



## Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Alderholt Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr A Hibberd (Chairman), Cllr A Butler, Cllr S Butler, Cllr S Emberson, Cllr G Logan, Cllr D Tooke

**In Attendance:** 13 members of the public and Nicky Ashton, Parish Clerk.

**01/24 Welcome from the Chairman and housekeeping notices:**

Cllr Hibberd welcomed everyone to the meeting and pointed out emergency exits.

**02/24 To receive and accept apologies for absence:**

There were no apologies.

**03/24 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:**

There were no declarations of interest or granting of dispensations.

**04/24 To confirm that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 are a correct record of that meeting:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a correct record.

**05/24 Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman informed members the Assistant Clerk had returned to work.

**06/24 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:**

Cllr Tooke's report is attached to these minutes.

**07/24 Public Forum:**

Various members of the public spoke to raise queries regarding the bus service which were addressed by Cllr Logan under the bus service agenda item. There was also a query about the Two Bridges service and publicising the service as not everyone has access to the internet or subscribe to the parish magazine. As this is not a service operated by the Parish Council, Cllr Logan was unsure if the service is publicised in the local Dr's surgeries or dentist but to assist with highlighting the service, details will be posted on the Council noticeboard.

**08/24 To receive an update with regards to the bus service and to approve the proposed Agreement with ECT (DCT) for the new Shuttle Bus service – Cllr Logan:**

Cllr Logan confirmed the 97 Bus Service has ended but after liaising with Dorset Community Transport, a new service will commence on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The existing weekly Tuesday Salisbury PlusBus service will also reroute between Alderholt and Sande Heath via Fordingbridge.

The new PlusBus Shuttle service will operate weekly on Wednesdays. It will offer up to 8 return journeys between Alderholt and Fordingbridge at approx. 40 minutes intervals from 9.15am to 2.30pm. Available for any existing/new registered PlusBus members (not



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general public), no booking necessary. Full details will be posted on the Council's website. Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Agreement.

## 09/24 Committees and External Bodies Reports:

### Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Logan

A total of 55 people attended the two consultation events to talk about the Plan. Responses are gradually being received and Cllr Logan reminded those present that the consultation deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> January. A Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting will be taking place in February when the responses will be reviewed and the Plan amended if required.

## 10/24 Clerks Report:

- Precept requirement sent to Dorset Council, acknowledgement received.
- Speed limits – request sent to highways for a meeting prior to this council meeting however due to the recent flooding issues this was not possible so meeting still to take place.
- Land at Oak Road – unable to obtain owner's email address so not contact made.
- SSL certificate now in place for website and no longer shows as not being secure.
- Cyber cover – quotation received Thursday so will bring to the next meeting for Council to decide if they wish to proceed with having the cover.
- Fitness Classes – Council's decision sent to person enquiry about holding classes at the MUGA but no response received yet.
- Flooding issue raised by MOP on the Hillbury Road at the junction with Ringwood Road. Raised with Dorset Highways who were already aware of the issue and responded that discussions have taken place to put in trash screens to try to stop leaves etc blocking the system. However, this would have to go on to a future list of schemes and be ranked against all other schemes in Dorset, as they are currently under an unprecedented amount of rainfall and lots of flooding so the requests for such schemes are increasing. Potentially looking at a cost of £5000 to £10000 per trash screen as they must be made specifically for the site and would also require laying concrete headwalls and bases.
- Hampshire Council are holding a Future Services Consultation, part of the consultation is the future of Household Waste Recycling Centres including Somerley. The link for the consultation is: [www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation) which closes on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Cllr Hibberd offered to take a look at the consultation and will report back at the next meeting.

## 11/24 Finance:

- To approve the monthly payments as listed in the schedule (i): Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments.
- To delegate an authorised Cllr for online banking payments:



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Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr S Butler as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.

- To approve a General Reserves Policy:  
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Policy.

### **12/24 To consider a response to the Regulation 19 Consultation on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan:**

The Midgham site has been included in the Plan. Members **RESOLVED** to respond to the Consultation and Cllr Logan will compose a response for agreement at the February meeting.

### **13/24 To discuss a request for payment to the ARA for the indexation payment of the annual running costs and to agree a way forward:**

Members **RESOLVED** to request the Council's auditor check the payment figures as calculated by the ARA and the Clerk to ensure the correct payment is made.

### **14/24 To receive an update regarding the purchase of wireless microphones for the village hall – Cllr A Butler and Cllr Emberson:**

Cllr Butler informed Members a site visit has taken place with a member of the hall committee and the type of microphones required has been agreed, now just awaiting costs which will be presented at the February meeting.

### **15/24 To receive a report on quotations received for the allotment path and a recent site visit and to agree any actions:**

The Clerk informed Members of the quotations received and a site visit which took place with a company representative who has experience in installing grass matting. He did not believe grass matting would work and suggested a path using aggregate and will provide a quotation. As the quotations received so far are for the supply of materials only it was agreed costs for installation should be obtained prior to the next meeting. The Clerk informed Members of another company who are willing to conduct a site visit and Members agreed to the visit being conducted.

