



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 13th January 2025 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

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

In Attendance: 4 members of the public and Nicky Ashton, Parish Clerk.

1/25 Welcome from the Chairman:

Cllr Hibberd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2/25 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

There were no absences.

3/25 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations.

Cllr Hibberd declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12.25 and did not take part in discussions or voting.

4/25 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th December 2024 are a correct record of that meeting:

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

5/25 Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr Hibberd wished everyone a Happy New Year.

6/25 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

Cllr Tooke's report is attached to these minutes.

7/25 Public Forum:

A member of the public spoke regarding a request made to the Council regarding ditch works. The Clerk confirmed awaiting a written response. Works to the Ringwood Road culvert was also raised and Cllr Tooke confirmed it's on a list of works to be carried out and he would chase to find out when they are due to be completed. A road closure would be required and notification of this would be received prior to works taking place. The same member of the public also stated that it is not possible to get a double buggy down the path at the recreation ground and asked if this could be looked at.

8/25 Representative Reports:

There were no reports.

9/25 Clerks Report:

- The Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Dorset Council at its cabinet meeting on 17th December.
- Culvert replacement works have been completed on Harbridge Drove.
- Proposed Temporary Closure of Sandleheath Road, to allow Openreach to carry out pole replacement works. Works are programmed to commence from 09:30, 14th March 2025 until 15:30, 14th March 2025.



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- Proposed Temporary Closure of Edmondsham Road, Verwood, to allow Openreach to carry out pole testing works. Works are programmed to commence from 09:30 - 15:30 on 18th March 2025.
- Confirmation sent to SSE that permission was granted for works to be carried out to oak tree at AHRG and also stated that only works listed to be carried out and any damage caused will need to be rectified. Response received stating that this would be communicated to the team and was forwarded a copy of their method statement and risk assessment.
- Notification received from NALC that the secretary of state for culture, media and sport, has announced a UK-wide COVID-19 Day of Reflection on 9 March 2025, will add to next month's agenda for discussion.

10/25 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 Butler was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To receive monthly bank reconciliation for December and confirmation of quarterly check (Qtr 3):
Members received and noted the bank reconciliation for December and Cllr Smethers confirmed he had completed the quarterly check with no issues being identified.
- To receive report showing expenditure against budget for Qtr 3:
Members received and noted the expenditure against budget.

11/25 To receive an update on request for meeting with ARA and to discuss how to proceed with the future maintenance of the AHRG taking into account quotes received:

The request for a meeting was turned down as it was felt that no further value would be added to a meeting taking place and the figure quoted cannot be reduced. Discussions took place regarding the content of the SLA and the figure quoted by the ARA for future maintenance works and Members **RESOLVED** to request another review meeting with the ARA as per the requirements of the SLA agreement.

12/25 To discuss the request to increase the churchyard maintenance grant now further information has been provided (as per Finance Committee Meeting min ref: 15/24).

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the increase of £50.00 meaning the new grant will be £450.00 for the next three years.

13/25 Budget for 2025-26:

- To consider and agree the budget and precept requirement for 2025-26 as proposed by the Finance Committee:
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the budget of £105,381.70 for 2025-26 and a precept requirement of £103,837.70 meaning an annual increase of £4.11 (5.40%) for a Band D property.
- To review the earmarked reserves and agree the allocations for 2025-2026 as proposed by the Finance Committee:
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed earmarked reserves (Community Transport £14,000; Election Fund £3000; Big Alderholt Fete £3000; Play Equipment £15000; Wireless Microphone £3000; Neighbourhood Plan Review £4043.10 and ring-fenced CIL monies £18551.27).



