

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COLN ST ALDWYNS PARISH COUNCIL
on 8th May 2025 at 6 pm in Vicarage Cottage Barn

PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

1. Council elected David Hicks Beach as Chair, proposed by Will Perkins and seconded by Anthony van Oss
2. Council elected Will Perkins as Vice Chair, proposed by David Hicks Beach and seconded by Anthony van Oss
3. The Chair and Vice Chair signed the `declarations of acceptance`
4. Council approved the new Standing Orders
5. Council approved the new Financial Regulations
6. There were no seconded appointments
7. There were no appointments to outside bodies

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PART 1

8. Council approved the financial statement for the 2024/2025 accounts as at year end 31/03/25 after being read out by Will Perkins. Insurance was slightly above budget, as was the village meeting. Playground maintenance expenditure was £7330.66 inc VAT. Playground maintenance is becoming more expensive as the equipment gets older. We overspent, largely because of expenditure on playground. There is a general working fund of £5000. There is no grass cutting reserve now, and the forecast cost for mowing the playground and churchyard is within the budget. There is £4799.54 left in the playground reserve. We have an election reserve for 2027 election of £1050. Total sum is £10849.54.
9. Council approved the asset register, which has not changed since last year.
10. Council completed the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/2025
 - a. Certificate of exemption, p. 3
 - b. Governance statement, p. 5
 - c. Financial statement, p. 6

PART 2

11. Council received an apology from John Reeves.
12. Council checked existing declarations of interest forms and there were no changes, and council received a declaration of interest form from Donna Brereton as a new councillor.

13. Council reviewed matters arising from the internal audit. Standing orders have been brought up to date. Financial regulations have been brought up to date. Internal checks are being carried out but have not been put on the website, so that will be remedied. Otherwise there were no other issues.
14. David HB was elected as playground inspector, with help from Anthony Van Oss.
15. Will Perkins was elected as internal playground auditor.
16. Playground inspections were reviewed and more details are in item 33.
17. Will Perkins was elected as internal accounts checker.
18. The internal checks were reviewed and countersigned by all councillors present.
19. GAPTC was approved as the internal auditor for 2025/26.
20. Carol Bond was elected as defibrillator checker.
21. Council discussed the asset inspections. The playground is constantly being inspected by a general tour is still outstanding, although the assets have not changed.
22. Council agreed the churchyard mowing payment arrangements for 2025-26.
23. Council approved the risk assessment policy.
24. Council approved the data protection policy (GDPR).
25. Council approved the accessibility statement.
26. Council reviewed the finance arrangements with Barclays and are happy to continue with them.
27. Council formally approved the use of online banking. Currently David Hicks Beach and Helen Forbes are the signatories, but Will Perkins is going to take over from Helen Forbes.
28. Council approved a donation of £150 to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

29. There was one declaration of interest from David Hicks Beach, who removed himself from the meeting for item 34.
30. Council signed off the March 2025 minutes.
31. Council signed off the 2024/2025 accounts and online payments, which included a payment of £770 to the Church for grass cutting, a payment to the clerk for expenses of £350 and a payment of £47 to ICO, the organisation in charge of GDPR.
32. Council had received a report from the County councillor, who was out of the country. Council decided that his report and that of the local councillor should be read out at the village meeting which followed the AGM.
33. Council discussed the playground, and specifically the recent RoSPA audit. There were protruding nails on the shelter, which AVO has dealt with. The zip wire needs work and AVO has taken the seat off whilst the work is completed. There are some problems with decaying timber. The playground is now getting to a point where we can expect quite considerable expense moving forward, so there is a potential of running a deficit and eating into the playground reserve. Most of the equipment is about 25 years old.
34. Council discussed recent planning applications, including the plan for a glamping site. DHB stood down for this and WP acted as chair. There are strong feelings from members

of the village, but it is not a formal planning application and not technically open to consultation. However, because of the strength of feeling it was decided to open the floor to comments and to send them to CDC. Members of the village were told that they can also upload individual comments to the CDC portal and that is helpful as it shows more interest than one letter sent on behalf of everyone.

The comments are as follows:

1: Is there a time frame attached to the application? Council replied that they are not aware but it was uploaded in late February so probably there is not so much time.

