



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 11th March 2024 in Alderholt Village Hall.

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

In Attendance: 10 members of the public and Nicky Ashton, Parish Clerk.

58.24 Welcome from the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and pointed out emergency exits.

59.24 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

There were no absences.

60.24 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or granting of dispensation.

61.24 To confirm that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 11th February 2023, the Extraordinary Meeting held on 19th February and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28th February are a correct record of those meetings:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the three sets of minutes as a correct record of those meetings.

62.24 Chairman's Announcements.

There has been a very positive response to the Crowdfunding page so far. Thanks to all who have donated.

63.24 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

Cllr Tooke's report is attached to these minutes.

64.24 Public Forum

A member of the public spoke to query where the monies were coming from for representation at the Planning Inquiry especially as the Council originally said they couldn't pay for the bus. They stated the monies being used for the Inquiry could be lost and the developer could come back again and asked why a referendum wasn't held.

It was pointed out that on average there were 10/11 users of the bus and other councils were no longer contributing however, the council did decide to proceed with the service. It was also pointed out that there is a process to follow for referendums which takes time and the timescales for the Planning Inquiry are set by the Planning Inspectorate not the council.

Another member of the public spoke to point out that a meeting was called to ask for people's comments so the decision was taken democratically and in the only way possible.

**65.24 Committees and External Bodies Reports:
Village Hall – Cllr Logan**



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Cllr Logan reported the hall is working well and is to be highly valued. There are plans in place to refurbish the ladies toilets.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee - Cllr Logan

The responses to the consultation are being reviewed and will be agreeing the finalised plan at the next committee meeting. This finalised plan will be presented to full council for agreement at the April meeting. It will then go to Dorset Council; Examiners report hopefully by end of summer with the referendum possibly taking place by the end of the year.

ARA AGM – Cllr A Butler

There were concerns raised regarding inappropriate wording used in the annual report, however the report was accepted as read. A report was provided by the Treasurer. A meeting is still due to take place to discuss the financial report regarding the annual maintenance grant. The election of officers was agreed. Cllr Butler highlighted the importance that everyone follows due process and there should be an opportunity for people to ask questions.

Scouts – Cllr Emberson

The AGM is taking place this evening. There are 56 scouts but they are currently struggling to appoint enough Leaders; trying to get parents involved. Looking at spending money to ensure containers are waterproofed.

66.24 Clerks Report:

- The response to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan was sent. An email has been received regarding the Plan which stated the following:
A decision by the relevant NFDC Portfolio holder, Cllr Derek Tripp, to support the inclusion of the Midgham Farm site was challenged and called in by 7 Cllrs. The resultant meeting voted almost unanimously to refer the matter to the full council. This meeting must be convened within 15 days.
- Caloo are aiming to commence works next Monday 18th March.
- A quotation has been received from Elite playgrounds regarding works to the shackles on the Activity Trail and to refit the net to the basketball hoop. As the quotation was received after the agenda for today's meeting had been publicised it has been added to April's agenda for discussion.

67.24 Finance – to discuss and agree the following:

- To approve the monthly payments as listed in the schedule (i):
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments and to appoint Cllr S Butler as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To review the earmarked reserves for 2024/2025 and agree amendments:
Members **RESOLVED** to earmark reserves of £17500.00 for the shuttle bus, £15,000 for works to the recreation ground pavilion, £5000.00 for allotment path works, £26500.00 for play equipment, £3000.00 for the fete, £4000.00 for Neighbourhood Plan costs, £3000.00 for wireless microphones, £3000.00 for possible election costs, £5000.00 towards budget costs and £65,000 for Planning Inquiry costs which includes a contingency should the Inquiry overrun.



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 11th March 2024 in Alderholt Village Hall.

68.24 To receive an update on actions taken regarding the Planning Appeal for P/OUT/2023/01166 including an update on donations received and to agree if any further actions are required:

The Crowdfunding page was set up at the end of February and donations received so far are in the region of £17500.00. A leaflet drop to all residences in the parish took place last weekend informing parishioners of the action the Council are taking and to request donations via the Crowdfunding page. The Statement of Case should be submitted by 21st March but a request has been submitted for an extension to 27th March. A meeting has taken place with the barrister the council are looking to appoint together with the Planning Consultant to discuss the Statement of Case. At this stage the appointment of a Transport Witness has still not been confirmed. A discussion took place regarding the finances should a Transport Witness not be appointed and the difficulty of being able to give an exact costing as the Inquiry could overrun. It was agreed to check if the funding limit on the Crowdfunding page could be amended if required and to also try to extend the deadline for donations to be made.

69.24 To discuss and agree a statement to be issued to confirm the position of the Council with regards to having legal representation at the Inquiry and Council finances:

Members **RESOLVED** to agree Cllrs Emberson and Logan together with the Clerk produce a statement to be posted on the Council's website and Facebook page.

70.24 To discuss signing up to the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge:

Members **RESOLVED** to sign up to the pledge.

71.24 To review the following:

- **Asset Register:**

Members **RESOLVED** to amend the register to remove the brush cutter which has been disposed of and to check the last storage location of the hedge cutter which is also believed to have been disposed of.

- **Risk Register:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve amendments including general reserves limit, ensuring monies held in accounts do not exceed the Financial Compensation Scheme Limit, adherence to the Civility and Respect Pledge and to rate the level of each risk item.

72.24 To receive information regarding the Elections and how to submit nomination papers:

The Clerk reported that nomination papers must be submitted by 4pm on Friday 5th April. An appointment needs to be made to hand deliver nomination papers to the Returning Officer. Papers can be delivered to offices in Dorchester, Wareham, Blandford or Wimborne. Full election details can be found using the following link:

[Parish and town councils within the Dorset Council area - election on 2 May 2024 - information for candidates - Dorset Council](#)



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 11th March 2024 in Alderholt Village Hall.

