



Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 27th July 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), D Agent and A Roche (co-option applicants) and 1 member of the public.

128/26 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

There were no absences.

129/26 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

130/26 To approve the amended Co-option policy:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the policy.

131/26 To consider two applications received for co-option to fill the two Councillor vacancies:

The applications received from D Agent and A Roche were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Both applicants were invited to introduce themselves and explain why they wished to become members of the Council. Following their presentations, Councillors were invited to ask any questions; no questions were raised.

Members **RESOLVED** to co-opt both applicants to fill the two Council vacancies. The successful applicants signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

132/26 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 8th June 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.

133/26 Chairman's Announcements:

There were no announcements.

134/26 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

The report is attached to these minutes. The report and the Dorset Council Local Plan was discussed as Government changes to many aspects of planning means Dorset Council is unable to prepare a sound Local Plan under the previous system. A proposal to use the new system is to be discussed at Cabinet meeting being held tomorrow. Dorset Council has advised DAPTC they will schedule a webinar for parish and town councils. Date to be confirmed.

135/26 Public Forum:

There were no questions or statements.

136/26 Representative Reports:

Village Hall – Cllr Logan attended village hall meeting last month.
Bookings generally holding up well with a couple of wedding receptions this summer.
Finances are stable, the kitchen shutter has been powder coated white – this is vast



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improvement on the bare aluminium. Proceeding with the drainage upgrade.

Bleak Hill/Hamer Warren Liaison Panel – Cllr Logan attended meeting last week
Sales slightly increased in the last six months. Lack of water is an issue re the washing process. Work at Bleak Hill 3 paused due to breeding sand martins. Restoration work progressing at Bleak Hill 2. Much of the meeting spent discussing the legacy issue of gates across footpath 23 in the site. Lessons learnt from this will be carried across to Midgham application – best to divert all footpaths around an operational site.

137/26 To receive the minutes of the latest Planning Committee and Finance Committee Meetings:

The minutes were received and noted.

138/26 Clerks Report:

- A thank you letter has been received from Citizens Advice East Dorset and Purbeck for the community grant.
- DAPTC meeting attended where Council's being part of the second Age Friendly Dorset cohort was discussed, will add to September's agenda to consider being part of the cohort.
- Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation - The council launched a three-month consultation on Tuesday 21 July on the draft Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2026 to 2036. Dorset Council wants to hear from residents about how routes could be managed over the next decade. To be added to September's agenda to agree whether or not to respond to the consultation.
- Community Conversation Sessions have started to be held. No date as yet for our cluster group. Each cluster will hold two main sessions: the first session, during July/August/September, will bring partners together to share, learn, and explore opportunities. In the second session in the autumn, partners will work together to design local improvements
- Dorset Council Parking Review – there are two briefing sessions being held this week.
- Recreation ground and Rifle Range tree works completed.
- East Dorset Environment Partnership - At a recent meeting of the Management Committee, it was decided unanimously to wind up the Partnership and return all remaining funds to those town and parish councils who contributed to their running costs. The refunds will be based on the proportion each council contributed: the amount due to us is £16.51.
- Email received from Dorset Police Fraud Protection Officer - Dorset residents can access Ask Damian, a new unique fraud prevention service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from Dorset Police. Details on our website.
- Email received from South Western Ambulance Charity asking for a donation of £300 to help fund a vehicle for their Volunteers so that they can attend ambulance emergency calls. They are approaching all Parish Councils across Dorset for £300.
- Currently having a problem with the printer which may need to be replaced.

139/26 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 the June bank reconciliation and confirmation of quarterly check (Qtr 1):



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Members received and approved the bank reconciliation and Cllr A Butler confirmed she 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 1:
Members noted the report and that the recent tree works will exceed the set tree budget.
- To add Cllr Smethers as a bank signatory:
It was agreed not to add another signatory at the current time and to review signatories at the next Annual Parish Council meeting.
- To receive an update on the AGAR 2025-26
No communications have been received from the external auditor as yet. The notice of public rights ended today.

140/26 To consider a request from the ARA for CIL monies to pay for drainage works at the recreation ground:

Members **RESOLVED** to pay for the drainage works using CIL monies at a cost of £2115 and to request that a silt trap be included within the agreed cost.

141/26 To receive quotes for replacement of assistant clerk's laptop:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the quote received from Assist IT to replace the laptop at a cost of £680 including VAT and to ensure the old laptop is cleared of all data.

