Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 12th October 2026 in the Committee Room at Alderholt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr D Agent, Cllr A Butler, Cllr S Butler, Cllr A Hibberd, Cllr G Logan and Cllr M Smethers.

In Attendance: Nicky Ashton (Parish Clerk).

166/26 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr Emberson, Cllr Roche and Cllr Tooke. Members **RESOLVED** to accept their reasons for absence.

167/26 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

Cllr Hibberd declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 183/26 as he is a trustee of the village hall.

168/26 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 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.

169/26 Chairman's Announcements:

There were no announcements.

170/26 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:

The report was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached to these minutes.

171/26 Public Forum:

There were no members of the public present.

172/26 Representative Reports:

No reports received.

173/26 To receive the minutes of the latest Planning Committee meeting:

The minutes were received and noted.

174/26 Clerks Report:

- Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line Refurbishment - Notification received from National Grid re the works they will be undertaking in our parish from this month. These works are related to the refurbishment of the pylon located just south of Daggons road and opposite Kingswood Day Nursery in Alderholt.
- Proposed Temporary Closure of Broomfield Drive - Wessex Water Services to close Broomfield Drive, Alderholt between 23 Broomfield Drive and 29a Broomfield Drive to allow Wessex Water Services to carry out sewer rehabilitation works. Works are programmed to commence from 30th November until 2nd December.
- Proposed Temporary Closure of Batterley Drove - essential highway maintenance works to be carried out, they plan to close Batterley Drove between 4th and 6th November. The road will be closed daily, between the hours of 09:00 and 16:00, and will be re-opened to traffic overnight and at weekends.

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- Timber Harvesting and Forest Management – email received notifying us of some planned overdue forestry works along the lane at the far end of track beyond Blackwater Grove.
- Complaint received regarding bike night at the Churchill Arms explained that Council does not have the authority to deal with the issues raised but would inform the police of bikes potentially exceeding speed limit and driving dangerously.
- The bins at the recreation ground weren't emptied on Thursday and the dog bins were overflowing again. Emails have been received to raise the issue and request it be added to an agenda for discussion so will add to next month's agenda. Cllr Tooke was contacted on Thursday to raise the issue with Dorset Council and apparently, they had an issue with staff shortages last week but did come out and empty them on Friday.

175/26 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:
  The drainage works did not include a silt trap, a quote will be obtained for consideration. Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments and Cllr Logan was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To receive the Sept bank reconciliation and confirmation of quarterly check (Qtr 2):
  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 2:
  Members noted the report and that the allotment water budget will be exceeded this year as well as the tree works budget. As no budget was set for the speeding survey on Ringwood Road which was agreed to be carried out as requested by residents the funds have come from the general reserves.

176/26 To receive an invitation to attend the Remembrance Sunday Service on 8th November and to ratify the purchase of a wreath:
It was agreed that either the Chair or Vice Chair will attend the service and lay the wreath. Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the purchase of the wreath.

177/26 To consider responding to the LGBC consultation on draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Dorset Dorset | LGBCE:
Members **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation to thank LGBC for noting the Council's response to the initial consultation and to acknowledge their reasoning for transferring Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands into Cranborne Chase Ward.

178/26 To consider responding to the Dorset Council Local Plan Scoping Consultation
Dorset Council Local Plan: Scoping consultation 2026 - Dorset Council
Cllr Logan had compiled a response to the consultation which was circulated prior to the meeting. Members **RESOLVED** to accept her suggested response and thanked her for her work. Clerk to submit response.

179/26 To consider allotment tenant queries raised regarding:

- allotment path fencing:
  Cllr Logan provided a report on the fencing and it was agreed that fences must be retained between the plots for demarcation purposes. Fences parallel to the central path must be present where there's a ditch running parallel to the central path. Where

drainage ditches are at right angles to the path and close to it there must be a suitable covering extending beyond the verge so as to meet Health and Safety requirements. Members **RESOLVED** that these points are to be added to next year's tenancy agreement.

- allowing dogs on site:
  The current tenancy agreement states that "No dogs are allowed in the Allotment Gardens for Health and Safety reasons except certified Guide dogs and Assistance dogs". Members **RESOLVED** that dogs should still not be allowed on site and the tenancy agreement will therefore remain the same.

180/26 To receive a report regarding Community Flood Review and to agree any actions:
The Clerk reported on meeting attended with Cllr Tooke and the Principal Flood Risk Officer for South West Flood and Coastal who visited the area to review it as part of the Dorset Council Community Flood Review. It was suggested to consider putting together a Flood Plan. It was agreed to put together a plan mainly to encourage people to report any issues directly to Dorset Council and include their contact details in the plan. Clerk to put together a plan for review at the next meeting.

181/26 To consider applying for Dorset Community Transport Grant to assist with funding the PlusBus Shuttle:
Members **RESOLVED** to apply for the grant.

182/26 To consider carrying out works to the recreation ground pathway lighting as the lights are not working due to an issue with the sensor and time clock:
Members **RESOLVED** to carry out the required works to address the issue with the sensor and time clock at a quoted cost of £280.00 (inc VAT).

183/26 To consider installing air conditioning within the council office subject to permission being granted by the landlord:
It was agreed not to go ahead with the installation at the current time but just to consider having the works done. It was agreed to obtain written confirmation from the village hall committee that works could be carried out at some point and to include a budget heading for potential works in next years budget

184/26 To consider arrangements for this year's Christmas tree including possible requirement to purchase a tree:
Cllr Hibberd confirmed that a tree will be donated and it was agreed to put the tree up on Monday 23rd November and Cllr Logan together with a resident will decorate the tree.

185/26 To consider responding to the Consultation on the review of the Governance and Accountability of Category 2 Authorities:
This consultation is the second stage of a wider review of the governance, accountability and accounting framework for smaller (Category 2) authorities. The review is being carried out by CIPFA on behalf of SAPPP, with support from Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (SAAA) and feedback is being sought on two proposed documents:

- **Proper-Practices-Code (2).pdf**
- **The-Code-of-Practice-for-Internal-Audit-of-Category-2-Authorities-(England).pdf**

Members **RESOLVED** to delegate the compiling of a response to the Clerk and the Chair of Finance.

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186/26 To review the Data Protection Policy:
Policy reviewed and it was agreed no amendments required at this current time.

187/26 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC- In accordance with Standing Order 3(d) to RESOLVE that in view of the confidential nature of the following business items (staffing matters) the press and public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended by the local Government Act 1972 s.100) – No members of the public or press were present.

188/26 To receive a report from the Staffing Committee on the recently held meeting which included staff appraisals.
A report was given on the staff appraisals and the NJC payrise for 2026-27 and the staff were thanked for their work.

With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Date of next meeting – Monday 9th November 2026.

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	3585.02	0.00	3585.02	Annual Insurance Premium (includes insurance premium tax & fee)
Assist Business IT	228.40	45.68	274.08	IT Support and Laptop Setup
Groundwise	2115.00	423.00	2538.00	Recreation Ground Drainage Works
Alderholt Parish News	15.00	0.00	15.00	Sept Article
Staffing Costs	6295.58	0.00	6295.58	Sept Staffing Costs
Vision ICT	300.70	60.14	360.84	Website Hosting and SSL Certificate
Unity Trust Bank	13.45	0.00	13.45	Bank charges Sept
Royal British Legion	28.00	0.00	28.00	Purchase of Remembrance Wreath
Vision ICT	25.00	5.00	30.00	Annual Domain Renewal Fee
Receipts				
Dorset Council			53692.60	Precept

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