73.24 To discuss and agree any works the Council would like Alderholt Chapel to carry out as part of its Community Action Day which takes place on Saturday 23rd March:

Members **RESOLVED** to thank the Chapel and to ask if they would be able to clear the pavement alongside the kiosk at the Reading Rooms and remove the piles of leaves, give the play equipment a clean and clear the footpath leading from Station Road to Apple Tree Road.

With the meeting reaching its time limit of 2hrs Members RESOLVED to extend the time limit to address the remaining agenda items.

74.24 To discuss the list of potential works at the recreation ground as agreed at last month's meeting (minute ref 35/24):

Members **RESOLVED** to proceed with the works to replace the windows and doors and new flooring (the Clerk to submit the order). It was agreed in principle to consider the other works listed subject to quotes being received with a maximum spend for all works of £15000.00.

75.24 To receive an update on the allotment path and agree any actions:

Members **RESOLVED** to defer this item to a future meeting.

76.24 To consider the purchase of a new Wireless Router at a cost of £317.00:

Staff have experienced issues accessing the computer system when working from home and IT support has said this may be due to the router which may require replacing. Members **RESOLVED** not to replace the router at this stage but to first investigate what testing can be carried out to identify if the router is the actual cause of the issues.

77.24 To consider replacing the noticeboard at the allotments:

Members **RESOLVED** to defer this item to a future meeting.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 8th April 2024

(i) Schedule of Monthly Payments for Approval

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Vision ICT	125.00	25.00	150.00	SSL Registration
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	34.40	6.88	41.28	Bolt caps for play equipment
Elite Playground Inspections	48.00	9.60	57.60	Quarterly Inspection
Vision ICT	40.00	8.00	48.00	Google Analytics
Arthur J Gallagher	300.16	0.00	300.16	Cyber Insurance
Information Commissioners Office	35.00	0.00	35.00	ICO Registration Fee



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 11th March 2024 in Alderholt Village Hall.

BT	344.58	68.91	413.49	Phone Bill
Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd	1411.70	282.34	1694.04	Neighbourhood Plan Project Work Fee
Alderholt Recreation Association	356.62	0.00	356.62	Reimbursement of Repairs to Flood Damage
Assist IT	139.21	27.84	167.05	IT Support
Viking Office UK Ltd	59.67	11.93	71.60	Stationery
Pennon Water Services	43.26	0	43.26	Allotment Water supply
Sutcliffe Play Ltd	159.00	31.80	190.80	Replacement Grips Play Equipment
Alderholt Parish News	21.00	0.00	21.00	News article
Receipts				
Cambridge Building Society	519.23	0	519.23	Interest

240311 Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

Dorset Council Cabinet Response to Hants CC Minerals Plan

This response will be discussed at Cabinet on the 12th March.

The report to Cabinet includes the statement:

The Bleak Hill Quarry Extension at Hamer Warren, with a current permission for extraction of sand and gravel, lies immediately south of the proposed Midgham Farm allocation. Development of Midgham Farm as a quarry could lead to cumulative traffic loading impacts on Hilbury Road and on down Harbridge Drove. In order to avoid cumulative traffic impacts Dorset Council would want an absolute reassurance that, should Midgham Farm be allocated, the existing Hamer Warren quarry will be completed before Midgham Farm is developed and there would be no simultaneous working of Hamer Warren and Midgham Farm. It is noted that there is also potential for cumulative traffic impacts on the access to the B3081 and the A35 should the proposed extension of Alderholt and/or the development of Purple Haze be permitted. On the information currently available, Dorset Council objects to this proposed allocation. This objection could be withdrawn should the Hampshire Authorities provide assurances that the proposed development of this site will:•ensure adequate protection for the amenity of residents of Alderholt;•ensure no simultaneous working with the Bleak Hill Quarry extension and;•address the issue of potential cumulative traffic impacts in accessing the A31. Access to the site is likely to be from the Hillbury Road, crossing land that lies within Dorset Council's administrative area and our response to this consultation is given without prejudice to any subsequent consideration we may be required to give to the development of an access

Extra Funding for Road Maintenance

Dorset Council has been promised just over £2 Million a year for each of the years 2034/4 and 2024/5 from the DfT Network North fund – money released by the cancelling of HS2 – and which will be dedicated to carriageway maintenance in Dorset.



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 11th March 2024 in Alderholt Village Hall.

The Council is also allocating an additional £6 million for highway maintenance, to be invested in more proactive work to preserve the condition of the roads.

Increase in Dorset Council Staff numbers

Since Dorset Council was created in 2019 staffing numbers have risen by 300, to a current Full Time Equivalent of 4,800.

The increase in staff numbers has been due to a higher demand for services for the growing number of both older people and young people with SEND.

The Council has said, "Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to 380,000 residents. Waste collection, road maintenance, planning, housing, libraries, and adults' and children's social care are just some of the vital services which support the smooth running of our local communities. We are working to make Dorset a great place to live, work and visit."

However despite the 'no front line cuts' promise, there have been reductions in service as the threshold for receiving many council services has increased, making it more difficult for many to qualify for help and support.

The Council has made savings of around £96 Million since it was formed.

Round 4 of Household Support Fund Closed

Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) closed for applications in the Dorset Council area after being opened for just 32 minutes.

A total of 1,300 applications were allocated which went through before the window closed.

The government scheme, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions to help 'vulnerable households' with the rising cost of energy bills and food, provides the support in the form of supermarket vouchers.

The government has not announced whether it will fund any new schemes after April 1.