

AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Avebury Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at the Social Centre, Avebury SN8 1RF.

In these minutes AONB stands for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, APC for Avebury Parish Council, ASSF for Avebury Sacred Sites Forum, AWHS for Avebury World Heritage Site, NT for the National Trust, PC for Parish Council, RoW for Rights of Way, WC for Wiltshire Council and WHS for World Heritage Site.

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

In attendance: Miss Liz Moore (Clerk).

Time started: 19:54

1. **Public question time:** there were two members of the public present for part of the meeting: Mr Nick Johnson (applicant for Listed Building Consent under item 7a) and Mr Roger Scully (Managing Partner, Absolute Architecture).
2. **Apologies:** Councillors Dr Mike Bedford, Mr Mike Daniel, Mr Terence O'Connor, Ms Zandria Service.
3. **Declarations of interest:** Mrs Paradise declared an interest in respect of item 8.c. as she is employed by the company from which an estimate had been sought for security officers over Solstice.
4. **Minutes of an ordinary meeting held on 4 May 2021:** unanimously agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Paradise and seconded by Cllr Butler.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:** there were none.
6. **Co-option and Membership:** it was resolved to co-opt Dr Mike Bedford to the council. Proposed by Cllr Paradise, seconded by Cllr Lewis and carried unanimously.
7. **Planning applications:** [it was agreed to change the order of business as the applicant wishing to speak at item 7.a had not yet arrived to the meeting. Item 7b was discussed first and then 7a, 7c].
 - a. Application for 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 warmly welcomed the applicant Mr Nick Johnson and the architect Mr Roger Scully to the meeting. The guests had been invited to provide further detail on the planned refurbishment of one of Avebury's most iconic and historic properties. The owner and his architect explained that they were seeking Listed Building Consent to make sympathetic changes that would modernise and update Truslowe Manor whilst preserving the building's traditional feel and making the most of the internal carpentry. It was noted that the building was Grade II listed and that significant changes to the internal arrangements

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were last carried out in 1986, a lot of that work being dated with the property generally requiring refurbishment. The architect gave an overview of the planned work, as follows:

- **Dining room and sitting room:** currently oak panelling on walls which will remain. Minor changes to include: new chandelier, modern light fittings and fresh painting and decorating.
- **Existing extension on ground floor:** significant changes to include: removal of a modern stud partition and to reintroduce panelling on the walls.
- **Bathrooms on first floor:** significant changes to include:
 - **1st Bathroom:** removal of built in cupboard (mdf) and installation of painted, soft wood panelling with built in sink.
 - **2nd Bathroom:** removal of ceiling and installation of a decadent, curved dome. Introduction of shuttering around windows by a specialist craftsperson.
- **1980s wing:** general repainting, new fixtures and fittings but to retain most of the sanitary ware. It was noted that the building's windows were single glazed in steel casements and that the owner would be looking at ways to make the building more energy efficient.

It was resolved to support the above application for Listed Building Consent. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Byatt and carried unanimously.

- b. Full Planning Permission for installation of air source heat pumps and fenced enclosure in association with the holiday-let units approved under planning permission 20/04347/FUL at **Beckhampton** SN8 1QJ. Ref: PL/2021/03985. **It was resolved** to support the above application. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously.
- c. Work to trees in a Conservation Area at **the Old Vicarage**, High Street, Avebury, SN8 1RF. Proposal: 1 x Ash tree – fell, row of Conifer trees – fell and group of Yew tree – to reduce to hedge height. Ref: PL/2021/04955. Plans were reviewed on-line. The applicant's intention to replant trees in line with the PC's Tree Policy was noted with appreciation. **It was resolved** to support the above application. Proposed by Cllr Byatt, seconded by Cllr Paradise and carried unanimously.

8. Solstice 2021:

- a. **ASSF meeting 18 May:** The Chairman and Cllr Lewis attended this meeting, which was chaired by Mrs Tomlin. The police were present as were the Rev Maria Shepherdson, a representative of the local druid community, and Peter Oliver, recently appointed the Trust's Countryside Manager. Whilst it was agreed that members of the faith groups tended to respect the fact that they were 'guests' at Avebury, the same could not be said for the party goers, who this year were expected in strength. The Chairman reported that partners were planning to

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manage a greater than usual risk although he added that the police had no intelligence yet that supported such an expectation. It was noted that the National Trust would have its usual presence onsite with a security firm engaged in addition. There would not be a St John's Ambulance presence this year. It was additionally noted that closing the car park at Overton Hill was not an option as people had a legal right to access the byway running up the middle of it. An experimental closure order on the Ridgeway from close to the junction with AVE5 for vehicles (other than those of land owners and motorbikes) put in place from 1 May would still allow vehicles to progress beyond the car park to that gate at the point of closure, and the same instructions as in previous years for coming along the roads including the layby at West Kennett and closure of the High Street had been requested by the PC. In answer to the Chairman's question, the police representatives had said that it would be difficult to move on groups larger than 30, should they congregate on the Ridgeway, since the police would have to be satisfied that those present were part of such a group and that they were attending for a single event. APC confirmed that a scheme for residents' parking permits would be set up in due course.

