



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

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

In Attendance: Nicky Ashton (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public

41/26 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

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

42/26 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

43/26 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th February 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.

44/26 Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr A Butler welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

45/26 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

The report is attached to these minutes.

46/26 Public Forum:

A member of the public spoke to highlight the issues raised in the correspondence sent to the Council which was discussed under item 49/26. Another member of the public also spoke to raise concerns regarding speed of traffic on Ringwood Road.

47/26 Representative Reports:

Green Spaces Working Party – Cllr S Butler reported that they would be holding a tree planting session on 28th March to replace the four trees that were vandalised.
Alderholt Village Hall – Cllr Logan reported that everything is going well with works due to take place to the kitchen and toilet drainage. Looking for volunteers to join the hall committee.

48/26 Clerks Report:

- Received notification of an application from OpenReach Ltd for the Temporary Closure of Batterley Drove, Cranborne to allow them to carry out pole testing works. Works are due to start 09:30, 5th May 2026 until 15:30, 5th May 2026.
- Letters hand delivered to owners of trees listed in the tree inspection reports.
- ARA AGM taking place on Thursday 26th March.
- DAPTC AGM taking place on Saturday 30th May this is to allow more time for Councils to review the Statement of Reasonable Expectations.
- ARA confirmed happy with layout of gym equipment. Caloo have been in contact to advise that following on from their recent site visit that it would be best to move the start



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date of the installation on a week to commence w/c 23/03 to give the ground a bit more time to dry out.

- Dorset Council, BCP Council and Active Dorset are working together to develop two key strategies:
Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) – for grass and artificial pitches
Built Facilities Strategy (BFS) - for indoor and outdoor sports facilities
The online survey has been forwarded to ARA as they run the recreation ground.
- Update received from Dorset Council regarding the road measures for Park Lane and Daggons Road. We will be supplied with further information after Easter.
- Email received to inform us the Rotary Club of Fordingbridge is organising the Citizen of the Year award again and they've written to ask for our help in finding a worthwhile candidate.
- Emailed Hampshire Highways as agreed at last Full Council Meeting regarding Bowerwood Rd, Harbridge Drove and Alderholt Road. Received a response advising of works to be carried out on Bowerwood Road. No mention of the other roads so emailed again to ask if any works scheduled for these roads.
- Chased up Solicitor regarding registering of council owned land as no response to email sent.

49/26 To discuss correspondence received regarding traffic calming measures on Ringwood Road:

Members **RESOLVED** to submit a request to Dorset Council Highways for speeding tubes to be placed on Ringwood Road to assist in evidencing the issue of speeding and depending on the results to then discuss any further actions to take.

50/26 To consider a response to the New Forest District Council Spatial Options and Policy Direction Regulation 18 Local Plan 2025–2043 consultation regarding the proposed housing allocation for Fordingbridge:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve Cllr Logan's response which raises concerns regarding the proposed housing allocation for Fordingbridge and does not support the Strategic Development Growth Options for the area. Cllr Logan was thanked for her work.

51/26 To consider a response to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve Cllr Logan's response to the consultation and was again thanked for her work.

52/26 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 Logan was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To receive monthly bank reconciliation for February:
Members received and approved the bank reconciliation.
- To review the general and earmarked reserves for 2026/27:
Members **RESOLVED** to earmark an additional sum of £1500 for tree works.

53/26 To review the Asset Register:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve amendments to the Asset Register including inclusion of new safety surfacing, dog bins and Christmas tree lights.



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54/26 To receive the quarterly play inspection report:

The report was noted.

55/26 To consider responding to the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority consultation regarding station closures which includes Cranborne:

It was agreed that Cllr A Butler and the Clerk compile a response to the consultation to be presented at the next meeting for approval.

56/26 To agree which dates to carry out the Great British Spring Clean:

It was agreed to carry out the litter pick Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd March and the litter pick risk assessment for last year's litter pick was approved again for this year's event.

57/26 To receive the Vision ICT Website MOT Report:

The report was noted.

58/26 To agree a date for Data Protection and IT training sessions prior to the end of the month.

It was agreed to hold the sessions on Monday 16th March at 6.00pm.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.38pm

Date of next meeting – Monday 13th April 2026.

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Source for Business	90.58	0.00	90.58	Allotment Water Bill (Direct debit)
Dorset Council	273.00	54.60	327.60	Trees Inspections (Direct debit)
BT	204.72	40.94	245.66	Telephone Bill (Direct Debit)
Elite Playground Inspections	75.00	15.00	90.00	Play Equipment Inspection
Vision ICT	145.00	29.00	174.00	Website MOT
Cllr A Hibberd	35.20	0.00	35.20	Travelling Expenses - Dorset Council Town & Parish Council Forum (Planning and Building Control)
Staffing Costs	5243.33	0.00	5243.33	February Staffing Costs
Alderholt Parish News	15.00	0.00	15.00	March News Article
ARA	1076.94	0.00	1076.94	SLA Agreement 1 st April Payment
Unity Trust Bank	9.25	0.00	9.25	February Bank Fees



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260309 Dorset Councillor Report to Alderholt Parish Council

Highways

Dorset Council has approved a record highways investment package totalling nearly £50 million, announced at the Full Council meeting on 10 February 2026. Key elements include:

£5 million capital flood-resilience fund to repair storm-damaged sections and address known flood hotspots.

£5.25 million additional funding for highways to tackle flooding impacts and reduce future disruption.

£250,000 dedicated gully-clearing crew to prevent drainage blockages and improve water flow during heavy rainfall.

Works will include drainage upgrades, culvert repairs, targeted resurfacing and after severe rainfall and widespread flooding, Dorset Council has announced a coordinated plan to repair the record number of road defects reported between Dec 2025 and Feb 2026, including:

- A 92% increase in potholes,
- 54% increase in road defects,
- 83% rise in emergency callouts.

Actions the Council has committed to:

- Deploying the newly approved £5m recovery fund to prioritise the worst-affected roads.
- Rolling out drainage and surfacing schemes as ground conditions dry.
- Expanding rapid-response teams repairing the most serious potholes within hours.
- structural strengthening.

Community Safety and Enforcement

Dorset Council has reported measurable improvements in fly-tipping enforcement, with increased fixed-penalty notices and a reduction in incidents over the past year.

Education, Housing and Community Services

Dorset Council has released secondary school place allocations and shared case-study communications relating to successful homelessness prevention support within the county.

Queen Elizabeth's School has announced a round of staff redundancies due to significant financial pressures, driven by rising costs, funding constraints, and lower pupil numbers linked to declining birth rates. The Headteacher has stated that the school will prioritise maintaining curriculum breadth despite these challenges.

The Initio Learning Trust has issued several communications to parents outlining the reasons for restructuring, the support available to affected staff, and the Trust's commitment to ensuring continuity of education provision.

Declining birth rates are contributing to lower pupil projections and funding pressures. Dorset Council will hold broader consultations on 2026–27 admissions policies later this year.