



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 14th July 2025 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

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

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

134/25 Welcome from the Chairman:

Cllr A Butler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

135/25 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

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

136/25 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

137/25 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th June 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.

138/25 Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr A Butler expressed her concerns regarding the heat in the Parish Office.

139/25 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

Report is attached to these minutes.

140/25 Public Forum:

No questions or statements.

141/25 Representative Reports:

Village Hall – Cllr Logan

Meeting attended last month, the hall is functioning well but bookings appear to be lower than this time last year. Recruitment has been successful with a Treasurer being co-opted and a new Market Manager. Dorset Village Halls Association are hosting a “trustee” presentation on the evening 8th September 2025 at the hall.

DAPTC – Cllr Logan

Zoom meeting of the Towns and Larger Parishes Committee attended last month. Meeting was to update us on the progress made on a “Fresh Start” – the future directions for Dorset’s Towns and Larger Parishes.

Bleak Hill Liaison Panel – Cllr Logan

Attended last Friday, works at the quarry are progressing, but it has been a challenging year re sales of aggregates and amount of infill. Restoration is continuing.



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Asked about progress on the Hants Minerals & Waste Plan – but nothing has been received from the Inspector as yet.

Dorset Council Local Plan Event – Cllr Logan

Together with Cllr S Butler meeting attended this morning. DC will be holding a consultation on the Local Plan commencing 18th August and ending 13th October. There will be a drop-in session at Verwood Memorial Hall on Monday 22nd September. Details will be issued by DC and the consultation will be online. Following this consultation the Local Plan is to be produced by August 2026 when it will be consulted on prior to submission in December 2026 and examination and adoption in 2027.

This will be discussed by the Planning Committee, so that a date can be set for a public meeting to be held in September. The Parish Council will of course be responding to the consultation.

142/25 To receive the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- **Planning**
- **Finance**

The minutes were noted.

143/25 Clerks Report:

- Play area safety surfacing works have now been completed just waiting for the toilet on site to be collected.
- The new dog bins have been installed.
- The SIDS were collected on Wednesday 18th June by the Road Safety Officers to carry out the repairs and they will put them back up once works completed.
- There is another larger Town and Parish Council and Dorset Council Meeting being held on Thursday (17th July). The Clerk will be attending the meeting.
- Issues with Camel Green Road and Park Lane road signs have been reported to Dorset Council.
- With the Government withdrawing funding for Neighbourhood Plans, NALC is considering what steps it can take on behalf of town and parish councils. There is an emerging campaign to reinstate the funding. Email received from DAPTC with suggested actions for PCs to take which will be added to the Planning Agenda for consideration.
- Due to emergency works on lane in Cripplestyle the planned road closure for tree works had to be postponed and will now be taking place on 31st July from 9.30am until 3.30pm.
- Councillor surgeries – just a reminder that it was agreed Cllr Toni Butler would attend this Saturday's market and the August market would be either Toni, Steve or Adrian.
- Booked SLCC staff training course with regards to using AI in relation to council tasks - £15.00.
- Have been provided with a key to the recreation ground pavilion.
- Email received querying if speed limit will be reduced on Ringwood Road informed the MOP that discussions took place with Dorset Highways and we were informed that informed that the road does not meet the necessary criteria to reduce the speed limit even with the Pennyfarthing development.

144/25 Finance – to discuss and agree the following:

- To approve the monthly payments as listed in the schedule (i) and agree to delegate an



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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 ratify the Fete expenditure as agreed by the Finance Committee:
Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the expenditure.
- To receive the June bank reconciliation and confirmation of quarterly check (Qtr 1):
- 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 1.
Members received and noted the expenditure against budget with all expenditure being within the agreed budget headings.

145/25 To agree to respond to the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan consultation:

It was agreed that Cllr Logan would put together a response which would be reviewed and agreed upon at the August Planning Committee meeting.

146/25 To receive a report regarding VJ Day 80th anniversary and agree any actions as agreed at the June meeting:

The Clerk provided information prior to the meeting which confirmed it was possible to purchase a flag and other local councils were holding events.

Members **RESOLVED** to purchase a VJ Day flag to raise on Friday 15th August.

147/25 To consider replacing the Christmas tree lights and to agree a budget virement:

Members **RESOLVED** to purchase new lights at a cost of £426.64 (net) and to vire the Christmas tree and lights budget to the asset replacement budget and the costs to come from this budget heading.

148/25 To consider a request from the ARA for a payment of £70.00 relating to the use of the recreation ground for the Big Alderholt Fete:

Members **RESOLVED** to make the payment on this occasion but no future payments would be made for the use of the recreation ground due to the agreement within the Lease which states the Council has the right to resume exclusive possession of and to use the Recreation Ground from time to time for not more than seven days in any one calendar year provided the Council shall give not less than three months prior notice in writing.

