

Minutes of the Alderholt Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall, Station Road, Alderholt

Present

Alderholt Parish Council;

Cllr G Logan (Chairman), Cllr D Tooke, Cllr K Murton, Cllr J Walker, Cllr S Greenland, Cllr H Morris and Cllr S Archer (arrived at 7.40pm)

Mrs M Humby (Clerk) Mrs K Brooker (Assistant Clerk)

PCSO 6212 Neil Mansell and approx 14 members of the public

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr A Hibberd and Cllr M Smethers and County Councillors Spencer Flower and Toni Coombs.

Doors opened at 6.45pm at which refreshments and handouts of the agenda and a budget summary were available to residents.

Welcome from the Chairman

Cllr Gina Logan, Chairman of Alderholt Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting including new Parish Councillor Hywel Morris and gave her thanks Cllr John Simcock who left the council in the last year.

Cllr Logan also welcomed Marcus Trinick QC from the Alderholt Community Fund and PCSO Neil Mansell and advised that they were happy to take any questions at the end of the meeting. PCSO Mansell had provided annual crime statistics for Alderholt which will be available on the Parish Council website following this meeting.

The minutes of last year's Annual meeting on 22nd May 2017 were then approved and signed.

Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Gina Logan

Cllr Gina Logan gave a report on the activities of the Council over the last year. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

Cllr Smethers arrived at the meeting at 7.15pm

Report from Cllr Janet Walker, Council Representative for Transport

Cllr Janet Walker gave a report of the activities of the Council regarding the support of the 97 bus service. Report attached to the minutes.

Report from Marcus Trinick QC of Alderholt Community Fund.

Marcus introduced himself as the new Trustee for the Alderholt Community Fund which was constituted as a charity in 2016.

Marcus gave a brief outline of the duties of the Alderholt Community Fund and its trustees and advised that to date approximately £ 16,000 has been distributed to various local organisations including Alderholt Boys Brigade, Alderholt Tennis Club, Alderholt Village Hall, TUFF, Alderholt Sunbeams and many others.

Further information can be found at <https://alderholtcommunitycharitabletrust.org/>

Cllr Archer arrived at the meeting at 740pm

Open Questions:

The Chairman invited open questions from the floor which included the following;

1. **A resident had been informed that EDDC was considering planning permission for up to 1000 homes in Alderholt.** The Chairman advised that this was not something that Alderholt Parish Council were aware of. She explained that the Local Plan was currently under review and as part of that process, landowners are invited to put land forward as possible sites for development. This does not however mean that Planning Permission would be granted for these sites and any new site would have to go through due process including the usual full consultation process.
2. **A resident advised that she had recently used the 97 bus service and found it very friendly and a lifeline to the less mobile residents in the village. She thanked the Council for continuing to support the service.**
3. **PCSO Neil Mansell introduced himself to the meeting and gave a brief overview of his duties. He advised that whilst the village has been the focus of some national interest in recent weeks, Alderholt is considered to have a low crime rate.**

He asked that residents with any non-urgent concerns including security or anti-social behaviour or speeding in the village, refrain from discussing these on social media and instead feed back to the local police team via <https://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/> or by email to verwoodtown-npt@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Meeting ended 7.43pm

Chairman's Signature;
Date;

Reports:

Annual Report from the Chairman

I will do my best this evening to cover all the salient activities that have occurred in the last year.

Firstly, I wish to thank Toni Coombs and Spencer Flower who as our dedicated County Cllrs have given their support to Alderholt over the last year and will ensure that we continue to have our local issues raised at County level until the new Unitary Council comes into being in May 2019.

We are extremely fortunate to be looked after by Maria Humby our very knowledgeable Clerk and her assistant Kerry Booker. They keep both myself and my fellow councillors on track in terms of legal compliance, as well as ensuring that meetings are conducted in a format where discussion is open, honest, representative and fair, and where possible with a little humour. So, my thanks go to Maria and to Kerry for their help so far and hopefully their ongoing support over the next year.

