

Minutes of the Alderholt Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 4th March 2019 at 7.00pm, at Alderholt Chapel, Hillbury Rd, Alderholt

Present

Alderholt Parish Council;

Cllr G Logan (Chairman), Cllr A Hibberd (Vice-Chairman), Cllr D Tooke, Cllr K Murton, Cllr S Greenland, Cllr H Morris and Cllr M Smethers

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

PC Andy Robertson and PCSO Andy Flanagan and approx 60 members of the public

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr J Walker and Cllr S Archer.

Doors opened at 6.30pm, to view display boards and talk with Cllrs, office staff and police officers. Refreshments were available 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 and advised of fire escape procedure.

The minutes of last year's Annual meeting on 25th April 2018 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 (Appx A).

No Questions were raised.

Report from Cllr Gina Logan on the provision of the 97 Bus Service

Cllr Gina Logan gave a report of the activities of the Council regarding the support of the 97 bus service. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes. (Appx B).

Questions were invited and discussed.

Report from Cllr Adrian Hibberd on the 2019 Alderholt Parish Council Elections

Cllr Adrian Hibberd spoke about the role of Parish Councillor and invited residents to consider putting themselves forward for the role.

No Questions were raised.

Report from Cllr Gina Logan regarding the new Dorset Council

Cllr Gina Logan gave a report on the new Dorset Council which comes into being on 1st April 2019. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes. (Appx C).

Questions were invited and discussed. Cllr Logan confirmed that the Dorset for You website will continue to run until the 31st March and that the new website for Dorset Council

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk is expected to be live from 1st April.

Update from Cllr Adrian Hibberd on the East Dorset Local Plan Review; "Options" Consultation on potential future development in Alderholt

Cllr Adrian Hibberd gave a report on the actions of Alderholt Parish Council and a timeline of events. A copy of the timeline is attached to the minutes (Appx D).

There were lots of questions and answers on this topic with the following action being confirmed;

that as part of the ongoing discussions between Alderholt Parish Council and the Local Planning Authority, Alderholt Parish Council will question whether the Saturn system that could potentially be used for Transport modelling is suitable for Alderholt.

Open Questions:

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

- Q. What is happening with the Surplus stores site?
A. Cllr Logan advised that the Planning application has been agreed and although no major work has taken place, the developer is doing enough work to keep the Planning application live.

- Q. Japanese Knotweed has been spotted on Surplus Stores site, is it being dealt with?
A. The Clerk had advised the Planning Authority of this, they have contacted the developer who is taking appropriate action.

- Q. Will the police be giving an update on crime in Alderholt?
A. The Clerk advised that the PCSO covering Alderholt had left at the end of December 2018. PC Robertson and PCSO Flanagan were available at the beginning of the meeting to talk with residents. Once the new PCSO is in place, their details will be added to the Parish Council website and the Parish Council will continue to request regular crime reports to upload to our website. The Clerk was able to confirm that Alderholt is a low crime area.

Meeting ended 8.30pm

Chairman's Signature;

Date;

Reports:

Appx A - 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 our two County Councillors Toni Coombs and Spencer Flower who have given their support to Alderholt over the last year. With the new Unitary Dorset Council coming into effect on 1st April 2019 and following the elections on 2nd May we will be welcoming a new Dorset Councillor in due course.

During the year we have had no changes to our parish council membership, and we are extremely fortunate to be looked after by Maria Humby our very knowledgeable Clerk and her assistant Kerry Brooker. They keep us as councillors on track in terms of legal compliance and ensure that our 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.

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

Finances

We set our annual budgets at the end of the year.

As a council we have had a number of additional expenses these include:

- Salaries which aren't due to an increase in wages, but an increase in hours worked as a result of the large volume of work that the Parish Council is now involved in.
- Engagement of a Planning Consultant with regard to the EDDC Local Plan Review Process
- On-going financial support of the 97 Bus
- Requirement for maintenance of the War Memorial

As a result of a lower tax base combined with Council Tax harmonisation with the implementation of the new Unitary Dorset Council, we have had to increase our precept.

Copies of the budget summary are available.

