



## **Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 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 and Cllr D Tooke.

**In Attendance:** 2 members of the public and Nicky Ashton, Parish Clerk.

**21/25 Welcome from the Chairman:**

Cllr Hibberd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**22/25 To receive and accept apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Cllr Stone. Members **RESOLVED** to accept his reasons for absence.

**23/25 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

**24/25 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 are a correct record of that meeting:**

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

**25/25 Chairman's Announcements:**

Cllr Hibberd thanked the members of the public who assisted in distributing the flyers providing information on the Midgham Farm planning application. He also praised this year's pantomime.

**26/25 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:**

Report is attached to these minutes.

**27/25 Public Forum:**

There were no questions or statements from the public.

**28/25 Representative Reports:**

There were no reports.

**29/25 Clerks Report:**

- Culvert replacement works will be taking place on Ringwood Road between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March – road closure will be in place.
- Government consultation on "Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England" has been completed.
- Pathway lighting Meter Agreement has now been signed.
- Precept request has been sent to Dorset Council and receipt acknowledged.
- Birchwood Drive bin was overflowing before being emptied on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. However, operatives found that half of the bin had been filled with leaflets/magazines which appeared not to have been delivered. The relevant companies have been notified of the situation to hopefully ensure it doesn't happen again.



## Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

- Covid-19 day of reflection not added to agenda due to response to suggestion at last meeting.
- Checked piece of gym equipment which is now working correctly.
- Dog bins need replacing at AHRG, currently obtaining quotes as Dorset Council no longer supply dog bins.
- All flyers for Midgham Farm planning application have now been delivered.
- Great British Spring Clean – Dorset Council has confirmed they will collect litter picked up on Monday after the event has taken place.
- Email received enquiring about how to propose a new greenway walking or cycle route using the route of the disused railway.

### **30/25 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 for the leaflets and posters expenditure to be allocated to the Neighbourhood Plan budget heading. Cllr Hibberd was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To receive the bank reconciliation for January:  
Members received and noted the bank reconciliation for January.
- To receive the Internal Auditor report for Qtr 3:  
Members received and noted the report – no issues were identified and the auditor confirmed all practices and actions are being carried out to a satisfactory standard.

### **31/25 To note the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January:** Members received and noted the minutes.

### **32/25 To discuss Planning Application HCC/2024/0755 and to delegate the Council's response to the Planning Committee meeting being held on 17<sup>th</sup> February:** Cllr Logan confirmed she would be attending the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Partial Update Independent Examination hearing on Wednesday when the proposed Midgham Farm site will be discussed. Members **RESOLVED** to delegate the Council's response to the Planning Committee as this will allow for any relevant information obtained on Wednesday to be used in the response.

### **33/25 To receive an update on meeting held with ARA representative and to discuss how to proceed with the future maintenance of the AHRG:** Cllr Smethers reported on the meeting held and further information has recently been provided which is positive. Still awaiting some further figures but things are moving forward and a decision will have to be made at the March meeting.

### **34/25 To receive a report from the Alderholt Fete working group and the agree the following:** - **To ratify the change of date for the Fete to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June:** Members **RESOLVED** to approve the change of date. - **To agree to the ordering of 4 portaloo toilets:** Members **RESOLVED** to approve the ordering.

### **35/25 To receive information regarding the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 7th May 2025 and discuss nominations:** Members noted the email sent regarding the Garden Party and **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Logan to be a guest.



## Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

**36/25 To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting:**

It was agreed for Cllr Emberson to approach the Scouts and for the Clerk to approach the ARA and Fete Working Party to ask if they would like to attend and give a presentation.

**37/25 To note the dog bin charges for 2025/2026 and agree the completion of the Duty of Care renewal:**

Members noted the bin charges which are within the agreed budget amount for 2025/26 and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk complete the Duty of Care renewal.

**38/25 To discuss Dorset Council's Climate and Nature Survey:**

Members **RESOLVED** that Cllr Emberson and the Clerk complete the survey on behalf of the Council.

**39/25 To agree the annual inspection of the play equipment by the Play Inspection Company for 2025/2026:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the annual inspection at a cost of £153.00.

**40/25 To agree attendance at Cllr surgery for 15<sup>th</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> April:**

Cllr Logan agreed to attend the February and March surgeries and Cllr Tooke agreed to attend the April one.

**41/25 To discuss the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May:**

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the Chapel and Church to ask if they are proposing to hold any events to mark the occasion. It was also agreed for Cllr Emberson to put a post on the Council's FB page to ask parishioners for ideas on how they would like to mark the occasion with the suggested day to hold any events being the May bank holiday (Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May). Should a road closure be required to direct people to Dorset Council to submit their request.