149/25 AHRG:

- **To consider the replacement of the play area wooden gate posts:**
Members **RESOLVED** to obtain quotes to replace one of the posts and to approach Pennyfarthings to ask if they could assist with the works.
- **To consider works to wooden seat in the play area:**
The Clerk advised that an ARA trustee had offered to carry out maintenance works to the memorial bench. It was agreed for the works to be carried out.
- **To review tree ownership and tree works:**
Ownership of trees at the AHRG was discussed as trees overhanging the play area are behind the boundary fence. However, due to safety concerns the Council carries out tree inspections and works. A tree within the play area itself is not showing any signs of growth and it was agreed that Cllr A Butler and Cllr S Butler as part of the Green Spaces working group would inspect the tree.



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150/25 Allotments:

- **To receive an update on the allotment fencing:**
Cllr Logan advised that in order for a quotation to be obtained the contractor needs to know how many posts need replacing and their location. A survey will be carried out by Cllr Logan, Cllr Hibberd and a member of the AAA to identify all posts that need replacing and a quotation can then be provided.
- **To consider potential changes to the tenancy agreement:**
Members **RESOLVED** to amend clause 19 of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement for inclusion in this year's agreement renewals, to include the wording "and keep his/her part of the grass verge to the central gravel path cut and trimmed to the wooden edging of said path".
- **To consider action to be taken regarding uncultivated plots:**
Members **RESOLVED** to send termination letters to two tenants with uncultivated plots.
- **To review the allotment fees:**
The fees have not been reviewed for the last ten years and it was agreed that prior to a decision being made further investigations should be carried out to ascertain if a change in fees is required.

151/25 To consider attendance at an in-person Climate & Nature Workshop for town and larger parish councils:

It was agreed that Cllr A Butler and Cllr S Butler attend the workshop.

152/25 To consider responding to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consultation regarding proposals around the delegation of planning functions, the size and composition of planning committees and mandatory training for members of planning committees (deadline 23rd July 2025)

[Reform of planning committees: technical consultation - GOV.UK](#)

It was agreed that Cllr G Logan and Cllr A Butler respond to the consultation.

153/25 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 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).

154/25 To discuss a staffing matter:

Members **RESOLVED** to agree a reduction to the Assistant Clerk's working hours.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 8th September 2025.

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Assist Business IT	152.15	30.43	182.58	IT Support May to June
David Scates	230.00	0.00	230.00	Posters and Banners for the Fete
Staffing Costs	5076.24	0.00	5076.24	June Staffing Costs
Unity Trust Bank	7.35	0.00	7.35	Bank Fees



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Mr J Powell	85.00	0.00	85.00	Installation of Dog Bins
Alderholt Parish News	14.00	0.00	14.00	June Parish News Article
ARA	2227.20	0.00	2227.20	Annual Maintenance Grant
Mrs A Butler	59.50	0.00	59.50	Reimbursement for Allotment Path Materials
South Coast Hire Group	1900.00	380.00	2280.00	Stage Hire for Fete
DAPTC	60.00	0.00	60.00	Changing Chairs Training Course – Cllr A Butler
Redlynch Leisure Installations Ltd	15084.00	3016.80	18100.80	Installation of new safety surfacing at the play area.
Assist It	152.15	30.43	182.58	IT Support June to July
Alderholt Parish News	14.00	0.00	14.00	July Parish News Article
Nia Nichols	100.00	0.00	100.00	Fete Performance

250714 Dorset Council Report for Alderholt Parish Council

1. Housing & Community Support

The Antler Homes development on the Old Surplus Stores site has confirmed that they have sold 39 Units to Places for People as Open Market Units, a Block of 14 apartments on the right of the access road will be rented and managed by them, and the remainder of the units are to be shared ownership.

Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) ran free summer clubs in Ferndown, Wimborne and Verwood for children on benefit-related free school meals.

Family Hubs expansion introduced new play areas, drop-in sessions and early-years support across East Dorset.

2. Environment & Heritage

Public consultation on Dorset Heritage Explorer (online Historic Environment Record) opened, gathering feedback on archaeological mapping.

Dorset Archaeological Days 2025 featured guided walks and talks in Corfe Village and Wareham, highlighting quarry landscapes and heritage sites.

3. Education & Engagement

Multi-activity Youth Summer Camps rolled out in Ferndown and nearby parishes, covering sports, arts and outdoor learning.

SEND-inclusive sessions ensured children with autism, neurodiversity and physical impairments could participate fully.

4. Public Safety & Consultation

Draft Public Spaces Protection Order to curb fire-related anti-social behaviour on heathland progressed, with stakeholder drop-in events.

Neighbourhood planning support continued for East Dorset parishes, offering technical guidance post-Regulation 16 consultations.

5. Community Events

Blandford Hidden Gardens open days ran alongside carer-support coffee mornings and pop-up information stands.

East Dorset Antiquarian Society led Festival of Archaeology activities—community digs, heritage talks and school outreach through early July.