



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 12th January 2026 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

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

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

1/26 Welcome from the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2/26 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Emberson and Tooke due to personal circumstances. Members **RESOLVED** to accept their reasons for absence.

3/26 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

4/26 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 8th December 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.

5/26 Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr A Butler wished everyone a Happy New Year.

6/26 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

No report received.

7/26 Public Forum:

A member of the public spoke to query the use of CIL monies for the replacement of the outdoor gym equipment.

Another member of the public spoke to state that he never sees anyone using the equipment and pointed out the replacement dog bins even though of the same capacity are smaller due to how the lids open and the Council should have approached the ARA to seek their opinion. The issue of a blocked ditch was also raised and it was agreed that this would be added to a future agenda.

8/26 Representative Reports:

Cllr Smethers reported on the ARA meeting he attended, minutes of the meeting have been circulated to all Cllrs. Maintenance of the recreation ground is carried out by volunteers which assists with keeping costs down, however going forward works may need to be contracted out which will impact costs and may need future discussion.

9/26 To receive the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- **Planning**

Minutes had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting and noted.

10/26 Clerks Report:

- Email received informing New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation responses must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 23 January 2026.
- Received notification confirming the Temporary Closure of Sandleheath Road on 16th January.



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- Received notification today of the Emergency Temporary Closure of Ringwood Road which came into operation with immediate effect and it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 15th January 2026.
- Vision ICT have confirmed we have been added to their waiting list for MOT on website.
- Order placed with Caloo for replacement gym equipment, new cost is £8693.00 net.
- Still awaiting a response from Solicitors re quotation for land registry.
- Email from Projectmanna who are looking for Christmas Trees to help with their riverbed restoration.
- Tree inspection has been requested and will be completed before the end of the financial year.
- Notification received from Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibley PC re Kent Road Closure and notification also received from Aureos.com who are the company completing critical electrical ducting works on Kent Lane and Salisbury Road in Ringwood.

11/26 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 December and confirmation of quarterly check (Qtr 3):
Members received and approved the bank reconciliation. Cllr Smethers confirmed he had completed the quarterly check with no issues being identified and has signed the bank reconciliations to confirm they were correct.
- To receive report showing expenditure against budget for Qtr 3:
Members received and noted the expenditure against budget.

12/26 Budget for 2026-27:

- To consider and agree the budget and precept requirement for 2026-2027 as proposed by the Finance Committee:
Members **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £110,104.00 which represents an increase of £15.00 to the amount proposed by the Finance Committee (increase to cover Membership fees as due to increase in 2026-27) and **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed precept requirement of £107,385.21 meaning an annual increase of £2.41 (3%) for a Band D property.
- To review the earmarked reserves and agree the allocations for 2026-2027 as proposed by the Finance Committee:
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed earmarked reserves (Community Transport £14,870; Election Fund £3000; Big Alderholt Fete £3375; Neighbourhood Plan Review £3661.15; Future Asset Replacements £4708.13; Legal Fees for Land Registration £2000 and ring-fenced CIL monies £27,100.42).

13/26 To approve the renewal of the annual cyber insurance policy:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the renewal.

14/26 To receive the annual play inspection report and agree any actions:

It was noted that the overall assessment was Low Risk with one of the main issues highlighted being the need to rub down and repaint the play equipment. It was agreed to obtain quotes in the new financial year to repaint the equipment.

15/26 To receive and approve a report from Cllr Logan in response to the Hampshire



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Minerals and Waste Plan Modifications Consultation:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed response and Cllr Logan was thanked for her work.

16/26 To agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting:

Date suggested was Monday 27th April but as it was pointed out that the hall was not free on this date it was agreed to approach the Village Hall to enquire if the hall was free to book on either Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th or Thursday 30th April.

17/26 To consider taking part in the Great British Spring Clean (13 March – 29 March 2026):

It was agreed to take part and to seek volunteers to assist with the litter picking.

18/26 To approve the amended Code of Conduct policy:

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

19/26 To approve the amended Freedom of Information Publication Scheme:

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

20/26 To consider the quotations received for Internal Audit services for 2026/27:

Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd for a three year engagement period, with the hourly rates fixed throughout the chosen term.

21/26 To consider correspondence received regarding parking issues on Ringwood Road:

Email received raising safety concerns about vehicles parking on Ringwood Road in close proximity to the junction with Earlswood Drive. Issue raised before and it was stated that vehicles are parking within 10mtrs of the junction - Police were informed. As the Parish Council has no authority when it comes to highways issues it was agreed to put an article in the Parish News highlighting the highway code which states that drivers must not park within 10mtrs of a junction and to also raise the issue with Cllr Tooke in his capacity as Dorset Councillor.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.07pm

Date of next meeting – Monday 9th February 2026.

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
SLCC	316.00	0.00	316.00	Membership Fee
DAPTC	58.00	0.00	58.00	IT Training
Assist Business IT	152.15	30.43	182.58	IT Support
The Play Inspection Company Ltd	153.00	30.60	183.60	Play Equipment Repairs
Staffing Costs	5243.33	0.00	5243.33	Dec Staffing Costs
Alderholt Parish News	15.00	0.00	15.00	January News Article
Unity Trust Bank	8.40	0.00	8.40	Dec Bank Fees