



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 8th September 2025 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr A Butler (Chairman), Cllr S Emberson, Cllr A Hibberd, Cllr G Logan and Cllr M Smethers.

In Attendance: Nicky Ashton, Parish Clerk.

155/25 Welcome from the Chairman:

Cllr Butler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

156/25 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr S Butler and Cllr D Tooke. Members **RESOLVED** to accept their reasons for absence.

157/25 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

158/25 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2025 are a correct record of that meeting:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a correct record and they were signed by the Chairman.

159/25 Chairman's Announcements.

Cllr Butler reported on the Climate and Nature Workshop that she and Cllr S Butler attended.

160/25 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

No report was received.

161/25 Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

162/25 Representative Reports:

Village Hall – Cllr Logan

Attended village hall meeting and everything is going well with no issues to report.

163/25 To receive the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- **Planning** – the minutes were noted and in particular the fact that an information session will be held at the next planning meeting for residents regarding the emerging Dorset Council Local Plan.
Cllr Logan gave a short report regarding the Local Plan which is attached to these minutes.
- **Staffing** – Cllr Smethers gave an overview of the minutes which were noted.

164/25 Clerks Report:

- The SIDS have been repaired.



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- Attending an East Dorset Clerk's meeting at Verwood Town Council.
- Road closure on Ringwood Road between Earlswood Drive and 49 Ringwood Road will come into operation on 22nd September and should be completed by 23rd September to allow Wessex Water to carry out works.
- Informed of a proposed road closure on Ringwood Road between Marshlands and Foxhill Farm to allow South West Water to carry out main repair works. These works are programmed to commence from 3rd November 2025 until 7th November 2025.
- Email received from a MOP regarding concerns about traffic parking at the top of Earlswood Drive which impacts visibility when pulling out. Vehicles are parking within 10mtrs of the junction.
- Email received from a MOP regarding a safe walking route between Alderholt and Fordingbridge and pointing out the old railway line is inaccessible.
- The road surveys were completed in July in relation to the pedestrian crossings requested by MOP's for Station Road near the Churchill Arms pub and also on Park Lane near the school. Dorset Council has not yet been in contact with the results.
- Reported on online DAPTC meetings attended on 21st August and 4th Sept regarding the ongoing discussions with Dorset Council.
- Fordingbridge Town Council are holding meetings on Thursday 25th, Friday 26th and Saturday 27th to seek views about Neighbourhood Plan.
- Newsletters received from East Dorset and Purbeck Citizens's Advice Bureau and LGPS Employers newsletter.
- Confirmation of Local Council National Pay Awards received and presented to the Staffing Committee.
- The review of non-staffing policies and procedures is still being worked on and will add to a future agenda.

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165/25 Finance – to discuss and agree the following:

- To approve the monthly payments as listed in the schedule (i) and agree to delegate an authorised Cllr for online banking payments:
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments and Cllr Logan was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To receive the July and August bank reconciliations:
Members received and noted the bank reconciliations.

166/25 To receive a report on the completion of the external audit by BDO:

On the basis of BDO's review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. Only one minor issue was raised which related to the rounding up of figures which the Clerk has pointed out to BDO is a problem with their own system.

167/25 To agree the 20th June 2026 be the date for next year's Big Alderholt Fete:

It was agreed to hold the Fete on this date and to suggest to the Working Party that



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future Fetes are held on the third Saturday of June.

168/25 To consider the quotes received for the replacement of the play area wooden gate post:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the quote for £360.00 (inc VAT).

169/25 Allotments:

- **To receive a report on a site meeting with neighbouring landowner and agree any actions:**
Cllr Logan reported on the meeting which took place to discuss ditch works and fencing. Members **RESOLVED** to draw up an agreement between the Council and the neighbouring landowner to agree that the neighbouring landowner digs out their ditch once a year and cuts across the boundary and digs out/connects with the ditches that lead/drain from plots 21, 22, 24, 27 and 28 across the now defunct APC drain into their drain.
- **To review the allotment fees:**
Members **RESOLVED** to increase the fees to £35.00 per year (£1 of this being a contribution to the allotment association).

170/25 To consider a proposal from the Planning Committee to support the DAPTC motion regarding the withdrawal of funding support for Neighbourhood Plans:

Members **RESOLVED** to support the motion and will write to the local MP and the Government to object to the withdrawal of funding.

171/25 To consider a proposal from the Staffing Committee regarding amended Staffing Policies:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the amended policies.

