



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 13th April 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 17 members of the public

59/26 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr Tooke.

60/26 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

61/26 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March 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.

62/26 Chairman's Announcements:

It was suggested to change the order of business and the Public Forum and the agenda item regarding the speeding tube on Ringwood Road to be the next agenda items for discussion.

Members **RESOLVED** to change the order of business as suggested.

63/26 Public Forum:

Several members of the public spoke to raise concerns regarding traffic on Ringwood Road. Main concern is the speed of traffic on the road but other points raised included the issue with the dip in the road, a recent traffic incident, concerns that changing the speed limit would not be sufficient, no road lights and no pavement causes issues, increase in larger vehicles, 40mph road signs have been knocked down and suggestion that having a SID in place might help.

64/26 To receive an update regarding the request for speeding tubes to be placed on Ringwood Road and to discuss putting notification on our Facebook page and a potential letter drop to inform residents that near misses can be reported to Dorset Council and may assist with action being taken on Ringwood Road. [Report a non injury collision or near miss - Dorset Council sel - Introductionf-service portal](#)

A request for a speeding tube to be placed on the road has been submitted to Dorset Council and will be placed between the new Pennyfarthings development site and the recreation ground and will be in place within the next two weeks at a cost of £295 +VAT. It was agreed to put notifications on the Council's Facebook page, website and in the Parish News to inform residents of how to report near misses.

65/26 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

The report is attached to these minutes.

66/26 Representative Reports.

Green Spaces Working Party – Cllr S Butler gave a report on the recent planting of new trees at the Amanda Harris Recreation Ground orchard.



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ARA AGM – Cllr Smethers had circulated the minutes of the meeting to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. There will be a future management meeting to discuss how to go forward with the running of the recreation ground. Cllr Hibberd confirmed he had cleared the ditch as discussed at February's meeting

67/26 Clerks Report:

- Great British spring clean went well with 12 bags of rubbish collected.
- Due to the significant volume of ongoing work across the highway network, the proposed work on Alderholt Road has been deferred until May 2026. SSE have been granted approval to operate extended working hours in order to expedite their programme and minimise disruption to highway users.
- Details given of an emailed received from a resident raising concerns about road closures and request for the Council to take action.
- Email received from Cranborne Estate to notify us about felling works that they are intending to carry out on Cranborne Common this summer. They will be felling from late June until early August, but timber haulage may go on into September. Only access for timber lorries is up Blackwater Grove along the Public Right of Way (PROW). Public notices will be put up at least six weeks prior to work starting. They are currently upgrading the road to enable loading of lorries off the PROW.
- Email received from Dorset Council regarding improvements to mobile phone coverage in our area. Atlas Towers Group looking to invest in building a shareable mast that could be used by one or more of the mobile phone companies to improve coverage in and around our area.

68/26 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 bank reconciliation for March/end of year and confirmation of quarterly check (Qtr 4 2025/26):
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 are correct.
- To receive report showing expenditure against budget for Qtr 4 and year end:
Members noted the report.
- To receive and approve the CIL report for 2025/2026:
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the report.

69/26 To approve the response to the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority consultation regarding station closures which includes Cranborne:

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service | Cranborne](#)

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the response.

70/26 To consider the draft DAPTC Statement of Reasonable Expectations (SoRE) and determine this council's response ahead of the DAPTC 2025 AGM on 30 May 2026. Councillors are asked to review the proposal through the lens of the wider parish and town council community and its collective relationship with Dorset Council. Councils are also invited to offer any significant feedback or suggested amendments, which DAPTC will gather for a review with Dorset Council in 12–18



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months:

Members considered the draft SoRE and there were no objections to the proposal and no suggested amendments.

71/26 To consider responding to the consultation launched on review of local election boundaries in Dorset [Consultation launched on review of local election boundaries in Dorset - Dorset Council](#)

It was agreed to respond to the consultation and for Cllr Logan and the Clerk to compile a response which will be presented at the May meeting for approval.