### **16/24 To receive a report on the inspection carried out on the play equipment and to agree any actions – Cllr Emberson, Cllr Hibberd and the Clerk:**

Cllr Emberson gave a report on the site visit and the works which need to be carried out and suggested some works such as clearance of the MUGA surface could be completed by the Green Spaces Working Party. The Clerk reported on quotations obtained to replace missing bolts, cap covers and replacement parts at a total cost of £226.76. Members **RESOLVED** to order the parts. The pieces of outdoor gym equipment require maintenance works as the resistance needs adjusting. Clerk will contact the manufacturer to request a quotation to complete the works.

### **17/24 To approve registration with the ICO:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve registration with the ICO and payment to be made by direct debit.



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### 18/24 To discuss and agree a meeting with Pennyfarthing regarding issues raised with the Oakwood Grove site:

Members **RESOLVED** to hold a meeting and it was also agreed to request a meeting with the developers of the Antler site. Members also discussed how to keep parishioners informed of the works taking place at the sites and it was agreed to create a page on the Council's website to post updates.

### 19/24 To receive a report regarding Rights of Way E34/6, E34/4, and E34/7 – Cllr A Butler:

Cllr Butler reported on a recent inspection of the Rights of Way and they were impassable as submerged under water. There has been works taking place in the area with trees being removed which has possibly contributed to the paths being more waterlogged than usual. Vehicles have also been used in the area which has resulted in the paths being extremely muddy. The state of the paths has been reported to Dorset Council. It was agreed to also report the sections of the paths within Hampshire to Hampshire County Council.

### 20/24 To agree whether or not to respond to the Dorset Council survey, "Have your say on improving routes for walking, cycling and wheeling".

Cllr Logan reported that the survey includes routes around urban areas and Alderholt is not included. Members **RESOLVED** that Cllr Logan respond to the survey on behalf of the Council and to highlight the fact there is no pavement between the village and St James Church.

**With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm.**

**Date of next meeting – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

#### (i) Schedule of Monthly Payments

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd	1411.70	282.34	1694.04	Neighbourhood Plan Project Work Fee
Dorset Council	2367.89	0.00	2367.89	Staffing Costs
SLCC	238.00	0.00	238.00	Membership Fee
Parish Online	200.00	40.00	240.00	Subscription Fee

## **240115 Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council**

### **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

There will be changes to the council tax reduction scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April this year. The scheme is open to people of working age and offers support for low-income households with paying council tax.

The changes to the scheme aim to make it easier for residents to understand, access and work better with the Universal Credit system and removes the need for constant changes to awards, making it easier to manage.

It will follow a more unified, simple income grid that takes into account a resident's income and how many dependants they have. This replaces the current means tested system.

It will also include an increase to the current maximum amount that could be claimed from 90 per cent, up to 100 per cent for those who are eligible.

The reductions will be restricted to a council tax band E level, meaning that any applicants who live in a band F, G or H property will have their entitlement calculated at a Band E level.

### **Dorset Council Financial Pressures and likely Council Tax Rises**

Dorset Council like all others is suffering from inflationary pressures on its capital and revenue costs, including wages.

It now looks more likely that the authority will have to impose the maximum increase in council tax, possibly of five per cent, for the coming year, a decision which it will make in February.

A recent council report predicted that, unless there are changes between now and April when the next financial year starts, the authority could end 2023/24 with a £12 million shortfall and will not be able to achieve its capital programme with some projects being abandoned and others being pushed into the next financial year for the third year in a row.

In previous years the council has managed to reduce the financial projections made at the end of the third financial quarter by the end of the financial year although this year officers are warning that it has become increasingly difficult to achieve budgets set out at the start of the year.

The proposed budget means that in the coming year the council will spend £376m on its residents, an 8 per cent increase in funding for essential services. Around 60 per cent of the budget will support vulnerable children, families, older people and those with disabilities. In total, Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents, including adults and children's social care, road maintenance, waste collection, housing support and libraries.

This year's budget setting exercise once more takes place against a national background of extreme pressures for councils. These pressures include the high level of inflation which affects the cost of delivering council services, and the continued growth in need for social care services as a result of the ageing population.

The council proposes to increase council tax next year by just under 3 per cent and to levy the adult social care precept of 2 per cent. The increase would be equivalent to £1.82 extra per week for a Band D property.

#### Round 4 of Household Support Fund

Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) reopened for applications at 10am on Wednesday 3 January 2024 for low-income households in the Dorset Council area.

The government scheme funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, provides support in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on behalf of Dorset Council and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria within 6 – 8 weeks. The government scheme funded by The Department Work & Pensions

Dorset Council households will be able to apply if they have:

- an annual household net income of less than £30,000 and
- savings of less than £16,000 and
- not applied for a previous HSF payment within the last 6 months

If anyone is currently struggling with the cost of living challenge, this initiative may help as it offers supermarket vouchers to help with essentials.

Residents should apply online. Find more details including future application window dates here: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

If you need help completing the form, you can telephone Customer Services on 01305 221000 or visit a [customer access point](#).