142/26 To receive an update on public responses received regarding the setting up of a Speedwatch team and to consider proceeding with the setting up of a team:

Five members of the public have confirmed they would be willing to be part of a village Speedwatch team. Members **RESOLVED** to proceed with the setting up of a team and to approach Dorset Police to check if there is a time period for teams to inform them when they intend to go out to carry out the speed checks and to inform them of the two suggested sites for checks to be carried out which are Station Road close to the Reading Room and Earlswood Drive opposite Saxon Way. It was agreed that Cllr Smethers would start the process.

143/26 To review the Memorial Policy:

The policy was reviewed and it was agreed that no amendments were required.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.28pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 14th September 2026.

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Assist Business IT	158.40	31.68	190.08	IT Support
Viking	31.09	6.22	37.31	Stationery
Staffing Costs	5232.81	0.00	5232.81	June Staffing Costs
ARA	199.96	0.00	199.96	Grant Application
Citizens Advice in East Dorset and Purbeck	200.00	0.00	200.00	Grant Application
Housden Business Forms	31.00	6.20	37.20	Parish Council Fete Posters



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Chris Connaughton	100.00	0.00	100.00	Fete Entertainment
Nia Nicholls	100.00	0.00	100.00	Fete Entertainment
Geosphere Ltd (Parish Online)	140.00	28.00	168.00	Parish Online Mapping Software
Dorset Council	2596.00	519.20	3115.20	Recreation Ground Tree Works
Dorset Council	1700.00	340.00	2040.00	Old Rifle Range Tree Works
Harlequin Band Ltd	200.00	0.00	200.00	Fete Entertainment
Assist Business IT	158.40	31.68	190.08	IT Support
ARA	2298.00	459.60	2757.60	Annual Maintenance Grant
Alderholt Sports and Social Club	267.24	53.45	320.69	Fete First Aiders and Bin Provision



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260727 Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

1. Transport and Road Safety

Road safety has been a significant focus for Dorset Council across the Eastern Area during the past month. Whilst not directly affecting residents locally there are improvements in areas very close by that may impact us when travelling.

Ferndown and West Parley

- Dorset Council announced a reduction in the speed limit on sections of New Road and Christchurch Road from 40mph to 30mph. The change is intended to improve safety for residents, pedestrians and cyclists and is due to be implemented during summer 2026.

Lytchett Minster

- The council has approved measures to improve pedestrian safety on the B3067 Dorchester Road, including a new crossing point and lower speed limits. The scheme is particularly aimed at improving safety for pupils travelling to and from school.

Wimborne

- The temporary traffic management arrangements on Julian's Bridge have been reviewed, with the council ending the footway and traffic signal trial early and restoring normal two-way traffic from 18 June. The decision followed monitoring and assessment of the trial's impacts, which demonstrated an unacceptable impact on traffic in the town.

Looking Ahead

- Dorset Council's forward programme includes consideration of a Department for Transport e-scooter rental trial, with Upton and Corfe Mullen identified as a potential pilot area. If approved, this could have implications for local transport planning and road safety in eastern Dorset.

2. Wildfire Prevention and Environmental Protection

With periods of exceptionally warm and dry weather, Dorset Council has increased its focus on wildfire prevention.



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- Dorset Council and Litter Free Dorset jointly called on retailers to suspend sales of disposable barbecues during periods of extreme heat and heightened wildfire risk. The initiative is intended to protect Dorset's countryside, heathland habitats and nearby communities from accidental fires.
 - The council has continued wider environmental management work, including the deployment of innovative technology including autonomous robot weeders to tackle invasive plant species and support habitat management across the county.
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3. Adult Social Care

Several county-wide adult social care initiatives have been launched or expanded during the reporting period.

Greater Choice in Care Services

- From 1 July, Dorset Council expanded its Individual Service Fund arrangements, enabling eligible residents to exercise greater choice and flexibility in how their care and support services are delivered. Under this arrangement, people who are eligible for council-funded care can choose to have their personal care budget managed by their care provider on their behalf, while retaining influence over how the funding is used. The approach is designed to provide greater flexibility than traditional commissioned services, enabling individuals to shape support around their own needs and preferences while reducing the administrative burden associated with managing a direct payment. Dorset Council reports that the expansion will give more residents greater choice and control over their care arrangements.

Support for Unpaid Carers

- A new hospital discharge pilot has been introduced to identify unpaid carers at an earlier stage and provide access to practical advice and support services.
- Dorset Council has also promoted the enhanced "Bridgit" digital support platform, providing carers with improved access to information, guidance and support at any time. Available online 24 hours a day, the service uses AI-supported technology to help unpaid carers access personalised information, local support services, benefits advice, wellbeing resources and emergency planning tools. The platform is intended to make it easier for carers to find appropriate support without lengthy referrals or searches across multiple organisations.