



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 10th November 2025 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

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

In Attendance: Nicky Ashton, Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public.

The meeting started at 7.10pm.

202/25 Welcome from the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

203/25 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

There were no absences.

204/25 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

Cllr Hibberd declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 214/25 as he is a trustee of the village hall.

205/25 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 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.

206/25 Chairman's Announcements:

There were no announcements.

207/25 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

The report is attached to these minutes.

208/25 Public Forum:

There were no questions or statements.

209/25 Representative Reports:

Alderholt Village Hall – Cllr Logan

AGM attended last month. The hall is doing well with continued bookings, both regular and ad-hoc. Drama Club will be paying for the installation of new stage lighting (grant funding) ready of the panto in 2026. Project for 2026 is the revamp of the kitchen, following on from the success of the new toilets.

Fresh Start Event – Devolving Dorset – Cllr Logan

Attended last month with the Clerk. Points to note:

- Dorset Council (DC) looking to transfer non-statutory assets and services to towns and parishes that wish to assume responsibility for them.
- DC pays for grass cutting & verge cutting and the emptying of their bins, but no DC owned assets in the parish so we will not be affected.
- Potential issue regarding governance as HM Govt want to standardise the provision of local government across the country with fewer tiers. It may be that some smaller parishes may wish to merge.
- DC will be undertaking a Parish Council Governance Review in Spring 2027 (electoral review of parishes and warding) as part of HM Govt Boundary Commission Review.



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210/25 Clerks Report:

- Fete working party meeting taking place on Wednesday.
- Responses were sent for both the Local Plan Consultation and the DAPTC Smaller Parish Council Survey
- Contact with the Sustainable Transport Officer regarding alternative solutions for Park Lane and Daggons Road crossings. Confirmed engineer to visit Park Lane but still looking into the Daggons Road site.
- Bins are still being monitored and informed by Dorset Council that the bin at Birchwood Drive was recently overflowing due to household waste being deposited. No evidence as to where the household waste has come from but they will continue to monitor the bin and if any evidence is found they will take the matter further.
- The Dorset Council Elections Dept has confirmed that they did not receive, the necessary number of requests for an election to fill the vacancy for ex Cllr Stone and we must therefore proceed to co-option.
- Invitation received from the Mayor of Corfe Mullen to attend the Civic Carol Service sent to Chairman and also a guest on Sunday 21st December at 6pm need to reply by 5th December.
- All allotment plots have now been taken and there are currently 4 people on the waiting list, will continue to promote the allotment plots to increase the waiting list numbers.
- Committee Room window broken believed to be by catapult has been reported to police.
- Email received asking if a piece of land could be considered for a small community garden pilot project. The piece of land is located off of Park Lane where footpath goes towards Alder Drive. As the PC don't own the land the company has been referred to Dorset Council as they maintain it.
- IT contractors have now upgraded the support on the assistant clerk's laptop.
- CIL monies – recently received a CIL payment as listed below and received confirmation that one further payment of £11176.90 of CIL is due which will be paid in the next financial year.

211/25 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 S Butler was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To receive monthly bank reconciliation for Oct:
Members received and noted the bank reconciliation.
- To receive the internal audit report and to approve the Letter of Engagement agreeing Lightatouch continue to act as the Council's internal auditor for 2025-26 (the Council's appointed auditor for the year, Fair Account, will not be returning due to health issues and a new internal auditor will need to be appointed for 2026-27):
The report was noted with no issues being identified by the auditor. Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Letter of Engagement.

212/25 Assertion 10 – to receive a report on the changes to the AGAR for 2025/2026 and to consider the following actions be taken to ensure compliance:

- A check of the Council's website by Vision ICT at a cost of £145.00 to ensure it meets the necessary accessibility requirements:
It was agreed to seek further clarification from Vision ICT regarding checks to be carried out and if any further costs could be incurred if issues are identified.
- To receive IT training as specified in the Council's IT Policy:



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Quote received from IT company, it was agreed to seek further clarification on what training would involve and to approach DAPTC to check training they offer.

- To hold a Data Protection session to ensure compliance by Staff and Councillors:
It was agreed to hold a session to be attended by staff and councillors to revisit and reaffirm understanding of Data Protection legislation.

213/25 To review gym equipment quotes which now include additional equipment as discussed at the last meeting and to consider what equipment to replace and whether to install any additional equipment:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation to replace existing equipment and install three new pieces of equipment at a total cost of £9784.00 (net) which will be paid using CIL monies (monies received from developers).

214/25 To approve the new village hall rental agreement:

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

215/25 Land Ownership:

- To receive a report on Council owned land and a recent meeting between the Council's solicitor and the Clerk and to consider registering land with Land Registry in the next financial year (this will allow funds to be set aside when agreeing the budget requirements for 2026/2027):
Clerk gave a report on meeting with the solicitor. It was agreed to look into registering all unregistered land with further research needing to be conducted to establish land values and to then obtain a quotation from the Council's solicitors to undertake the registrations.
- To receive clarification regarding the boundary between Alderholt Nurseries and the Amanda Harris Recreation Ground:
Issue raised at last month's meeting which has been checked and Land Registry documentation confirms ditch is on the Alderholt Nurseries site.