172/25 To consider insurance renewal quotation.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation from the Council's insurers and to agree to the 3yr LTA subject to a full check of all documents received.

173/25 To consider a response to the DAPTC Smaller Parish Council Survey:

It was agreed that Cllr Logan and the Clerk would work together to compile a response to the survey to be presented to October full council meeting for approval.

174/25 To receive an update on the gym equipment (including survey results) and to agree any actions:

Cllr Emberson gave a report on actions being taken regarding the gym equipment and the survey results. He will look into what equipment to potentially purchase to replace the existing equipment and will report back at the October meeting.

175/25 To receive the play inspection report for August and to consider quotes received for works to the cableway and to agree any other actions:

The play inspection report was noted and Members **RESOLVED** to approve the quote from Elite Inspections for £100.00 (net) to carry out works to the cableway.

176/25 To consider a request regarding extra bin provision at the recreation ground:

Members **RESOLVED** not to agree to the request at this time but to monitor the situation as there is an issue with bins being used for household waste.



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177/25 To consider applying for the Dorset Community Transport Grant:

Members **RESOLVED** to apply for the grant.

178/25 To consider attendance at an Emergency First Aid training course:

Members **RESOLVED** not to attend.

179/25 To agree attendance at Councillor surgeries for next three months – Sept, Oct and Nov:

It was agreed that Cllr Smethers attend September, Cllr Logan attend October and Cllr Hibberd attend November.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Date of next meeting – Monday 13th October 2025.

(i)Schedule of Monthly Payments for Approval (Including In Between Meeting Payments)

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Lightatouch	350.00	0.00	350.00	End of Year Audit Check
Staffing Costs	5076.24	0.00	5076.24	July Staffing Costs
Unity Trust Bank	9.00	0.00	9.00	July Bank Fees
BT	204.72	40.94	245.66	Telephone Bill
SLCC	15.00	3.00	18.00	AI Training Course
Corporate Christmas Tree Company	426.64	85.33	511.97	Christmas Tree Lights
Staffing Costs	5076.24	0.00	5076.24	August Staffing Costs
Dorset Council	360.00	72.00	432.00	SID Repairs
Elite Playground Inspections	75.00	15.00	90.00	Play Equipment Inspection
Source for Business	208.84	0.00	208.84	Allotment Water
Alderholt Parish News	14.00	0.00	14.00	Aug Parish News Article
Mrs N Ashton	19.99	3.99	23.98	Reimbursement for Purchase of VJ Day Flag
Unity Trust Bank	8.70	0.00	8.70	August Bank Fees
Starboard Systems Limited	624.00	124.80	748.80	Scribe Accounts Renewal
Assist Business IT	152.15	30.43	182.58	IT Support July to August
DM Payroll Services	72.00	14.40	86.40	Payroll Services 1 st April – 30 th Sept
Cllr G Logan	37.95	0.00	37.95	Travelling Expenses
BDO	630.00	126.00	756.00	External Audit
Alderholt Village Hall	2882.00	0.00	2882.00	Office Rental 1 st Sept to 28 th Feb
ARA	1037.50	0.00	1037.50	1st Oct Payment for Maintenance Contract
ASSC	285.25	57.05	342.30	First Aid and Bin Provision for Fete

Dorset Council Local Plan – Consultation August 2025

We are very pleased to see that there is no mention of Alderholt in the plan with regard to opportunity sites for housing development and employment, nor for Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Showpeople sites (Appendices A, B & C).

In the light of this DC have considered the adopted Alderholt Neighbourhood Plan and included our housing numbers within the Adopted Neighbourhood Plan Allocations in Figure 4.1. of the Dorset Council Local Plan (DCLP).

It is assumed that the dismissed appeal by Dudsbury Homes (APP/D1265/W/23/3336518 – 6th Sept 2024) decision was also taken into account by DC in producing this Local Plan.

The only facet of development that may affect Alderholt is in the provision of opportunity areas for renewable energy – namely solar arrays, wind turbines and battery storage facilities (appendix D). However, the text supplied in the Local Plan is very broad brush and the maps encompass the whole Dorset Council Area, therefore each potential site can only be considered individually by way of a Planning Application, and will have its own constraints, criteria, mitigation and merits, which will all have to be considered and weighed up.

Thus, all the effort and support of the villagers over many years and in particular the last 2 years has been worthwhile and resulted in this DC Local Plan.