



**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council,
The Committee Room, Alderholt Village Hall, Alderholt at
7.30pm on Monday 9th March 2020**

PRESENT; Cllr C English (Chairman)
Cllr S Butler
Cllr S Godsall
Cllr A Hibberd
Cllr G Logan
Cllr H Morris
Cllr D Tooke
Ms K Mason (Acting Clerk)
11 members of the public

Min No	Title	Owner
45/20	<p>WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN INCLUDING HOUSEKEEPING AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chairman, Cllr English welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and advised of fire escape procedure. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Walker.</p>	
46/20	<p>TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND/OR CONSIDER THE GRANTING OF DISPENSATIONS</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
47/20	<p>TO NOTE THE CO-OPTION OF 2 NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS AND OUTGOING CLLRS REPRESENTATIVE ROLES</p> <p>Members noted the co-option of Cllrs Butler and Greenland. Cllr Butler AGREED to join the Planning Committee.</p>	
48/20	<p>TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 10th FEBRUARY 2020 AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON 28th FEBRUARY 2020.</p> <p><u>Minutes of meeting 10th February 2020</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Logan and seconded by Cllr English that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2020 be signed as a true copy subject to the following amendment:</p> <p><u>Minute 29/20</u>: No by-e-election has been called for either of the vacancies.</p> <p>ALL IN FAVOUR except Cllrs Hibberd & Morris who abstained.</p> <p>Members discussed the following issues concerned with the minutes:</p> <p><u>Minute 31/20 (1)</u>: Following discussion about the minuted comment of Cllr Hibberd: '<i>Cllr Hibberd advised he was concerned the proposal in November was ultra vires</i>', Councillors agreed to discuss this issue at the next Council meeting.</p> <p><u>Minute 31/20 (2)</u>: Four proposals were made for Items 1,2,3 & 4. The proposals were not seconded [contrary to Standing Order 1.b.] therefore the proposals do not stand. As they were not moved the</p>	



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proposals may be made again if members require.

Minutes of extraordinary meeting 28th February 2020

It was **proposed** by Cllr Tooke and **seconded** by Cllr Logan that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 28th February 2020 be signed as a true copy. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

At this point in the meeting the Chairman made the following statement:

This statement is made by Cllrs. Godsall, Morris and English. We joined the Council keen to put time and effort into representing the views of local people. What we found was a complacent and failing organisation. Staff were over-worked because there was no effective time management. Some long-standing Councillors have done nothing but block progress on any new initiatives.

Most organisations recruiting volunteers will make them welcome and make use of their skills. Instead we faced open hostility. We have seen attacks on the Council chairman, members standing up and shouting at meetings, dishonest accusations and stubborn negativity.

In May the council unanimously declared a climate emergency, but every proposal made to support this declaration has been thwarted. An example is our proposal to plant trees around the recreation ground which was met with spurious objections. This is in stark contrast with the actions of Ringwood council which provided space for 500 trees in response to a request made by a local action group. Other proposals for enhanced recycling facilities have also been frustrated. Some long-standing members of the council appear to relish finding problems with proposals to support the climate emergency declaration, rather than finding solutions.

Alderholt Parish Council was failing long before we joined; problems in



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the relationship with Alderholt Recreation Association have festered for years. Despite Councillor Logan also representing the village on East Dorset District Council it seems that Alderholt was the last parish to find out about local plan proposals to build over 1000 new houses here. Parishes like Holt and Burton were taking action to fight inappropriate development early in 2018, whereas Alderholt PC claimed ignorance until there was a local outcry in September of that year.

We have put forward initiatives like a Neighbourhood Plan with an identified source of funding. Unfortunately some people on the Council have done everything possible to find problems with this initiative in order to first prevent it and then delay it. Other parishes in Dorset have been effective at influencing local planning and are, in some cases, 2 years ahead with their Neighbourhood Plans.

We have made efforts to build bridges and foster teamwork within the Council, suggesting informal meetings to help resolve issues without taking up staff time. Requests for these meetings have been ignored. Some members appear to prefer to criticise proposals at council meetings rather than develop policies and actions. The friction caused has increased stress on staff and we are no longer willing to be part of an organisation which behaves like this. It is with great regret and concern that we resign from Alderholt Parish Council. There is a culture of "we know best" at APC which must change. We can only hope that by standing aside tension will be reduced and allow the new APC to function at some level and to take actions on the projects that is urgently needed.

Cllrs English, Godsall & Morris then left the meeting.

7.45pm The Acting Clerk adjourned the meeting. Remaining members retired to the office.

7.55pm The meeting was re-convened. Vice Chairman, Cllr Hibberd



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	took the chair in accordance with Standing Order 3,p.	
49/20	<p>CLERK'S REPORT AND NOTICES</p> <p><u>Gym Equipment</u> – The Gym equipment at the Amanda Harris Recreation Ground was repaired by Caloo on 2nd March 2020. The repairs were made under warranty.</p>	
50/20	<p>TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR, DAVE TOOKE</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u> The Council has launched a “Call for Ideas” for people to put forward suggestions as to how the Council may be able to help tackle climate change. The Council is looking at five main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings • Transport • Waste & Energy • Natural Environment • Leadership and Influence <p><u>Enquiry Days</u> have been held – where a large number of ideas were put forward for consideration</p> <p><u>Housebuilding in Rural Areas</u> Dorset Council has recently refused an “in principle” housing application on the grounds that the village (in this case Owermoigne, just off the A352 south west of Dorchester) is not a sustainable place to build more housing due to lack of shops, poor bus service, and the need to travel by car to get anywhere. This decision may be a precedent for the refusal of development in similar villages.</p> <p><u>Dorset Council Housing Allocation Policy</u> Dorset Council is drafting a new policy looking at how people access social housing in the area. The new policy will come into effect on 1 April 2021 and aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offer people seeking accommodation a choice about where they live • be fair and easy to use • offer solutions to those most in need while making the best use of the housing stock available <p>It will replace the Christchurch and East Dorset Joint Housing Allocation Policy and the Dorset Homechoice Common Allocation Policy. Applications for social housing in Dorset are currently being decided under the old council geographical boundaries that were present before 1 April 2019. As part of local government reorganisation (LGR) central Government agreed a period of two years to put in place new housing allocation policies for Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council and Dorset Council. These policies must come into effect on 1 April 2021.</p>	DT