216/25 To consider any budget item requirements for 2026/2027 which will be considered when the budget setting process takes place at the November Finance Meeting:

It was agreed to include funds for the registering of council land and for future play equipment maintenance.

217/25 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC- In accordance with Standing Order 3(d) to RESOLVE that in view of the confidential nature of the following business items (staffing matters) the press and public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended by the local Government Act 1972 s.100):

Members **RESOLVED** to exclude the public.

218/25 To receive a report from the Staffing Committee regarding recently held meeting and appraisals for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk:

Cllr Smethers gave a report on the meeting including outcomes of the Clerk's and Assistant Clerk's appraisals.

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

Date of next meeting – Monday 8th December 2025



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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Corporate Christmas Tree Company Ltd	13.53	2.71	16.24	Outdoor Extension Lead for Christmas Tree Lights
Assist Business IT Ltd	152.15	30.43	182.58	IT Support Aug to Sept
Assist Business IT Ltd	177.15	35.43	212.58	IT Support Sept to Oct and Microsoft Windows 10 Extended Support Licence
Staffing Costs	5243.33	0.00	5243.33	Oct Staffing Costs
Royal British Legion	25.00	0.00	25.00	Purchase of Wreath
Unity Trust Bank	12.75	0.00	12.75	Oct Bank Fees
Mrs K Booker	5.50	0.00	5.50	Reimbursement for Purchase of Batteries
Mr M J Hooper	300.00	60.00	360.00	Gate Post Replacement at Play Area
Lightatouch	350.00	0.00	350.00	Internal Audit
Mrs N Ashton	40.95	0.00	40.95	Travelling Expenses for A Fresh Start – Devolving Dorset Meeting
Alderholt Parish News	14.00	0.00	14.00	Nov Parish News Article
Mrs G Logan	25.15	0.00	25.15	Travelling Expenses for Bleak Hill Meeting and Reimbursement for Purchase of Materials for Weed Killer Solution and Travelling Expenses
DAPTC	150.00	0.00	150.00	Attendance Fees for Cllr Logan and the Clerk at the A Fresh Start – Devolving Dorset Meeting
Receipts				
Dorset Council	2500.00	0.00	2500.00	Transport Grant
Dorset Council	11,176.89	0.00	11,176.89	CIL Monies



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251110 Alderholt Parish Council — Dorset Councillor Report

Recent Actions & Developments

Until 31st October Dorset Council could show a land supply of 5.02 years, currently a new position has not been published but is likely to be around 2.5 years. This has a number of effects on Planning Decisions.

1. The “presumption in favour of sustainable development”

Under the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**, if a council **cannot demonstrate a 5-year supply**, the **presumption in favour of sustainable development** (paragraph 11 d) applies.

This means:

- The **local plan’s housing policies** (and often related settlement boundaries) are treated as **out-of-date**.
- Decision-makers must **approve development proposals** unless:
 1. Adverse impacts would **significantly and demonstrably outweigh** the benefits, or
 2. Specific protective policies apply (e.g. Green Belt, AONB, heritage designations, nutrient neutrality, etc.).

For Dorset, much of East Dorset **is not Green Belt**, so the presumption could apply strongly outside settlements.

2. More approvals for “unallocated” or edge-of-settlement sites

Without a 5-year supply:

- Developers can promote **sites not allocated in the local plan**.
- Dorset Council will find it **harder to refuse** such applications if they deliver housing, even if contrary to settlement boundaries.
- Inspectors often allow appeals unless there are clear, site-specific harms (e.g., landscape, access, ecology).

This increases pressure on villages and towns like **Alderholt, Verwood, Ferndown and Wimborne**.

3. Appeals become more developer-friendly



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- Planning inspectors routinely allow appeals where the council lacks a 5-year supply, citing paragraph 11 d of the NPPF.
 - Dorset Council could face **higher appeal costs and resource strain** defending refusals.
 - Recent appeals in East Dorset show developers using the lack of 5-year supply as a key argument to overturn refusals.
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4. Reduced weight to local policies

When the supply is under 5 years:

- **Housing-related local plan policies** (e.g., those restricting development outside settlements) carry **limited weight**.
 - Other policies (design, heritage, flood risk, landscape, ecology) still apply, but the planning balance tilts toward approval if a site is “sustainable.”
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5. Council strategy implications

- Dorset Council must now **accelerate housing delivery** and site allocations in the forthcoming Local Plan to recover a 5-year supply.
- It may **update its Annual Position Statement early in 2026** if new completions or permissions improve the trajectory.
- Meanwhile, decision-making committees will need to **document planning balances carefully** to avoid losing appeals.