Allotments

We have 31 plots which are all currently rented out and three people currently on the waiting list. Plot numbering was renewed this year and the allotment noticeboard is about to be refurbished. Cllr Hibberd has cut back the hedging adjoining Hillbury Rd and completed various maintenance jobs throughout the year, our thanks go to him and to our hard working tenants.

Rifle Range

I'm delighted to announce that the land has now been leased to the local Scout Group so that they can convert it and use it as a camp site and thriving scout facility which will benefit all users. The ceremonial handover took place on 19th July at the site. 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

Unfortunately this project has been put on hold as following the suggestion that the Alderholt Recreation Association was best placed to take the lead for the project, as they were already a constituted charity, there has been little progress by the ARA.

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.

However the major item of note was the EDDC Local Plan Options Consultation undertaken during the summer and the subsequent public meeting which I chaired on 3rd September where this Councils response as an objection to the draft proposal for 1000 plus dwellings was agreed. Cllr Hibberd will be giving a full update on the Local Plan at item 8 of the agenda.

Recreation Ground

During the summer we had the 4 pieces of variable resistance outdoor gym equipment (seated row, cross rider, recline bike & chest press) along with the table tennis table installed in the Amanda Harris part of the recreation ground. We are very pleased with the positive feedback from residents and note that the equipment is being well used. I wish to thank Cllrs Tooke, Hibberd and Greenland for their work on this exciting project.

In the autumn, we undertook a cleaning and refurbishment programme on the children's playground equipment and the Multi Use Games Area which has left both areas looking considerably brighter.

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
- APC paid for materials and one of our local residents kindly volunteered his time to continue the refurbishment programme of the finger posts around the village.
- We supported a number of organisations with grants, including Fordingbridge and District Day Centre, Rae Straton Lunch Club, East Dorset Citizens Advice and this year's ReCreate Festival.

General Grants

East Dorset Tourist Information Centre	£ 150.00
East Dorset Environment Partnership	£ 100.00
Fordingbridge & District Day Centre for the Frail & Housebound	£ 100.00
Rae Straton Lunch Club/Day Care	£ 100.00
East Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 200.00
Recreate Festival	<u>£ 300.00</u>
	£ 950.00

Community Project Grants

Recreate Festival (Gym Mats)	<u>£ 840.00</u>
	£ 840.00

97 Bus

The continuance of the 97 Bus service is a good news story for the village and this will be expanded upon at item 5 of the agenda.

Other items of note

We entered the Dorset Community Action Best Kept Village Competition in 2018. Sadly, the village did not win this year but very positive feedback was received from the judges and we will again take part in the competition this year.

Stop Press

Somerley Household Recycling Centre Survey – “the Tip” on Verwood Road

As you may aware, Hampshire County Council as from 1st January 2020, want to start charging non-Hampshire residents £5 each time they visit the site. Dorset Waste Partnership wants to know how this will affect us as Dorset residents, and what impact it will have on DWP’s services. The information will help them make informed decisions about waste infrastructure in the future. So please complete the survey on line at the Dorset for you website, go to the APC website for a link or call into the Parish Office for a paper copy. The closing date for responses is 14th March 2019.

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. However local elections are set for 2nd May this year and Cllr Hibberd will talking about this at item 6 of the agenda.

And lastly as your ward member for Alderholt I have enjoyed being your representative at District level and trust that I’ve been able to help in raising local concerns and achieving solutions. The new Dorset Council comes into effect on 1st April 2019 and I will be expanding on this at agenda item 7.

Gina Logan
Chairman, Alderholt Parish Council
4th March 2019

Appx B - Report from Cllr Gina Logan on the provision of the 97 Bus Service

Towards the end of 2017, the Parish Council was informed that Dorset County Council was withdrawing our bus service. This would leave Alderholt with no public transport whatsoever. So something had to be done and fast. Alderholt Parish Council contacted both Knowlton Parish Council, and the Cranborne and Edmondsham Parish Council, which are both on the route going to Verwood, and they agreed to a meeting to discuss this matter and thus the 97 Bus Joint Working Group was formed.

Also invited was Tim Christian from Dorset Community Transport which is a non-profit making organisation, and part of ECT Charity. It was suggested that we could use the community transport bus between school runs.

