** there was nothing to report as the PC had not met in August.

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

- a. Outlaw Bowood Triathlon was taking place on 12 September 2021 and the route was through Avebury and surrounding villages.
- b. Avebury named best Village to visit in the UK by Which? Survey.
- c. Marlborough Mound Lecture - 13 September 2021 - Ellis Theatre, Marlborough College. See PC website for details.
- d. Community First AGM, 6pm on Wednesday 6 October by Zoom / online. Councillors were encouraged to attend to learn more about the work of Community First.
- e. Email received from Peter Barry, Clerk Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett Parish Council - Serving Broad Hinton, Uffcott and Winterbourne Bassett to ask whether APC would be interested in forming a group to better address flooding issues with the authorities. The Clerk and Cllr Lewis (Flood Warden) had emailed Mr Barry to confirm that the PC would potentially be interested in the initiative. In discussion, it was noted that flooding issues could cover a number of areas from river dredging to ground water flooding to pumping stations to drains. Cllr Butler explained that the Environment Agency used to dredge the river but then the job was passed to land owners. He said that there was a conflict of interests as ARK preferred land owners to leave the rivers to evolve naturally because dredging can damage ecology. **It was agreed** to invite the NT and Peter Barry to the next APC meeting to discuss the idea further.
- f. Friends of the Ridgeway Summer 2021 newsletter: NB circulated to members but file too big to put on website.
- g. THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACONS, 2 JUNE 2022. Beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories. For the first time, Beacons will also be lit in each of the

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capital cities of the Commonwealth countries to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Beacons will be lit as part of Platinum Jubilee extended bank holiday weekend, Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June 2022 and they will be lit on THURSDAY 2ND JUNE 2022 at 9.15 pm.

14. Finance and admin including:

- a. **Training:** it was noted that members had not booked on the WALC on-line training courses and there was nothing currently available. They said that they would prefer more time to look at the online conferences being run by IGPP Institute of Government & Public Policy.
- b. **Play area inspection:** the Clerk confirmed that the annual inspection of the Play Area at Avebury Trusloe had been booked with Play Safety Ltd and would be carried out in September. It was noted that the last inspection by the PC had been carried out by the Clerk on 1 September and that a small amount of litter had been removed from the area.
- c. **The new MOU** for the one year term on the Social Centre defibrillator had been received and filed, with thanks to Cllr Lewis.
- d. **PEAS request form** had been actioned by Cllr Lewis and emailed to WC on 2 August. The Clerk reported that one box of gel sacs (50 per box) had been ordered for collection on 15 October at the Devizes Depot.
- e. **Cheques for ratification: it was resolved** to approve the following cheques raised on the 3 August 2021. Proposed by Cllr Bedford, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously.
 - i. **Westcotec Ltd:** Portable Speed Indicator Device (SID), data collection option and 10w Solar Panel (includes VAT) **£4,518.00**
 - ii. **Miss E. Moore:** overtime and expenses for the period 22 June – 21 July 2021 **£254.88**
- f. **Cheques for payment: it was resolved** to approve the following cheque payments. Proposed by Cllr Daniel, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously.
 - i. **Avebury Social Centre:** room booking on 22 July 2021 for the North Wiltshire Path Wardens **£8.00**
 - ii. **Jeremy Sumbler:** donation towards hire of Heras Fencing **£100**

15. **Date of next meeting:** 7:30pm on Tuesday 5 October 2021 at the Social Centre.

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Apologies for the next meeting received from Cllr Bedford and Cllr Byatt.

The meeting closed at 20:30

Appendices:

1. Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 20 July 2021
2. National Trust Update – August 2021
3. Community Exhibition Space, The Chapel, Green Street: update report by Cllr Stacey dated 6 September 2021