2: Is this an application not to require an application? Council replied that they do not know.

3: Operationally: this is unmanned on steep hill, no phone signal and person making application is 30 minutes away. If there are issues when people arrive, stay or leave, or maintenance afterwards, who is going to sort that out? Noise and nuisance: the countryside code restricts how much noise is allowed. Animal safety: sheep are very good at escaping. How to keep sheep safe and with dogs around? It is a private track along the side of the field and the people who live there have access, and nobody else does, so how are visitors going to get to the site? The company that is organising the glamping say that they have investigated the site but no report has been sent in.

Environmental: solar panels will be visible from the public footpath, including from the very well used path that runs along the river Coln from Coln St Aldwyns to Bibury, and that requires planning. They will need electricity, and water and waste provision so why has no planning application been put in for those? The application says that there is no need for building etc, when in fact solar panels, parking, low level lighting will be needed which should need an application.

4: The organisation putting forward the plan are working with the Caravan Control and Development Site 1960 rules, which seem to be trying to avoid the formal planning application process. Many rules are not being adhered to. Main concerns: solar panel installation, engineering operations for parking, electricity, water should have planning. There is a concern about the financial viability of the scheme. How could 2 glamping units be profitable? If it fails there will be a legacy of hard standing, solar panels, etc. But more worryingly under this act you can have up to 5 units, so it is probably the thin end of the wedge to apply for 2. It would not be financially viable to have a person permanently on site to manage it, which should be needed. It is also not clear where the exact locations are. Originally the site was going to be in woodland but those areas are excluded from application to CDC. There will also be an impact with waste water in the water and implications for other wildlife in the woodland. With no permanent attendance, poor mobile signal the obvious port of call will be some of the people in the barns. There are already numerous cars which come down and have to turn back because there is no way through to the village. How will the people coming find the location? It will probably be short-term and they will have supermarket deliveries. There

are potential health and safety implications with a steep bank, which would be especially bad in winter and dark (for both people staying and for cleaners).

5: seconded everything said, but also added about the noise factor. There is often late night noise from b and b people returning from the pub, and that will affect many people in the village. Sewage: where are the loos going to be placed? If they are at the top of the hill people will not want to walk up to them in the middle of the night. What will happen to water from a hot tub.

6: Light pollution could be a problem.

7: There is a CLA document which lists all the things that people need to apply for planning for, and it includes hard standing, solar panels.

8: agreed with everything. Village chose not to have public lighting, but this is now coming in by the back door. Aesthetically: the view from the lane to the west will be destroyed if new buildings are placed there – apparently one at the top and one at the bottom. Village has always wanted to maintain the beauty of the village, which is appreciated not only by the villagers but by a lot of visitors.

9: Suspicious about it being only 2 units. 5 would certainly be far too many. Can we ask them to restrict their plans in a way that they can be held to.

10: Glamping is very popular with people in their 30s, and they come with cars with music blaring, with many cars and many people in one unit. How many people are allowed in the units? Are there beds?

11: It would be visible from the footpath from Coln to Bibury. Noise is a huge concern. A lot of accommodation in the village is taken by wedding guests and they can be very festive.

12: Can we have a show of hands? Unanimous objections from 18 people. It would be worth people sending in individual letters so that it is clear how strong the opposition is.

13: Suggested a letter from the parish council saying that 18 people have attended the meeting and 100% of the attendees objected.

Cllr DF: People here can get other people in the village to write. Cllr Fowles will go back to CDC and discuss the issue with the case officer. We can discuss the facts, but it is not easy to use speculation about possibilities for the future as an argument.

35. Council discussed urgent maintenance issues, including drains and potholes. Dom Morris has asked us to report any potholes on Fix My Street.com. Itemise every single pothole. The councillors will review the pavements and pass message on to Cllr David Fowles.

36. Council discussed the speedwatch camera. Council has renewed the subscription and there is a budget for the letters. DHB will ask HF about speedwatch. DB will take on speedwatch if HF is happy to stand down.

37. Council discussed the biodiversity policy but there has been nothing new since the March meeting.

38. Next Meeting: September 3 possibly, but needs confirmation @ Vicarage Cottages Barn

