



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 6pm on Monday 14th April 2025 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

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

In Attendance: 3 members of the public and Nicky Ashton, Parish Clerk.

64/25 Welcome from the Chairman:

Cllr Hibberd welcomed everyone to the meeting and pointed out emergency exits.

65/25 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr A Butler and Members **RESOLVED** to accept her reasons for absence.

66/25 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

67/25 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10th March 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.

68/25 Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr Hibberd thanked the volunteers who took part in the village Great British Spring Clean which resulted in 16 bags of rubbish being collected.

69/25 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

Report is attached to these minutes.

70/25 Public Forum:

There were no questions or statements from the public.

71/25 Committees and External Bodies Representative Reports:

DC Technical and Strategic Planning Committee – Cllr G Logan

Meeting attended at the end of March, where DC were to agree their response to the Midgham Farm application to submit to HCC, who will determine the application. DC objected strongly to the application, citing the traffic / HGV impacts on the local road network as their major concern. Cllr Logan gave a statement on behalf of the PC highlighting adverse impacts of the traffic & HGVs, the requirement to look at providing a conveyor linking the Midgham Site to the existing Bleak Hill site, the need for the hydrology impacts to be assessed fully with regard to the flooding & waterlogging and the necessity for 24/7 use of pumps for de-watering and the unacceptable impact of noise on the wellbeing of Alderholt residents. On looking at the HCC planning portal many of the statutory consultees are asking the applicant to provide much more information, before they make any comment. As this is a major application, I would anticipate it going to an HCC planning committee, but as yet we have no idea of a timeframe.



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Cllr Tooke also attended the meeting and questioned the need for a quarry, traffic issues including compliance with the Highway Code.

Bleak Hill Liaison Panel – Cllr G Logan

All is progressing at the site, with infill occurring, extraction to take place in the early summer but no further stripping due to “ground nesting birds”. Rate of work at site determined by the economic growth within the UK and possible impact of situation in USA. Still awaiting the legal agreement to be signed re the Bleak Hill 3 extension application that was approved by HCC last November.

Alderholt Scouts – Cllr S Emberson

Scouts unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting this evening. There are new volunteers so numbers remain consistent. They've used the Rifle Range now weather has improved. No development of the land is planned just trying to use it. Cllr Emberson will clarify who are the keyholders.

72/25 Clerks Report:

- A member of the public has raised issues about the Pennyfarthings SANG with Dorset Council and copied in the Parish Council. The response from Dorset Council states the site has been developed sufficiently for it to be considered ready for public use, subject to the developers own health and safety assessments. An inspection was carried out by Dorset Council in February and some infrastructure was highlighted as still requiring installation. They have set dates for when these works should be completed with the latest date being 1st Sept. The member of the public wanted this raised with the Parish Council.
- AGAR – the Parish Council has been selected as part of the 5% selection to receive an intermediate audit. Internal end of year audit will be completed by Tim Light due to our internal auditor being unwell.
- Road closures – Dorset Council has received an application from Openreach to close Cranborne Road, Cripplestyle between Broxhill and a point approximately 850 metres west to allow Openreach to carry out pole testing works. Works are programmed to commence from 09:30, 23rd June 2025 until 14:30, 23rd June 2025. They have also received an application from Traffic Safety and Management Ltd to close Unnamed Lane, Cripplestyle between Broxhill and a point approximately 270 metres south. The closure has been requested to allow them to facilitate tree cutting works. Works are programmed to commence from 09:30, 30th June 2025 until 15:30, 30th June 2025.
- Fire Risk assessment carried out at pavilion by ARA.
- Dorset Council has written to inform us that, starting this grass cutting season, they will be introducing their ‘cut and collect’ method of grass cutting in our area. Previously, they cut the verges five times per year and left the cuttings in situ. The new ‘cut and collect’ method involves fewer cuts, but they will remove the grass cuttings from the verges.
- Response received from Caloo regarding the gym equipment, they are unable to repair it. This is due to the company who supplied the parts going out of business.
- There are gaps in the boundary hedge between the AHRG and the new Pennyfarthings development site. This issue has been raised with Pennyfarthings and they will be looking at the barbed wire fence but they do not believe the hedge is their issue.



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73/25 Finance – to discuss and agree the following:

- To approve the monthly payments as listed in the schedule (i), agree to delegate an authorised Cllr for online banking payments and to note the receipts:
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments and Cllr S Butler was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting. Receipts were noted.
- To receive bank reconciliation for March/year end and confirmation of quarterly check (Qtr 4):
Members received and noted the bank reconciliation. Cllr Smethers confirmed he had completed the quarterly check with no issues being identified and had signed the bank reconciliations to confirm they were correct.
- To receive report showing expenditure against budget for Qtr 4 and year end:
Members received and noted the expenditure against budget. With the additional earmarked reserve agreed at the March meeting, the general reserves held adhere to the adopted General Reserves Policy of between 3 and 9mths of the precept.
- To agree transfer of funds from Nationwide account to Cambridge account:
Members **RESOLVED** to give notice to transfer funds of £7857.49.

