



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 8th June 2026 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr A Butler, Cllr S Butler, Cllr S Emberson, Cllr A Hibberd, Cllr G Logan, Cllr M Smethers and Cllr D Tooke

In Attendance: Nicky Ashton (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public

107/26 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

There were no absences.

108/26 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensation:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

109/26 To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 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.

110/26 Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr A Butler wished Cllr Hibberd a happy birthday and informed Cllrs she would be unable to attend the Fete.

111/26 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

The report is attached to these minutes.

112/26 Public Forum

There were no questions or statements.

113/26 Representative Reports:

ARA Meeting – Cllr Smethers attended the recent Quarterly Management Meeting and the minutes of the meeting have been circulated to Cllrs for their information.

114/26 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee:

The minutes were received and noted.

Cllr Tooke left the meeting.

115/26 Clerks Report:

- Received confirmation that the Police carried out speed checks in October 2025 along Station Road, Earlswood Drive and Birchwood Drive. No vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit. The Camera Team will visit again.
- Discussion taken place with resident who would be willing to be part of a Community Speedwatch Group. Dorset Police Community Speedwatch Coordinator has advised cost of Speedwatch equipment is £300 – they would usually look to charge for this about 6 months after the team starts to give us a chance to decide if it is for us and making a difference. Cllrs agreed to place post on Facebook to ask if residents would be willing to form a group.
- Notification received of upcoming temporary road closures on Hillbury Road (11th June), Ringwood Road (1st July) and Batterley Drove (6th July to 8th July).



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- Email received regarding maintenance of heritage fingerposts and offering assistance if required.
- Tree works at the AHRG and the Rifle Range have been scheduled to commence on Wednesday 17th and should be completed by Tuesday 23 June.
- Response to Local Elections Boundaries in Dorset consultation has been submitted with suggested amendments.
- PlusBus agreement amended as agreed at April meeting and has been signed by ECT.
- The Dorset Council Public & Community Transport Officer has offered to put the PlusBus scheme on their website – agreed.
- Received two co-option application forms so far for the councillor vacancies.
- Email received regarding parking of HGVs on Ringwood Road.
- Email received requesting speed traps and traffic calming measures on Birchwood Drive and highlighting street lighting issues. Responded pointing out Council has no authority to install speed traps or other measures and advised they contact Dorset Council.
- Email received to inform the Parish Council that a resident is willing to replace the dead tree at the orchard.
- Volunteer who offered to carry out maintenance works to the bench in the play area will be carrying out the works before the summer holidays.

116/26 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 except for the payment to renew the Geosphere Ltd subscription as it was felt their services would not be required for this financial year. Cllr Hibberd was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To receive the May bank reconciliation.
Members received and approved the bank reconciliation.

117/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025-2026 (Financial Year Ending 31st March 2026):

(i) To receive the final Internal Audit Report for 2025-2026:

Cllrs received and noted the report. The Internal Auditor carried out necessary checks to ensure the Council has adhered to the requirements set out in the Accountability and Governance for Smaller Authorities which ensures that compliance with proper practices is maintained. A full check was also carried out on the End of Year documentation provided by the Parish Clerk to confirm the accuracy of the details to be submitted to the External Auditor including new assertion 10 requirements. The report confirmed all the necessary requirements have been met and the End of Year documentation was accurate.

(ii) To confirm there is no conflict of interest with BDO being our external audit and for individual Cllrs to confirm they have no individual interests to declare:

It was confirmed that there is no conflict of interest and all Cllrs confirmed they had no individual interests to declare.

(iii) To approve Section 1 of the AGAR - Annual Governance Statement for submission to the Parish Council's External Auditors:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve section 1 which confirms the Council has complied with all the governance statements.

(iv) To approve Section 2 of the AGAR - Accounting Statements and to approve the Statement of Variances for submission to the Parish Council's External Auditors:



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Members **RESOLVED** to approve Section 2 and the Statement of Variances.

- (v) **Exercise of Public Rights – To approve the dates of 16th June to 27th July as the period for the Exercise of Public Rights:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the dates.

- 118/26 To receive the Dorset Council Speed Reduction Assessment relating to the recent traffic survey requested by the Parish Council on Ringwood Road and to agree a response to the proposal to extend the 30mph speed limits on Ringwood Road and Hillbury Road following concerns from residents and the Parish Council about pedestrian safety and speeding in both these areas:**

Members **RESOLVED** to agree with Dorset Council's proposal to extend the 30mph speed limits on Ringwood Road and Hillbury Road. The Council is very grateful that the residents and the Parish Council's concerns about both roads were acknowledged and action is being taken and it was agreed to thank the officer who has been dealing with the matter.

- 119/26 To receive an update regarding the public requests for crossings on Park Lane and Daggons Road:**

Dorset Council's Sustainable Transport Officer (STO) and an engineer carried out a site visit in April to assess Park Lane. The site does meet the criteria for a build out which would be positioned outside the school, once Dorset Council has an agreed design they will contact us. It is important to note that if the works do proceed it may take some time to complete due to number of schemes being built over the summer holidays directly affecting schools. Daggons Road has not yet been agreed, the STO has looked into the site and had in depth discussions with school transport re the dropping off of students in the area. The width of the road is an issue which limits what could be done. Dorset Council are currently considering if there are any safe options for the site.