The meeting reached its two hour limitation as per the Standing Orders, the Chairman sought agreement from Members to extend the meeting time which was agreed.

72/26 To receive an update regarding tree works required as identified in the tree inspection reports and to receive and approve the quotation from Dorset Council to carry out the works:

Members **RESOLVED** to proceed with the tree works at the Rifle Range and those within the AHRG and for all works to be carried out at the same time. It was agreed to contact the neighbouring landowner regarding the trees on the boundary line of the AHRG to discuss responsibility for those works and to split the cost for the works to these trees.

73/26 To review the bus passenger statistics for 2025/26 and to review and approve the Bus Agreement for 2026/27 including the fee:

Members noted the statistics and **RESOLVED** to amend the agreement to request ECT provide passenger statistics and invoice the Council on a 6 monthly basis.

74/26 To review the allotment inspection report from Cllr Logan and to agree any actions:

Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to proceed with the purchase of materials to deal with the encroachment of grass and weeds on the allotment path at a cost of £220.00.

75/26 To consider a response to correspondence received regarding access to the Pennyfarthing development site play area.

It was agreed to respond stating that the Council opposed the planning application for the development site and therefore access to the recreation ground was not granted. It is a condition of the planning application that the boundary hedging remains in place. Clerk to check what was specified by the planning department regarding the removal of hedging on the boundary line and need to replant. With regards to other correspondence received regarding people breaching the fence line, the Clerk will raise this issue with Pennyfarthings as the replanting should assist with preventing this from happening.

76/26 To approve the entertainers and expenditure for the Big Alderholt Fete:

Members approved the entertainers and the cost of £400.00.

77/26 To review and approve the updated Assist Business IT Ltd SLA and Contract:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the updated SLA and Contract.

78/26 To approve the amended Safeguarding Policy:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the policy.



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79/26 To receive an update on attendees for the Annual Parish Meeting:

Clerk reported that guest speakers attending the meeting will be Chairman of the ARA, Big Alderholt Fete, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Cllr Tooke and Two Bridges.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 11th May 2026 Annual Parish Council Meeting

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Assist Business IT Ltd	152.15	30.43	182.58	IT Support
Alderholt Village Hall	2986.00	0.00	2986.00	Office Rental 1 st March – 31 st August
Mr M J Hooper	616.00	123.20	739.20	Replacement of Allotment Posts
ARA	1076.94	215.39	1292.33	Invoice added to last month's agenda but did not include VAT details
Assist Business IT Ltd	219.15	43.83	262.98	IT Support
Staffing Costs	5243.33	0.00	5243.33	March Staffing Costs
Ealing Community Transport Ltd	6630.00	0.00	6630.00	PlusBus Services for 2025-26
Landford Trees Ltd	255.45	2.67	258.12	Replacement trees for Orchard (VAT only charged for delivery service)
Alderholt Parish News	22.50	0.00	22.50	April News Article
Alderholt Sports and Social Club	267.91	53.58	321.49	Electricity Bill for AHRG Lighting Columns for 20 th March 2025 to 27 th March 2026
Dorset Council	1779.44	0.00	1779.44	Dog Bin Servicing
Unity Trust Bank	8.80	0.00	8.80	March Bank Fees



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260413 Dorset Councillor's Report Cranborne & Alderholt Ward

Dorset Council Budget Headlines

- Total budget: £482 million — a record level of spending
- Approximately 60% of spending (around £289m) is directed at care for older people, vulnerable adults, and children
- Council Tax increase of 4.99% — the maximum permitted without a local referendum for a council with social care responsibilities
- For a Band D household, this represents an increase of approximately £2.02 per week compared to 2025/26
- Car parking charges are frozen for a further year — no increase
- Significant investment committed to road improvements and highway safety works

The budget also includes the transition to the Government's new Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), which from 1 April 2026 replaces both the Household Support Fund (HSF) and the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) scheme. Dorset Council has confirmed continuation of critical crisis support services under the new fund.

