



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 9th February 2026 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr A Butler (Chairman), Cllr S Butler, Cllr S Emberson, Cllr A Hibberd, Cllr G Logan and Cllr D Tooke (arrived at 7.30pm during item 31/26)

In Attendance: Nicky Ashton (Parish Clerk)

22/26 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr Smethers due to personal circumstances. Members **RESOLVED** to accept his reasons for absence.

23/26 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

24/26 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 12th January 2026 are a correct record of that meeting:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a correct record and they were signed by the Chairman.

25/26 Chairman's Announcements:

There were no announcements.

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

The report is attached to these minutes.

27/26 Public Forum:

There were no members of the public present.

28/26 Representative Reports:

Hamer Warren/Bleak Hill Liaison Panel – Cllr Logan

No issues were raised, stock levels are high on site due to low sales, and land fill has also been slow. Hoping to strip Bleak Hill 3 in 2026, and that the general economy will pick up in 2027. No update on the Local Government reorganisation re Hampshire, so impact on the forthcoming Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan update unknown.

Dorset Council (DC) Town & Parish Councils forum on Planning and Building Control – Cllr Logan

There is currently a 2.53yr land supply. DC are expected to deliver 3,246 homes per annum. Local Plan consultation to take place in August followed by submission at the end of this year, and anticipated adoption in 2027. Once the new NPPF, currently undergoing consultation, is adopted (anticipated by end of 2026), it will have immediate effect on the Local Plan. DC are producing a Design Code and the draft for this will be subject to a public consultation later this year. As central Govt had removed the funding for Neighbourhood Plans, DC are looking at the option of CIL money being used for this. DC Building Control Service won the Local Authority Building Control Team of the Year in the LABC Building Excellence Awards 2025 and received endorsement from the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) inspection, with no actions required under the Building Safety Act.

29/26 To receive the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- **Planning - Noted**



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30/26 Clerks Report:

- Temporary closure of Ringwood Road which will come into operation on 18th February, it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 20th February. This is to enable South West Water to carry out works.
- Councillor Smethers now has a .gov.uk email address.
- Resident raised concerns of workers cutting down hedges/vegetations and the removal of a tree in the village last month. Confirmed it was Dorset Council who were cutting back the vegetation as part of their normal maintenance works. The tree behind the bus stop has been removed as it was rotten.
- Letter received from Aureos regarding working hours for Salisbury Road and Kent Lane. Kent Lane works are expected to be completed by Friday 24 April 2026.
- National Grid Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line Refurbishment works – email received stating the pylon in question near Daggons road has been fully refurbished in the previous round of works, therefore no impact to communication networks in the Alderholt area from their upcoming works is anticipated.
- SANG – Dorset Council has reinspected the site, still not signed off completely as the interpretation of the Scheduled Monument, is still outstanding.
- Letter received regarding speed limit on Ringwood Road and ways to reduce speeding in the area, this will be added to the March agenda for discussion.

31/26 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 January:
Members received and approved the bank reconciliation.

32/26 To consider taking any actions regarding the blocked ditch next to the recreation ground:

Cllr Hibberd reported that he had gained permission from the landowner to access the land and clear the ditch to prevent any possible flooding to the recreation ground. Once cleared it will be monitored to ensure the recreation ground doesn't become waterlogged.

33/26 To review the Risk Assessment and Internal Controls:

Actions from last review of the risk assessment completed bar one. New actions agreed - Financial Services Compensation Scheme details to be updated, include reference to Data Map as part of data protection compliance, ensure SID works are carried out by two people and council owned street furniture is checked on a regular basis. Reviewed effectiveness of internal controls and agreed adequate systems in place.

34/26 To receive the tree inspection reports and agree any actions:

Members **RESOLVED** to request a quote for the works from Dorset Council and to ascertain how the works would be scheduled. Clerk to contact owners of trees on private land to inform them of works required.

35/26 To receive an update on the gym equipment replacement and agree any actions:

Due to current weather conditions it was agreed to postpone works until March and to advise the ARA of the equipment spacing to ensure grass cutting isn't impacted.



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36/26 To receive a report from the Alderholt Fete working group and to agree the following:

- **To agree to the ordering of 4 portaloos:**
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the ordering of the toilets.
- **To agree the stall holder fees:**
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the stall holder fees.

37/26 To discuss local Hampshire road issues which are impacting local residents and agree any actions:

It was agreed to contact Hampshire Council to highlight the issue of potholes, disintegrating road edges and flooding which negatively impacts drivers and especially those trying to get to and from their places of work.

