**DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting**

**held on Monday April 7th at 7.30pm**

**The Fountain Room, Alderbury Village Hall**

Alderbury Parish Council has signed the [Civility Pledge](https://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/civility-and-respect.html#the-pledge)

Alderbury Parish Council has adopted a [forward plan](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Policy%20and%20Documents/Adopted%20forward%20plan%20Feb%202025.pdf) which will inform their decisions

**Present:** Councillors John Fuller (JF) Chair, Mike Dent (MD), Kim Diprose (KD), Elaine Hartford (EH), Mike Huntley (MH), Mel Lawrence (ML), Colin Roberts (CR), Mike Sneddon (MS), Alex Wilkinson (AW) – arrived 8pm

**In attendance**: Liz Holland (Clerk), WC Richard Britton (RB) and 3 members of the public

**Public open time**

* A resident who lives on Pembroke Gardens said that he has heard that the developer has been in contact with the Longford Estate about his flooding problems. Cllr Britton confirmed he has asked WC to get involved.
1. **ACCEPT reports from**
	1. PC Kelvin Ramsey – his written report was read – nothing new to report
	2. WC Cllr Britton reported
		1. National Lottery funding for the youth worker project has been secured and the chosen contractor SMASH will be starting work very soon

All councillors joined Cllr Fuller as he thanked Cllr Britton for many years of service to Alderbury as a parish councillor, a district councillor and, latterly, as a unitary councillor. He has attended perhaps 300 meetings of the parish council over those years! He was sent off with very best wishes from all.

1. Apologies for absence were **ACCEPTED** from Cllr Sloan for the reasons given
2. **RECEIVE** Declarations of Councillors’ Interests and Dispensations relating to matters on this agenda – Cllr Dent said he has a personal interest in the matters to be discussed at 6.25 c. He will comment but not vote.

1. The [minutes of the meeting held on](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/Meetings_Agendas__and__Minutes_34465.aspx) March 13th 2025 were **APPROVED** and signed. ￼
2. **REVIEWED** the action log – updates were completed during the meeting

**Office 365** – migration of email has been smooth. All are trying to learn to use Teams

1. **Planning**
	1. **RESPONDED** to:
		1. [PL/2025/03038 Old Rectory House tree work](https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000DUY1Z/pl202503038) in a conservation area – refer to the tree officer
	2. **NOTED** [PL/2025/02984](https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000DTex4IAD/pl202502984) work on trees with TPOs on the Avon Drive estate (per tree report – our submission)
	3. **Land East of Wagtails**
		1. The Heritage Homes consultation March 15th was attended by several councillors and residents. Views were mixed on how constructive it was.
		2. **The** [report on affordable housing](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Council%20documents/2025-26/Affordable%20homes.docx) was reviewed but no consensus was reached about what is needed in Alderbury. All the options in the report seem desirable. Discussed the possibility of a Housing Needs Survey (HNS) but there are reservations. **ACTION: ML to follow up on what a HNS would entail and what information will be provided, clerk to add the Rural Housing Enabling Scheme to the report**
		3. **AGREED** next steps
			* Publicise the May 13th meeting as an opportunity for residents to come along and comment on current proposals and the Council’s responses **ACTION: clerk**
			* Draft a letter to the planning officer of matters discussed today – Cllr Britton will find out who is taking the case on **ACTION: clerk**
				1. Net biodiversity gain *in the village* is important
				2. Biodiversity loss could be mitigated by reducing the density & by widening the green strip around the edge of the site
				3. Housing mix to include more affordable options
				4. Plot 22 needs to be turned to respect the privacy of an existing property
				5. Density seems out of keeping with surrounding developments – it is important to maintain a sense of the village’s rural identity
				6. Develop a ‘walk to school route’ incorporating ALDE20
				7. Is car parking provision adequate?
				8. How does the development conform to WC core policies 51, 52 & 57?
			* Send a letter to the planning officer following the May meeting consultation before application details begin to be decided **ACTION: agenda**

1. **Matters of community interest**
	1. **CONSIDER** communications from residents
		1. **NOTED** [reply from Historical railways engineer, Alistair Dore on the bridleway closure](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Council%20documents/2025-26/correspondence.pdf)
	2. The Annual Parish Meeting 27.3.25 was attended by about 40 residents. Minutes to follow **ACTION: clerk**
	3. **NOTED TPO/2024/00032** Land adjacent to the Three Crown has been granted
2. **Highways**
	1. **UPDATE** on flood recording system – Cllr Dent will attend the next WC flood risk meeting on April 16th and report back. The flooding@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk email address has been set up and will be publicised in The Fountain in May and on Facebook next time there is heavy rain **ACTION: clerk, MD, agenda**
	2. **REPORT** any gullies for clearance – spreadsheet updated **ACTION: clerk to submit**

1. **Village maintenance issues**
	1. **REPORT on** new & existing issuesfrom Cllr Hartford
		1. Moss has been cleared from pavements at Wicher’s Meadow
		2. The former telephone box (now book exchange) needs a clean before the Best Kept Village judges come **ACTION: EH**
		3. A road direction sign at the southern end of the village reported on MYWILTS has still not been replaced
		4. A vehicle has been parked for some time on the verge in Priory Close **ACTION: clerk to write to the owner (EH to provide contact details)**
		5. The posts around the village green have been repaired and replaced
	2. **REPORT** new issues to Cllr Hartford for inclusion on the parish steward’s list - none
2. **Finance & IT**
	1. **NOTED** the [bank balances at 31.3.25](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Accounts/2024-25/Mar%2031st%202025.pdf) and Cllr Fuller signed the reconciliation
	2. **NOTED** the [accounts at 31.3.25](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Accounts/2024-25/at%20year%20end%2031.3.25.pdf)
	3. **APPROVED** the [schedule of payments and invoices received](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Accounts/2025-26/payments%20Apr%202025.pdf)
	4. **UPDATE** on the pre-school grant application – Cllr Fuller went to visit the site and recommends the application for £3,000 is approved. **ALL AGREED ACTION: clerk**
3. **The playground, recreation ground, The Pavilion and youth activities**
	1. There were no [recommendations from the inspections summary](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Council%20documents/2025-26/inspections%20summary.pdf)
		1. Cllr Roberts asked about a bolt which needs replacing which Cllr Huntley said he would have a look at  **ACTION: MH**
		2. Cllr Roberts asked about the EPDM shrinkage at the junior swings
	2. Youth activities – see above for SMASH involvement. Some local clerks/councillors met the Salisbury City Council clerk to discuss if they would like to be a part of the project
	3. The table tennis table and climbing net have been ordered
4. **Reports and consultations**
	1. Local Nature Recovery Strategy – this is a 25 year plan nearing adoption. It is in its final formal consultation phase and due for adoption in July. If adopted, it will greatly increase the biodiversity net gain to be asked of developers
5. **The Fountain magazine –** how to report on My Wilts, invitation to attend the May meeting if there are comments on the Wagtails development, thanks to Cllr Britton, flood reporting launch
6. **Date of next meeting –** TUESDAY MAY 13th **–** new council and annual meeting of the council

The meeting closed at 21:00

*REPORTS REFERRED TO IN THESE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE or from the clerk on request*