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	<p>No changes to how applicants apply for social housing or the criteria to decide a local connection will come into effect before 1 April 2021. www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/housing-register-survey <u>Somerley HRC</u> There are a lot of questions being raised regarding access to Somerley HRC, many prompted by an article in the previous edition of Ringwood and Fordingbridge News. I'd like to take the opportunity to reiterate that Dorset residents will not be charged to use the HRC. Dorset Council has come to an agreement with Hampshire County Council and the method of registration for Dorset residents will be announced by HCC in due course. In the meantime if anyone is told they need to pay when they go to the tip then politely decline and tell me.</p>																											
<p>51/20</p>	<p>PUBLIC OPEN FORUM There were 11 members of the public present. The following issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the Annual Parish meeting be called at the earliest date • that the Amanda Harris Playpark is in a very muddy state following the prolonged wet winter weather. • That DC Planning permissions have a stipulation that solar panels are mandatory for new housing developments • Rifle Range flooding problems on the Ringwood Road. The Chairman advised that DC Highways are to clean the culverts, pipes and install sediment pits. 'Liable to Flooding' and 'Children Crossing' signs are to be placed on the highway. 																											
<p>52/20</p>	<p>FINANCE 1. Cllrs unanimously agreed to sanction the following payments; <u>PAYMENTS FOR SANCTION</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Dorset Planning Consultant - 2nd Half Fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2697.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forest Newspapers Ltd - Clerk Job advertisement</td> <td style="text-align: right;">60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR SANCTION</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2757.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>CREDITS</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total of credits received to Co Op current account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Co Op savings Interest</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subtotal of other account credits received</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL CREDITS RECEIVED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> </table>	Dorset Planning Consultant - 2nd Half Fee	2697.00	Forest Newspapers Ltd - Clerk Job advertisement	60.00	<hr/>		TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR SANCTION	2757.00	<hr/>		<u>CREDITS</u>		<hr/>		Total of credits received to Co Op current account	0.00	Co Op savings Interest		Subtotal of other account credits received		<hr/>		TOTAL CREDITS RECEIVED	0.00	<hr/>		
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	<p><u>DDR's</u> BT 381.92</p> <hr/> <p>TOTAL DDR'S 381.92</p> <hr/> <p><u>PAYMENTS MADE IN BETWEEN MEETINGS</u> Bournemouth Water 33.94 Assist IT - 160220-150320 139.20 Dorset Community Transport - 97 Bus Jul-Sep19 220.73 Dorset Community Transport - 97 Bus Oct-Dec19 1311.29</p> <hr/> <p>Total of Payments made between meetings 1705.16</p> <hr/> <p><u>CASHPLUS DEBIT CARD</u> Balance 378.44</p> <hr/> <p>Total expenditure on Debit Card 378.44</p> <hr/> <p><u>PETTY CASH</u> Balance 28.39 Credits 0.00 Miscellaneous receipted expenditure 9.10</p> <hr/> <p>Balance 19.29</p> <hr/>	
53/20	<p>TO CONSIDER REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND EXTERNAL BODIES <u>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</u> – Cllr Tooke attended the meeting. A report will be presented at the next Council meeting.</p>	
54/20	<p>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING It was AGREED to hold the Annual Parish meeting on Monday 6th April at 7.30pm at Alderholt Village Hall.</p>	KM
55/20	<p>TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED <u>Items for Consideration</u></p> <p>1. <u>Dog Warden Provision</u> Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Logan and seconded by Cllr Butler that the Dog Warden Service be retained during 2020/2021. ALL IN FAVOUR, Cllr Tooke abstained.</p> <p><u>General Correspondence-circulated to Cllrs</u></p> <p>1. DC Town & Parish Council Workshops – Cllr Hibberd will attend at Durweston Village Hall, and Cllr Tooke will attend at Horton & Chalbury Village Hall.</p> <p>2. Alderholt Recreation Association AGM at the at 8:00 pm on Tuesday 10th March 2020 in the Pavilion. Cllrs Hibberd &</p>	KM



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	<p>Tooke will attend.</p> <p>3. DAPTC Conference on Monday 30th March 2020 from 10.00-15.30 at Kingston Maurward College, DT2 8PX. Cllr Hibberd to attend.</p> <p>4. Meeting of the Eastern Area Committee of DAPTC is to be held at The Betty Webster Committee Room, Colehill Memorial Hall on Thursday 26th March, 2020 at 7:30pm. Cllrs Hibberd and Logan to attend.</p>	
56/20	<p>TO CONSIDER REPLACEMENT LIGHTS AT THE AMANDA HARRIS RECREATION GROUND</p> <p>Cllr Hibberd explained that the lights have been faulty, not illuminating the footpath. This is a safety issue. A quote has been received from TW Lane of £4,300 + VAT for LED directional lamps which use less power and are more efficient. TW Lane have been the Council's contractor and members considered that their experience and past good service precludes further quotes being obtained.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Hibberd and seconded by Cllr Logan that the quote be accepted and the work be carried out, subject to the Financial Regulation 11.c. being suspended. ALL IN FAVOUR.</p>	

Meeting ended 8.45pm

Minutes Approved;

Chairman's Signature;

Date;