Chairman's initials
Date;

During the year, we have said goodbye to John Simcock and I wish to thank him for all his valuable work over a number of years. We have recently welcomed Dr Hywel Morris to the Council and look forward to working with him.

So what have we done in the last year or so: -

Finances

We set our annual budgets at the end of the year and are pleased to say that we have been able to keep the precept at a low increase. The budget summary has been attached to the agenda.

Allotments

We have 31 plots which are all currently rented out and one person on the waiting list at the moment. The annual competition, which is in its 2nd year of a new format will take place in July so good luck to all of our hardworking tenants.

The drain near the entrance to the allotment gardens was reported again to Dorset County Council as it had silted up, and this was cleared in early March.

Rifle Range

The project is now in its final stages in order to lease the land to the local Scout Group so that they can convert it and use it as a camp site and thriving scout facility. We are looking forward to a publicity event for the official handover and will be liaising with the Scouts on this. I wish to thank Cllrs Hibberd, and Smethers for their local knowledge and commitment to this project.

New Sports and Social Club Pavilion - referred to as the Recreation Ground Re-build Project

Planning permission for the refurbished and extended facility was finally received from EDDC in September 2017. A Needs Survey was undertaken in the spring last year the results of which proved inconclusive, and were subject to further analysis by Dorset Community Action. They concluded that in order to achieve the relevant criteria required to obtain external grants more information was required regarding the users in Alderholt and potential users over a wider catchment area centred on the village. Analysis of other sports & recreation provisions that are nearby, which our community benefits from, and identification of problems faced by the wider community being active. This further work still has to be undertaken.

Members of the Project Working Party liaised Dorset Community Action on how to take the project forward with either the Parish Council taking the lead, or the Users of the planned refurbished and extended facility doing so. The outcome of this was a Stakeholders meeting involving the Alderholt Recreation Association, The Sports & Social Club and representatives of the sports organisations and the Parish Council. Following on from this it was suggested that the Alderholt Recreation Association were best placed to take the lead for the project, as they were already a constituted charity. I chaired the recent AGM of the ARA and it was agreed they would hold a meeting inviting all the village organisations to attend whereby the whole project can be discussed.

Planning

This continues to be an active part of the council and has been led for the year by Cllr Hibberd who with his wealth of local knowledge has very capably chaired this committee. My thanks

go to all those who sit on this valuable committee that continues to meet every four weeks if applications are submitted. Two items are of note:-

Firstly, the **Gladman Appeal** was allowed by the Planning Inspector on 6th November 2017. APP/U1240/W/17/3169111, Land North of Ringwood Road, Alderholt SP6 3HZ***
It should be noted that in the Appeal Notice, schedule 1, condition 18, states that; *the development hereby permitted shall comprise no more than 45 dwellings with a maximum net gain of 44 dwellings.*

Secondly, five houses situated on the site of Montana, at 4 Hillbury Road where construction is currently under way.

Recreation Ground

Initially we were asked to look at a proposal by a local resident (Oren Anderson) to provide an outdoor table tennis table at the recreation ground, and following further research this has now extended to provide 4 pieces of variable resistance outdoor gym equipment (seated row, cross rider, recline bike & chest press) along with the table tennis table, which will be located in the Amanda Harris part of the recreation ground. We are using the Capital Projects Fund to purchase this new equipment and are anticipating installation in the summer when the ground is drier. I wish to thank Cllrs Tooke, Hibberd and Greenland for their work on this exciting project. The Community Fund has also provided a grant to Oren which will be paid to the Parish Council.