Highways, Drainage and Flooding

Following further rainfall events in mid and late March, Dorset Council has continued its enhanced drainage and gully-cleansing operations, prioritising areas with a known history of surface-water flooding and recurring highway defects.

- Targeted gully clearing has continued across rural routes feeding into villages, rather than only through main settlements
- Repeat flooding locations remain prioritised over isolated incidents
- Repairs following winter damage are being assessed for permanent solutions, including drainage improvement rather than repeated patching

Parish Councils are advised that **repeat reporting of known hotspots** (rather than single-event defects) continues to be the most effective way to influence programming.

Dorset Council has commenced market engagement for a new Highways Term Service Contract, anticipated to be procured from March 2026, with the contract commencing April 2027. The contract is valued at approximately £200 million over ten years and will cover a wide range of highway maintenance and infrastructure works across the county.

Household Recycling Centres

From Monday 23 March 2026, Dorset Council introduced a booking system at four Household Recycling Centres (HRCs): Dorchester, Wimborne, Shaftesbury, and Sherborne.



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What This Means for Residents

- Dorset Council residents continue to use these four HRCs free of charge
- Bookings can be made online (a few minutes) or by telephone
- Same-day bookings are available in most cases
- Non-Dorset residents visiting these sites are now charged a fee of £8.50 per visit
- The six other Dorset HRCs (Bridport, Swanage, Weymouth, Portland, Wareham, and Blandford) remain open without booking
- The Shaftesbury HRC, the most relevant for many ward residents, is included in the booking system
- Dorset Council are continuing to pay Hampshire County Council so that residents in East Dorset can use the Somerley HRC free of charge

The council's stated rationale is to address financial unsustainability caused by large numbers of non-Dorset residents using the sites at no charge, and to prevent commercial trade waste abuse. Savings of £100,000 per year at Shaftesbury and Sherborne alone have been cited.

Dorset Council Local Plan — Progress

The new Dorset Council Local Plan continues to be prepared. Key milestones:

- The options consultation closed in October 2025. Responses are now being reviewed.
- A further round of public engagement on the full draft plan is expected around August 2026.
- The plan is expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by December 2026.
- Adoption is currently anticipated around May 2027.

Until the new Local Plan is adopted, the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (2014) remains the principal development plan document for the former East Dorset area. The adopted Alderholt Neighbourhood Plan now sits alongside this.

Note: Under the revised National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024), the standard method housing need calculation for Dorset has significantly increased to 3,246 new homes per year (up from 1,793). This will be addressed within the new Local Plan and may influence future development pressures across the ward.

Dorset Revised Housing Allocation Scheme

Dorset Council has published a revised Housing Allocation Scheme, effective from April 2026 (replacing the 2021 scheme). Key points of relevance to parish councils:

- The scheme governs how social rented housing is allocated across the Dorset Council area
- At March 2024, there were 5,406 households on the housing register and approximately 24,000 units of social housing in Dorset
- The scheme includes provisions for 'local letting policies' tied to specific developments — relevant when new affordable housing is built in the parish



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- Parish councils in whose area a new development is proposed must be consulted before a local letting policy is adopted for that site
- Dorset Council owns less than 200 units itself; around 54 registered providers hold the county's social housing stock

EV Charging Infrastructure

Dorset Council has joined forces with BCP Council to install more than 3,000 on-street electric vehicle chargepoints across Dorset over the next five years. The £16.5 million scheme is funded by central government and the private sector.

- Lower-cost on-street charging is intended to support residents ahead of the government's 2030 phase-out of new petrol and diesel car sales
- The scheme is designed to provide greater choice and reduce the cost of EV ownership for residents without off-street parking

While specific locations within the Cranborne and Alderholt Ward have not been publicly announced to date, *parish councils may wish to engage with Dorset Council on the roll-out in rural areas*, where on-street charging provision is currently limited.