38/26 To agree arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting:

The village hall is now available on Monday 27th April so meeting will be held on that date. Agreed to approach the local scouts and brownies, the village hall committee, East Dorset Rural Police team, the ARA and the Reading Room Association to ask if they would like to attend and give a presentation. It was also agreed to promote the Fete.

39/26 To agree attendance at Cllr surgery for 21st February, 21st March and 18th April:

Agreed that Cllr S Butler would attend February, Cllr A Butler will attend in March and Cllr Logan will attend in April.

40/26 To receive information regarding the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Friday 8th May 2025 and discuss nominations:

Members **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Logan to attend the party.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.46pm

Date of next meeting – Monday 9th March 2026.

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
DM Payroll Services Ltd	72.00	14.40	86.40	Payroll Service Oct 25 – Mar 26
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	351.28	0.00	351.28	Cyber Insurance
Assist Business IT	1057.91	211.58	1269.49	IT Support and Microsoft Annual Premiums
ICO	47.00	0.00	47.00	Annual Data Protection Fee
Dorset Council	1302.00	260.40	1562.40	Ringwood Road Signs
Staffing Costs	5243.33	0.00	5243.33	January Staffing Costs
Alderholt Parish News	15.00	0.00	15.00	February News Article
Cllr G Logan	6.30	0.00	6.30	Travelling Expenses – Bleak Hill Liaison Panel
DAPTC	35.00	0.00	35.00	NPPF Event
Unity Trust Bank	7.05	0.00	7.05	January Bank Fees



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260209 Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

1) Dorset Council Flooding Response

A) Immediate Operational Response

Dorset Council's frontline crews have been working day and night to manage the effects of severe groundwater flooding. Their actions include:

- Clearing drains and watercourses where safe to do so.
- Deploying road signs and barriers to manage flooded or unsafe routes.
- Coordinating closely with partners, including the Environment Agency and town/parish councils, to reduce risk.

B) Situation Overview

- Groundwater levels are at historic highs, with continued rainfall expected.
- Residents are experiencing flooded roads, disrupted travel, damage to homes and businesses, and significant anxiety over rising water levels.

C) Longer-Term Planning & Climate Adaptation

Dorset Council highlighted that extreme weather events are becoming more common, noting that floods once considered "once-in-a-century" are now familiar.

- The council began developing the Dorset Climate Adaptation Strategy last year to help communities prepare for future extreme weather.
- This strategy aims to guide infrastructure resilience, community protection, and long-term environmental planning.

D) Investment and Infrastructure Measures

- Targeted investment in areas that experience repeated flooding.
- A review of highways resources, with plans to increase capacity for:
 - Clearing gullies
 - Managing debris and road damage left by floodwaters

These measures aim to address both urgent repairs and longer-term upgrading of local infrastructure.

E) Support for Residents

The council stressed that resident safety, homes, and wellbeing remain the top priority.

- Those affected are encouraged to reach out for support, with the council reassuring communities that help is available.

2) Housing Allocation Policy

Dorset Council has completed a scheduled five-year review of its Housing Allocation Policy, following a public consultation in the summer of 2025, resulting in a series of proposed changes aimed at making the system fairer, more transparent, and more consistent. The revised policy is progressing through Cabinet and Full Council, with a decision expected by April 2026, and implementation later in the year.



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A) Stronger Local Connection Requirements

One of the most significant updates is a tightened local connection rule:

- Applicants without a proven local connection to Dorset will no longer be eligible to join the housing register.
- Exemptions apply for groups such as:
 - Armed Forces personnel and their families
 - People fleeing domestic abuse
 - Those needing urgent medical, welfare or safety-related moves
 - Households owed a statutory homelessness duty

This change aims to ensure that the limited supply of social housing prioritises residents with established ties to Dorset.

B) Simplified Four-Band Priority System

The council is replacing its existing system with a clearer four-band structure based on housing need:

- Band 1 – Priority Housing Need
- Band 2 – High Housing Need
- Band 3 – Medium Housing Need
- Band 4 – Low Housing Need

Band placement will be determined by factors such as medical needs, welfare considerations, homelessness, overcrowding, and special circumstances. This aims to make the process easier to understand for residents and ensures applicants with the most urgent needs are prioritised.

C) Enhanced Support for Armed Forces Community

The updated policy improves support for current and former UK Armed Forces personnel, including introducing dedicated banding considerations to recognise their service and specific housing challenges.