During the past year we have also: -

- Provided an annual grant to St James's PCC towards the maintenance of the Churchyard and War Memorial
- Continued to help the Alderholt Recreation Ground with an annual grant to help maintain the rec.
- We pay for a dog warden to help patrol the recreation ground to keep our village clear of unwanted waste
- Celebrated Christmas with a large tree very kindly donated by a resident erected and decorated outside the village hall – the enthusiasm and compliments for the Tree were very welcome
- Local resident/Volunteer Tim Mellor has refurbished some of the finger posts - APC paid for materials and he is currently working on the remainder
- Completed our 3-yearly tree inspection.
- We supported a number of organisations with grants, including Alderholt Community Responders, Alderholt Chapel Family Fun Day, Alderholt Lunch Club, Alderholt Sunbeams and Supertots, Friends of St James', and this year's ReCreate Festival

General Grants

East Dorset Tourist Information Centre	£ 150.00
Alderholt Chapel Family Fun Day	£ 300.00
Fordingbridge & District Day Centre for the Frail & Housebound	£ 100.00

Rae Straton Lunch Club/Day Care	£ 100.00
Alderholt Lunch Club	£ 100.00
Forest Edge community Coffee Shop	£ 100.00
Recreate Festival	£ 268.00
Coach in the Community	£ 268.00
St James' Church – Churchyard Maintenance	£ 300.00

Community Project Grants

Alderholt Community Responders (4 th defibrillator)	£ 1975.00
Alderholt Village Hall (New Chairs)	£ 834.00
Alderholt Sunbeams and Supertots (Heating and Decking)	£ 1755.00
Friends of St James' (Sensory Garden)	£ 250.00

97 Bus

As you are probably aware our Dorset Community Transport 97 Bus came under threat at the end of last year but we with the support of neighbouring parish councils have secured the 97 Bus for 2018 by providing a service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. My fellow Cllr Janet Walker will expand on this later.

We entered the County Best Kept Village Competition in 2017 and won the East Dorset District Council award, and we are taking part in the competition again this year.

It remains for me as the Chairman to thank all councillors for the time, effort and knowledge they have imparted selflessly over the past year and ask that they continue with our ongoing projects and work for the village.

And lastly as your ward member for Alderholt I will continue to raise local concerns and represent you at district level.

Gina Logan
Chairman
Alderholt Parish Council
25th April 2018

Report from Cllr Janet Walker, Council Representative for Transport

When I first came to Alderholt some 25 years ago, the bus used to stop outside our cottage, on Presseys Corner, stupid wasn't it? But it was a great delight to our dogs, who with just one woof, would get fuss and attention from the waiting passengers.

Eventually the bus company stopped the service due to economics, and it was replaced by the 97 bus, running between Fordingbridge and Verwood. This service ran five days a week, and thereby enabled villagers to access shops, medical services as well as transport to take them further afield. The 97 service has been run by Dorset Community Transport since 2011. However, Dorset County Council funding was withdrawn and the service was due to cease in July 2017. Dorset Community Transport then financed it themselves, provisionally till September. When September arrived we heard that the service would run to the end of the year and then would definitely cease.

So, it was time for action and Gina had a meeting with Tim Christian from Dorset Community Transport (a not-for-profit organisation) part of ETC charity, who was very enthusiastic and wanted to be pro-active in keeping the service running. We arranged a meeting at the end of November, which Tim attended, with Cranborne and Edmondsham, and Knowlton Parish

Councils. These parishes are the areas that would be affected with the loss of the bus, also included was Woodlands who had lost their service prior to this. It was a very productive meeting during which it was agreed that for the first year the Parish Councils would fund a three day a week bus service at the cost of £100 a day. Each would pay with the cost being calculated on a pro rata basis of population. Within a couple of days a very enthusiastic Tim came back to us, with a re-planned route which would encompass Woodlands and also include an afternoon service. The Parish Council then applied to Dorset County Council Community Transport and received a grant of £2000. So the service was saved for 2018

The cost of running this three day service is £15,600, and for the coming year 2019 this money has to be raised from other sources. The Parish Councils are still working together to raise this money and we are looking towards various charitable organisations to contribute to the funding of the service. We do have some funding opportunities in mind but if anyone has ideas of whom we can approach for funding please let us know.

Finally, there are various other transport options open to us villagers, such as Plus Bus and a Community Car Scheme, and if you have not read about them in the January 2018 Parish Magazine or seen Local Transport on the APC website, further information can be found on the Dorset For You website, clicking on Community Transport.

Janet Walker
Councillor
Alderholt Parish Council
25th April 2018