74/25 To discuss another request for a pedestrian crossing and to receive an update on the previous request:

A request has been received for a pedestrian crossing on Park Lane. The Clerk has been in contact with Dorset Council regarding the request received last month and Dorset Council has agreed to check the site to ensure it meets the necessary requirements for a crossing and also agreed to check the new site requested. Engagement with the community will take place once the original site requested has been confirmed as being eligible for a crossing. It was agreed to wait to hear back from Dorset Council before deciding whether or not to support the second request.

75/25 To receive an update on suggestions posted on FB regarding the 80th anniversary of VE Day celebrations and to confirm the positioning of the flag:

The FB post received likes but no suggestions on how to celebrate the event. Members **RESOLVED** to check with St James Church that the flag can be put up on site and for Cllr Hibberd and the Clerk to research suitable timings for this to take place and to then advertise the raising of the flag on FB page and website.

76/25 To agree the charge of £10.00 for commercial Fete stall holders:

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the charge.

77/25 To approve the quotation received for quarterly play equipment inspections:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation.

78/25 To review the request for an additional dog bin at Birchwood Drive as per previous minute ref: 19/25:

The bin has been monitored and there has been one occasion when it was overflowing due to packs of undistributed leaflets and magazines being placed in the bin. It was agreed to continue to monitor the bin and to review again in a few months time.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.57pm.

Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Council Meeting Monday 12th May 2025.



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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Project Manna	150.00	0.00	150.00	Grant
Ealing Community Transport Ltd	7125.00	0.00	7125.00	Contribution to DCT PlusBus Shuttle (Alderholt to Fordingbridge)
Assist Business IT	147.15	29.43	176.58	IT Support
Glasdon UK Ltd	466.70	93.34	560.04	Two Dog Waste Bins
Staffing Costs	5127.62	0.00	5127.62	March Staffing Costs
Alderholt Parish News	14.00	0.00	14.00	March News Article
ARA	1037.50	0.00	1037.50	AHRG Maintenance Works (1 st Instalment)
Alderholt Sports and Social Club	127.51	25.50	153.01	Electricity Bill for Pathway Lighting
Groundwork UK	181.95	0.00	181.95	Underspend Repayment for Neighbourhood Plan Grant
Mrs N Ashton	23.98	0.00	23.98	Reimbursement for Purchase of VE Day Flag
Receipts				
Dorset Council Community Transport Grant			5000.00	Grant for PlusBus Shuttle Service
Mrs A Butler			20.00	Fete Stall Holder Fees
HMRC			2235.53	VAT Refund
Nationwide Building Society			3727.47	Interest

250414 Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

New Chief Executive News

Following the departure of our Chief Executive to Wellington in New Zealand the Council cross-party Staffing Committee unanimously recommended that Dr Catherine Howe as Dorset Council's new Chief Executive. This appointment was subject to final approval by Full Council on 10 April, which was provided by a strong cross party vote that was almost unanimous. She will take up the post in summer.

Catherine will take over from Sam Crowe who is interim Chief Executive, following the Matt Prosser's departure earlier this year.

Dr Catherine Howe is a highly experienced local government leader with extensive expertise in managing complex organisational change, driving digital transformation, and promoting community-led initiatives.

She is currently the Chief Executive of Adur and Worthing Councils, where she has successfully steered significant financial restructuring and ambitious climate and organisational design programmes. Catherine previously held senior roles at Cancer Research UK and Capita PLC, leading large multidisciplinary teams in innovative technological and organisational change projects.

Affordable Housing

Dorset Council has outlined several initiatives to address affordable housing needs:

1. **Temporary Accommodation:** The council plans to provide 100 homes within the next year for temporary housing. This initiative aims to reduce reliance on bed-and-breakfast accommodations for emergency housing.
2. **Leasing Homes:** Over the next three years, the council intends to lease 1,200 homes to assist residents on the housing register. This effort is expected to alleviate the backlog of individuals waiting for affordable housing.
3. **Pilot Schemes:** A pilot program will utilize council-owned land and buildings to create homes for individuals with complex housing needs. This approach is designed to address specific challenges faced by vulnerable residents.
4. **Affordable Housing Partnerships:** The council is exploring partnerships to develop affordable housing on council-owned land. These collaborations aim to increase the availability of homes that local residents can afford.

Community Funding

Community Funding Opportunities: Local Alliance Groups are offering funding for community projects aimed at improving the lives of children, young people, and families. Schools, charities, and community groups in East Dorset can apply for grants of up to £20,000 for innovative projects.

Community groups, education settings and volunteer organisations can now apply for funding through their Local Alliance Group.

Details of the East Dorset Local Alliance Group are available at [East Locality Partnership Site - Home](#)

Local Alliance Groups bring together people who are passionate about improving the lives of children, young people and families.

There are six Alliance Groups across the Dorset Council area, each focused on identifying priorities and developing initiatives that directly benefit their local area.

In the last round of funding, 159 projects received support, all aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of Dorset's children, young people and families.

Climate and Nature Goals

The council has accelerated its climate action plans, aiming for net-zero carbon emissions by 2035 for council operations and by 2045 for the county. Initiatives include transitioning to electric vehicles, making buildings greener, and increasing renewable energy generation.