The Parish Councils involved, decided that they would be able to fund this on a three day a week basis for 2018. The cost to each council would be worked out pro rata of population. However this agreement would run for one year only, which would give the Parish Councils time to find alternative funding.

Verwood Town Council donated of £500, but our applications to other organisations failed as we did not meet their criteria. So the Parish Councils were then faced with cutting the service to just two days a week or stopping it altogether, in 2019.

In the autumn the on-going reimbursements from both Dorset and Hampshire County Councils as part of the National Concessionary Fares scheme were confirmed. I was able to donate money from

my District Councillor's budget and a further sum came from the Crane Ward which also covers the 97 bus route.

This has all resulted in the cost of the bus service being considerably reduced for 2019, with the Parish Council committing up to £4K for the year.

With just over five and a half thousand journeys taken in 2018 showing how well the service used, the 3 Parish Councils have agreed to fund it into the future.

However, the continuance of our 97 Bus service year on year is dependent upon sustained usage, and the ability to secure funding.

This is a "success story" which is good news for all who use the service.

The fares, acceptance of National Concessionary Passes and timetable for 2019 remain the same.

Appx C - Report from Cllr Gina Logan regarding the new Dorset Council



The new Dorset Council comes into being on 1st April 2019 replacing 5 district and borough councils and Dorset County Council.

Why it's happening:

To protect important services for residents including bins, housing, road maintenance, schools, and social care.

To reduce costs and give better value for money by cutting duplication. The new Dorset Council budget is balanced for 2019/20 at £295m. This has been achieved with no cuts to frontline services.

To give Dorset a stronger voice nationally which will help attract business investment and government funding, and support local economic growth

What are the effects?

Contacting Dorset Council will be the same as before (phone, email, in person) but the website address is changing to www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

There will be continuity of council services with very little change to frontline services for residents, especially on Day One. Your bin day will stay the same!

Changes to Council Tax (harmonisation): All residents pay the same council tax rate from 1st April 2019 which avoids residents in one part of the new council area contributing more to the cost of council services than others. Council tax is charged on the household and is based on the value of the property, not household income. The amount of council tax paid depends on which property band the home is in and any discounts and exemptions that apply. The average "Band D" rate for Dorset Council is £1629.75 per year. This doesn't include the charges for the parish council, the Police or Fire & rescue.

Dorset Council will be distributing information to residents with the council tax bills in mid March.

You can keep informed by signing up for e-newsletter, or follow on social media @DorsetCouncilUK

You can get involved by joining the new Dorset Council people's panel and help shape what the Council does.

Appx D - East Dorset Local Plan Review; "Options" Consultation on potential future development in Alderholt – Timeline to Date

October 2016 Regulation 18 – East Dorset District Council (the Local Planning Authority) request for Landowners and Developers to put forward land for potential development in East Dorset

16th July to 3rd September 2018 - East Dorset Local Plan Review; "Options" Consultation published

3rd September 2018 – Alderholt Parish Council held a public meeting at Alderholt Village Hall to discuss the consultation

6th September 2018 – Alderholt Parish Council issued response objecting to the consultation based on;

Inadequate supporting Infrastructure
Highways-roads and access inadequate
No Public Transport in Alderholt
Impact on Health provision
Impact on Education provision
Insufficient Utilities e.g sewerage and water
Limited Employment in Alderholt
Limited Leisure Facilities
Development in Fordingbridge also impacting on Alderholt

The full response was available at the meeting and can be viewed on the Alderholt Parish Council website http://www.alderholtparishcouncil.gov.uk/Alderholt-PC/local_plan_review_2018-6382.aspx

January 2019 – Planning Consultant engaged by Alderholt Parish Council to help support Alderholt Parish Council's objections to large scale development in Alderholt. This work is ongoing.

March 2019 - Bespoke Transport study for Alderholt being undertaken by Dorset Council and Alderholt Parish Council are actively involved in this process.

April 2019 - New Dorset Council take over from East Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council. Dorset Council elections take place on May 2nd. Following this, new Dorset Councillors will decide whether to continue with the East Dorset Local Plan Review or whether to undertake a new Local Plan review for the whole of Dorset Council.

Alderholt Parish Council continue to liaise with the Local Planning Authority on all issues relating to this.