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- 14/25 To approve the renewal of the annual cyber insurance policy at a cost of £301.28:**
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the renewal.
- 15/25 To approve the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee Meeting held on 30th September 2024:**
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman of the Committee.
- 16/25 To agree to respond to the Government consultation “Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England”:**
Members **RESOLVED** to respond and it was agreed that Cllr S Butler together with the Clerk complete the consultation.
- 17/25 To ratify the decision to apply for a Dorset Community Transport Grant:**
Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision to apply for a grant.
- 18/25 To receive an update on the Meter Agreement and to agree any actions.**
ASSC have confirmed they are happy to sign the Agreement and as agreed previously the Clerk will sign it on behalf of the Council.
- 19/25 To discuss a request from a parishioner for an additional bin at Birchwood Drive:**
In 2023 it was agreed for an additional bin to be installed however, Dorset Council never provided the quotations requested and no further action was taken. At the time of the original request, it was pointed out by Dorset Council that the bin is being filled up, partially with bags of household waste which is difficult to stop or control. Members **RESOLVED** to monitor the situation and to wait for a response from Dorset Council as to whether or not there is still an issue with household waste and to then review the situation again in April.
- 20/25 To receive an update on the actions agreed regarding the annual play inspection as discussed last month (min ref: 254.24) and to agree any further actions:**
- i) The Clerk reported that Elite Inspections checked the repairs carried out to the piece of gym equipment. They confirmed it had been fixed but the piece of equipment no longer works how it should. The Clerk to check on how the repairs were done to report back to Elite Inspections who will then provide a quotation for works to ensure the equipment is working properly.
 - ii) The Clerk informed Members of the response received from the Insurance company and the situation would be monitored when carrying out weekly inspections.
 - iii) The Clerk confirmed staff are carrying out weekly inspections.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm

Date of next meeting – Monday 10th February 2025.

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Dorset Council	50.00	0.00	50.00	Election Recharge
SLCC	240.00	0.00	240.00	Membership Fee



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Assist Business IT	147.15	29.43	176.58	IT Support
Elite Playground Inspections	65.00	13.00	78.00	Play Equipment Repairs
Staffing Costs	5212.44	0.00	5212.44	Dec Staffing Costs
Alderholt Parish News	14.00	0.00	14.00	January News Article
Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd	576.00	115.20	691.20	NP Project Work

250113 Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

New Council Plan 2024-29

Following the elections in May last year Dorset Council has now announced a new Council Plan outlining our four strategic priorities where we want to make a significant and positive difference.

They are:

- Provide affordable and high-quality housing
- Grow our economy
- Communities for all
- Respond to the climate and nature crisis

With a focus on Housing the Council has set the following targets:

- 30% reduction in the number of households in temporary accommodation over the next 5 years
- eradicate use of bed and breakfasts for family households over the next 5 years
- maintain annual homelessness prevention levels consistently higher than the national average
- achieve the desired balanced position of a smaller but sustainable temporary accommodation stock over the next 5 years
- deliver 450 new affordable homes every year through the housing association development programme
- bring forward new housing supply of 100 new accessible homes and 90 larger family homes at affordable rents per year
- implement approved new models of delivery to increase affordable housing supply making best use of council assets
- deliver 100 new supported accommodation homes over the next 5 years secured through grant funding and support from providers

Family Hubs

The Council is introducing Family Hubs which provide essential support to Dorset families, for social, emotional, physical and financial needs

There are currently Family Hubs in Ferndown, Wimborne, Bridport, Dorchester, Swanage, and Wareham, providing families with support.

Later this year there are plans for more Family Hubs to open in locations across Dorset.

The idea behind the Family Hubs is to provide a safe and welcoming space where families can access support in one place, conveniently located in the centre of their local communities.

A visitor to their local Family Hub said, “The Family Hub has become like a family to us.”

Dorset Family Hubs will offer a range of support for the local community from maternity services, activities for children aged 0-5, advice for parents and much more.

Family Hubs are open to everyone, no matter their situation and are inclusive and non-judgemental spaces to receive support locally.

Local Government Devolution

The leaders of Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Councils; Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Bill Revans, and Cllr Richard Clewer, said:

“We welcome the publication of the Devolution White Paper as a significant step forward in our journey towards achieving devolution for the Heart of Wessex region. This milestone reflects the Government’s commitment to empowering local communities and enabling regions like ours to collaborate on our shared vision.”

Government has made it clear that if strategic authorities are going to maximise the funding opportunities available devolution deals will require a mayor and ministers will be able to impose mayors and geographies on local councils.

The establishment of the Heart of Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority represents a fantastic opportunity to have a champion for the Wessex region who will be able to deliver meaningful change for our residents and advocate for our interests in Westminster. This will also offer the likely opportunity for increased funding and investment to our council regions. We want to make the Heart of Wessex a thriving region whose unique interests are heard and understood by central government.

If the devolution proposal is approved, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire councils will continue to exist and are expected to have the same responsibilities as they do now. The offer to BCP Council and Swindon Borough Council to join the Heart of Wessex partnership remains open.