- b. **Partner updates:** not covered.
 - c. **To consider paying for extra security / community patrols:** in discussion, it was noted that APC could use s137 budgeted funds to pay for general security over Solstice. [Section 137 permits the council to spend up to (this year) £8.41 per elector per year on something for which there is no other power as long as the expenditure is of benefit to the community or all or some of its inhabitants and the expenditure is in line with the benefit. The current registered number of electors for the Parish of Avebury is 384]. It was agreed:
 - i. That the need for security was being considered only due to the exceptional circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic and the government's intention to fully restore civil rights on 21 June, which coincides with Solstice.
 - ii. The need for security is likely to be influenced by the weather although a decision will probably have to be taken before there is a reliable forecast.
 - iii. The PC should seek at least three quotations for two Security Officers for Avebury Trusloe and two Security Officers for Green Street; from noon Saturday 19 June to noon Monday 21 June 2021. **Action:** the Clerk and Cllr Lewis to speak to the Manager at the Red Lion PH and other local event organizers for recommended security company contacts (SIA accredited firms only).
9. **Correspondence:** the Clerk reported:

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- a. **The Great British Spring Clean 28 – 13 June 2021:** it was noted that, as the grass was now growing, it would be hard to find rubbish and therefore a community litter pick would be best planned for the autumn.
- b. **Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee** were meeting 10:00 -12:00 on Thursday 27 May 2021, and members of the public welcome to attend.
- c. **Wiltshire Council's Climate Strategy and Engagement Event:**
 - i. In discussion, members agreed that they needed more information and to attend the briefing before they could answer the following three questions being asked by WC:
 - What do you feel are the 3 priorities for Wiltshire (not just the council) in becoming carbon neutral by 2030?
 - Does the organisation you represent have carbon neutral targets? If so, what are they?
 - In what way could you support the council's Climate strategy?
 - ii. **It was resolved** to nominate Cllr Byatt as APC's representative to attend the on-line engagement event on 20 May 2021. All agreed. The Clerk to re-send the booking details to Cllr Byatt.

10. Finance and admin:

- a. **It was resolved** to mandate Councillors Stephen Stacey, Donna Byatt and Lynzey Paradise to process public data for the administration of the parking permits over Solstice 2021. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously.
- b. To receive and sign a **new agreement for rental of the PC's three defibrillators** to align the expiry dates to 1/7/2022: deferred to 1 June 2021 ordinary meeting as the new agreement had yet to be received.
- c. **It was resolved** to adopt the **Solstice Paper** prepared by Cllr Service and previously circulated to members in draft form at the 4 May council meeting. Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Byatt and carried unanimously. See appendix 1 for clean copy.
- d. **Cheques for payment and ratification:** there were none.

11. **Date of next meeting:** 7:30pm on Tuesday 1 June 2021 at the Social Centre, High Street, Avebury.

12. Any other business:

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- a. It was noted that a new wooden building / dwelling had appeared near to **byway EKEN2** and that East Kennett Parish Meeting should be informed in case planning permission was required by WC.
- b. The Chairman said that Jan Tomlin wished to share details of a **job vacancy** for a General Manager position at the NT, Lacock.
- c. The Clerk reported that the **internal audit for the year end accounts** had been booked for 24 May 2021.
- d. Cllr Lewis expressed her dismay that the grass on the **roundabout at Beckhampton** had been mown flat. It was supposed to be kept long to encourage flora and fauna and act as a visual prompt to slow traffic. She said she would report the issue to Streetscene.
- e. Cllr Byatt stated that two very large **sarsen stones** had been removed from a gate entrance on Fyfield Down, and grass seed had been put down in the area where they had been standing. Members noted that the land was a site of special scientific interest within an AONB. Cllr Byatt said that she would contact Natural England for advice.

The meeting closed at 21:15

Appendices:

1. Solstice Paper prepared by Cllr Service – adopted 18 May 2021