**With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm.**

**Date of next meeting – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
DM Payroll	72.00	0.00	72.00	Payroll Services
Assist Business IT	147.15	29.43	176.58	IT Support
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	301.28	0.00	301.28	Cyber Insurance
Fair Account	140.00	0.00	140.00	Internal Audit
Staffing Costs	5042.80	0.00	5042.80	Jan Staffing Costs
ICO	47.00	0.00	47.00	Annual Data Protection Fee
Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd	576.00	115.20	691.20	NP Project Work
Housden Business Forms	164.42	17.88	182.30	Leaflets and Posters re Midgham Farm Planning Application

# **250210 Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council**

## **Support for struggling families**

With the rising cost of living, and soaring energy prices, many people on low income are struggling to find the money to put nutritious food on the table.

Working with partners in the community, Dorset Council awarded a total of £277,000 to food projects across the Dorset Council area through the Household Support Fund, Cost of Living Fund, Shared Prosperity Fund and Community and Culture Project Fund in 2024.

As well as food banks, funding was awarded to social supermarkets and community larders.

In the last year, many residents have turned to grocery shopping at social supermarkets. As well as giving shoppers a choice, they also help to reduce food waste whilst destigmatising the issue of food poverty for people struggling to make ends meet.

Fitted with fridges and freezers and shelves of tinned goods, people can typically buy food at 50 to 75 % discounted prices.

Run by local volunteers, the shops rely on the goodwill of the local community and businesses to subsidise the food they purchase each week as well as grant funding from the council.

## **Social Care Costs impact Budget setting**

Social Services budgets at Dorset Council risk being over-spent in the coming year because of unexpected demand.

Corporate director in charge of finance, Aidan Dunn, told a scrutiny committee that even though an extra £15 million was proposed for the adult and housing budget and an extra £3 million for children's services in 2025-26, the council might still struggle to balance the books.

Dorset remains one of the lowest funded councils in the country by the Government with additional cuts to grants recently imposed by the new Labour government – and the fear of more cuts to come.

Councillors were told that the authority may also have to step in and offer financial support to the council's private social care providers who have been hit by an increase in the national minimum wage and National Insurance contributions - with some now struggling to survive.

The warnings come while the council is considering a 5% increase in council tax, as well as an average 2.5% rise in fees and charges, from April.

At the same time the authority is about to embark on a programme to transform the way it delivers services which Mr Dunn said would impact on all the council's staff – with Unison warning that 'hundreds' of jobs could be lost.

## Local Transport Plan

The feedback and experiences of residents, businesses and visitors on travel and transport in Dorset [have now been published and can be seen here](#).

The data collected in early 2024 is helping Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council to shape a new Local Transport Plan (LTP), setting out a vision for transport and travel infrastructure across the county.

Over 3,000 people responded to the survey and 300 attended events across the county. More than 90 interested groups, representing local communities, people with mobility needs, health providers and transport operators also provided valuable input.

The most notable result was that there is a widespread understanding that public transport does not meet the needs of the population, and that we must invest in better transport connections between villages and towns.

The data collected in early 2024 is helping us to shape a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) with BCP Council, setting out a vision for transport and travel infrastructure across the county. This new LTP will aim to address transport needs and prioritise future investments. Over 3,000 people responded to our survey and 300 attended events across the county. The new transport plan will run until 2040.

Public consultation on the draft strategy and implementation plan for this new plan will take place in late summer to early autumn 2025.

Once adopted by the councils in spring 2026, the new plan will help secure national funding for necessary transport improvements. LTP4 will support sustainable economic growth and work alongside both councils' local plans to ensure development planning and transport planning work together.

## Local Government Devolution

The Government has confirmed that our "Heart of Wessex" bid has not been included within the Devolution Priority Programme. The four councils of Dorset, BCP, Somerset and Wiltshire submitted a comprehensive proposal outlining the transformative benefits devolution could bring, including greater local control over key areas such as transport, housing, and economic development.

In a joint statement, the leaders, Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Millie Earl, Cllr Bill Revans, and Cllr Richard Clewer, said: "Despite the fact that we felt Government were moving too quickly to deliver devolution, and our discussion about the format of Mayoral Strategic Authority as the most appropriate solution for our region, we worked collaboratively with ministers throughout to deliver a strong proposal. Therefore, the decision not to include Wessex within the Devolution Priority Programme is extremely disappointing.

“We feel the Wessex proposal aligned with the aims of the White Paper, encompassing a population of approximately 1.9 million, with the region well-placed to support the Government's growth priorities, particularly in clean energy, defence, digital technologies, life sciences, and tourism. The area could now miss out on essential funding, and combined with the likely defunding of pan-regional partnerships and the substantial reduction in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the fact that this will now be delayed when we are ready to go is deeply regrettable.”