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

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

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

189/26 To receive and accept apologies for absence:
There were no absences.

190/26 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:
There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

191/26 To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 12th October 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.

192/26 Chairman's Announcements:
There were no formal announcements.

193/26 To receive a written report from Dorset Councillor Dave Tooke:
The report was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached to these minutes.

194/26 Public Forum:
There were no questions or statements.

195/26 Representative Reports:
Cllr Logan reported on the recent Bleak Hill/Hamer Warren liaison Panel Meeting attended. Bleak Hill 3 has now been totally stripped and excavation in progress in areas 17 onwards, infill is in progress. There may be a requirement for an extension, in order to complete the restoration of Bleak Hill 3 but time frame not known as yet. Situation to resolve the gates issue regarding footpath 23 is progressing.
Cllr Logan also reported on the Village Hall AGM & Management Meeting attended on 26th Oct. A challenging year but bookings holding their own, the monthly market is looking good for the last two months of this year. The drains issue has been rectified, and new posts for the porch installed outside the committee room. Looking to 2027 there will be an increase in hire rates – the first since 2018. The kitchen project has had a setback in that a new supplier will have to be found, but a lot has been learnt so far regarding the project. Further grant funding is still being sought.
Cllr S Butler, Cllr A Butler and the Clerk reported on the Community Conversation Session attended in October. Cllr A Butler pointed out during the session that it was important for Dorset Council to come out and inspect unsafe roads rather than just looking at maps of areas. The Clerk pointed out that it would be beneficial for Dorset Council to liaise with Hampshire Council with regards to road closures to ensure there isn't an issue with residents being able to leave the village.

196/26 Clerks Report:
- All consultations responded to as agreed at last month's meeting.
- Applied for the Community Transport Grant, initially applied for £2500.00 but requested it

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be increased to £5616.00, as there was a heading stating that you could apply for revenue costs of up to £20,000 if you match fund 20%. The total cost for this year's bus service will be £7020.00 so we will match fund 20% as requested which would be £1404.00.

- Pathway lighting works completed and invoice received.
- Annual meeting with ARA taking place on Thursday regarding the SLA for the AHRG
- Had a Meeting call with SGN regarding works due to be carried out on Alderholt Road Main Road and Station Road in Sandleheath/Fordingbridge. SGN engineers will be completing essential gas main replacement on these roads.
- Email received from MP Simon Hoare inviting all Clerks and Councillors to a Local Councillor and MP Forum on Friday 20th November at 10.30am at the Corn Exchange in Blandford Forum.
- Email received from Aureos about work being carried out for their client SSEN on Kent Road. Works scheduled to commence today and are expected to continue for just over three weeks, with completion anticipated by Monday 30 November 2026.
- Email received from DAPTC regarding the Community Emergency Response Plans.
- Contacted Pennyfarthings about the infill planting at the AHRG which was due to take place October or November 2026, as no works carried out as yet.

197/26 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 Hibberd was appointed as the authorised councillor for payments until the next meeting.
- To receive the October bank reconciliation:
  Members received and approved the bank reconciliation.

198/26 To receive the Internal Audit report and to note the independence of the appointed internal auditor:

It was noted that the audit did not identify any procedural errors requiring reporting to the external auditor, nor were any material weaknesses observed in internal controls that would pose a risk to public funds. The auditor was pleased to report that overall, the systems and procedures currently in place are appropriate and effective. The report did include some recommendations, which were noted. They are intended to support the continued development of what is, in their view, a well-managed and robust governance framework.

The independence of the internal auditor was reviewed with regard to personal independence, financial independence and professional independence and it was noted that the auditor and the firm are independent and there is no conflict of interests.

199/26 To consider requests received regarding additional dog bins or the emptying of the bins twice weekly:

There is an issue with household waste being placed in bins causing them to overflow. It was agreed to look into moving bins from areas where they are not used as much to the two areas where there are issues with overflowing bins, the two areas being Birchwood Drive and the Amanda Harris Recreation Ground. This was agreed rather than paying for more bins to be installed and the emptying of bins twice weekly which would be unlikely to happen. Clerk to contact Dorset Council to enquire if bins can be moved.

Cllr Hibberd left the meeting at 8.10pm.

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200/26 To consider the installation of additional seating benches in the village:
Cllr Roche has been approached by residents requesting additional benches. It was agreed to obtain some prices for benches and to contact Dorset Council to ask if the Parish Council would be given permission to install benches on their land before deciding whether or not to actually install any benches.

201/26 To consider responding to Fordingbridge Draft Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 14 Consultation:
Cllr Logan had compiled a response which she read out at the meeting and Members **RESOLVED** to submit her response. Response attached to these minutes.

202/26 To consider taking part in St James' Church Christmas Tree Festival:
It was agreed not to take part this year as the Council have already arranged the putting up of a Christmas tree at the village hall.

203/26 To receive the PlusBus Shuttle passenger numbers for 1st April 26 – 30th Sept 26:
Passenger numbers were noted, and it was agreed that the service should be advertised more widely, taking into account current fuel prices, to raise awareness among residents and encourage greater use and support of the service.

204/26 To consider the quotation received for the installation of a silt trap for the new drainage installed at the recreation ground:
As the ARA requested the drainage be installed, it was agreed to contact them to seek their views on installing a silt trap and if installed ensure they would clear and maintain it.

205/26 To approve the newly compiled Flood Plan as discussed at the last meeting:
As the Plan has not yet been completed this item was deferred to the next meeting.

206/26 To ratify the decision made regarding Dorset Council's proposal to extend the 30mph speed limit on Daggons Road:
Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision to support Dorset Council's proposal.

207/26 To consider any budget item requirements for 2027/2028 which will be considered when the budget setting process takes place at the November Finance Meeting:
Requirements put forward for consideration when setting the budget were funds for community bench, play equipment works, tree works, Clerk's laptop replacement and to maintain the earmarked reserves for the PlusBus service.

With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Date of next meeting – Monday 14th December 2026.

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

Payable To	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
Gina Logan	43.30	0.00	43.30	Travelling Expenses
Staffing Costs	5409.94	0.00	5409.94	Oct Staffing Costs

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Assist Business IT	1257.12	251.42	1508.54	IT Support and Microsoft Office 365 Renewal
Unity Trust Bank	9.55	0.00	9.55	Bank charges Oct
Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd	344.90	68.98	413.88	Internal Audit
Alderholt Allotment Association	30.00	0.00	30.00	Allotment Subs
Ealing Community Transport	3645.00	0.00	3645.00	PlusBus Shuttle 1st Apr – 30 Sept
Receipts				
Allotment Fees			1041.00	
CIL Monies			1174.83	

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