- 120/26 To consider the response received from Atlas Towers regarding the positioning of a shareable telecoms mast in the area to assist with mobile phone coverage:**

Members accepted the reasons given in the response as to why the specific site was chosen and agreed to accept the proposal of installing a shareable telecoms mast at the site.

- 121/26 To discuss Dorset Council's Community Flood Review and to agree flooding issues within the village which need to be highlighted:**

It was agreed that maintenance is a major issue and culverts need cleaning on an annual basis to assist with preventing flooding issues. Details have been sent previously to Dorset Council highlighting the areas where flooding is an issue and the suspected reasons for this. It was agreed to send this information again and to approach Cllr Tooke in his capacity as Dorset Councillor to enquire who the information should be sent to and to also include in the information non road related ditch issues which impact areas such as the recreation ground.

- 122/26 To consider responding to the Dorset Council Community Emergency Response Plan (CERP) Survey:**

It was agreed that Cllr S Butler and the Clerk compile a response to the survey.

- 123/26 To approve Cllr Logan's response to the new Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan consultation.**

Cllr Logan reported that she had reviewed the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan (SNP)



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Addendum to the Basic Conditions Statement, which is required to ensure compliance with the Basic Conditions under Sections 98 and 99 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, effective from March 2026. The addendum addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation, local nature recovery strategies, and housing supply. The resulting amendments relate to supporting text and policy updates rather than the Plan's core principles, and they have no material impact on Alderholt. For this reason, she did not consider it necessary to respond to the consultation. Members agreed that a response was not necessary.

124/26 To receive an update on the Fete preparations and to agree any actions.

A stallholders meeting has taken place and information about the set ups on the day has been circulated to all stallholders including a site map for all the stalls. Marshals are required and Cllrs were asked to assist. It was agreed to combine the Parish Council stall with the AED stall which will be manned by Cllr Smethers and to pay for posters to place on the stall to assist with encouraging residents to engage with the Parish Council.

125/26 To consider a request to put a link on the Parish Council's website to the Alderholt Archives website:

Members agreed to the request to add the link to the website.

126/26 To approve the addition of Cllr Smethers as an administrator of the Parish Council's Facebook page:

Members approved the addition of Cllr Smethers.

127/26 To agree attendance at Cllr surgery for 18th July, 15th August and 19th September.

It was agreed that Cllr S Butler attend in July, Cllr Smethers in August and Cllr Logan in September.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.39pm

Date of next meeting – Monday 27th July 2026.

(i) Schedule of Monthly Payments for Approval

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Assist Business IT Ltd	158.40	31.68	190.08	IT Support
BT	231.66	46.33	277.99	Telephone Bill (Direct Debit)
Unity Trust Bank	9.10	0.00	9.10	April Bank Charges
Staffing Costs	5232.81	0.00	5232.81	May Staffing Costs
David Scates	270.00	0.00	270.00	Fete Banners and Posters
ARA	1076.92	215.38	1292.30	SLA Agreement 1 st July Payment
Dorset Council	295.00	59.00	354.00	Ringwood Road Speed Survey
Lightatouch	350.00	0.00	350.00	End of Year Internal Audit
Loos 2 Go Ltd	360.00	72.00	432.00	Portable Toilets for the Fete
N Jones	101.74	0.00	101.74	Reimbursement for Planting of Flowers Boxes
Geosphere Ltd (Parish Online)	200.00	40.00	240.00	Parish Online Mapping Software



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260608 Dorset Councillor's Report for Alderholt Parish Council

1. Transport and Highways

Dorset Council is progressing a new Local Transport Plan (2026–2041) which will directly affect rural communities in East Dorset. The plan prioritises:

- Safer and more reliable journeys
- Improved walking, cycling and public transport access
- Reduced congestion and emissions across both rural and urban areas

This is supported by significant anticipated investment, with up to £158.5 million in transport funding (2026–2030) and a wider strategy that may see up to £115 million

2. Housing and Development

Dorset Council continues to support affordable housing delivery in East Dorset, notably through the *First Homes Scheme*.

- New properties in Alderholt (Oakwood Grove) and Verwood provide discounted homes (minimum 30% below market value) for first-time buyers and key workers
- The scheme is designed to retain local residents, support the rural workforce, and sustain community cohesion

In addition:

- Ongoing planning activity across East Dorset includes small-scale residential extensions, conversions, and incremental development across settlements such as Ferndown, West Moors and nearby villages.
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3. Environment and Climate Initiatives

Recent Dorset Council activity highlights a growing focus on environmental management and climate resilience, including:

- Introduction of innovative tools (e.g. robotic solutions) to combat harmful invasive species affecting agriculture and biodiversity).
 - Testing of low-carbon materials and sustainable methods in highway maintenance such as recycled plantings and warm asphalt mix
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4. Waste and Service Delivery

Dorset Council is preparing a new waste and recycling framework for highways operations (from 2026), covering disposal and recycling of materials such as road planings and green waste.

More broadly, the Council continues to review service delivery, including:

- Efficiency improvements in waste services
- Ongoing transformation of council operations and use of digital systems

Overall Summary:

Dorset Council's current programme emphasises long-term infrastructure investment, sustainable transport, affordable housing delivery, and environmental resilience. While much policy is county-wide, several initiatives—particularly housing schemes in Alderholt, transport planning, and nearby Ferndown improvements—are directly relevant to the parish and warrant ongoing monitoring and engagement.