

DRAFT MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Tuesday 12th August at 7p.m

Present: Jeff Hayward (JH) Chair, Mal Ward (MW) Vice Chair, Joanne Butler (JB), Alan Austin (AA), Anne Jessup (AJ), Bob Loughlin (BL)

Members of Public: None **Apologies for absence:** None

1. **Declarations of member's interests in any items on this agenda:** None
2. **Approval of minutes of meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2025 were approved and signed.
3. **Clerks Report.** (Due to the resignation of Amelia Parmenter, the role of Clerk is being handled by the chairman until a replacement can be found. JH advised Council that:
 - 1/ There had not been any response to our adverts for a new Clerk but discussions are taking place with start date of 1st October.
 - 2/ We are still waiting for a start date for the installation of two electric charging points on the recreation field parking area.
 - 3/ The resident renting the space behind the village hall is happy for the council to install storage as long as the turning circle is maintained.
4. **Finance** –The clerk reported:
 - 1/ In Barclays Bank there is currently £8,750.64 in the current account and £4106.00 in the savings account and in the Rugby & Hinckley Building Society there is £17,000 on deposit for reserve and £2000 on deposit for community.
 - 2/ Expenditure v Budget was reviewed with summaries distributed for councillors' attention. It was noted that we have further payments of £1914.35 to make.
 - 3/ Revision of Financial Regulations will be finalised at our next meeting.
5. **Allotment.** JB commented that the condition of some allotments were not being kept at the standard required and the pricing policy should be reviewed for 2026 /27. JB and JH agreed to inspect the files and mark proposals at the next meeting.
6. **Recreation Ground.**
 - 1/ AA reported that spare parts were needed for the climbing frame and these will be ordered by the clerk.
 - 2/ The council had received requests to reinstall the small slide and / or install a larger slide. AA is to look into the costs.
 - 2/ JB agreed to order new bats and balls for the table tennis table.

3/ AA has been in discussions with users of the recreation area and following on from the removal of the home-made cycle ramp was asked could we install a Jump Track. Councillors commented that this is a large investment and grant money would be needed. AA advised that some localised fund raising had taken place and present to Council at our next meeting, location options, possible designs and outline costs.

4/ Councillors discussed a resident's proposal regarding the grass cutting to include wild borders. The proposal was rejected.

District Councillor James Mallinder joined the Meeting.

James was welcomed and told Council of developments regarding election for the mayor and plans for the new look local government which are being discussed. James has been very busy in championing local issues and was very happy to be involved with the "Maize Mountain" on the Hollesley Road. Residents have had to endure all summer the constant air pollution and smell that stopped people having their windows open or being able to sit in the garden and the increase in visible rats which despite assurances from the owners of the maize were in abundance.

Unfortunately, due to imposed restraints James cannot offer any grant this year from his community fund but is willing to help us with grant applications.

7. Village Parking & Highways – AJ reported that parked cars as you come into the village are making the junction with Hollesley Road and round the corner to Bawdsey very dangerous. We fear accidents will occur especially as there is increased coach activity. Also road and path vegetation need to be cut back to ensure pedestrians are safe when walking. JH reported that a resident was hit by a wing mirror of a car when walking on Hollesley Road.

1/ It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to inform Highways and James of our concerns and to advise Andrew Reid our District councillor. Furthermore, Jackie Abbott our Community Policeman should also be contacted to discuss what can they do to assist us.

2/ It was agreed that a Polite Notice should be issued by the council to advise residents to keep our pathways clear and highlight their responsibilities to keep our village safe. AJ & MW agreed to document areas in the village.

8. Village Hall.

1/ MW advised Council of the proposed plans and costs for a storage cupboard intended to hold our tables but unfortunately our village carpenter was not able to take on the project. JH to advise MW of an alternative.

2/ JH advised that he has access to an outside plastic 'Ketter' shed that could be sited at the front of the village hall in order to store chairs. In order to facilitate better use of the meeting room JH proposed the large fridge should be removed from behind the door in the kitchen of the Village Hall and relocated to the Pavilion for fetes and rentals and in addition the small very old and not used freezer should be disposed of and a new under counter fridge be purchased and put in its place. Vote was in favour. JH to action.

9. Village Fete. It was agreed that this year's fete was huge success and council thanked Vanessa Austin and Sue MacCormack for the all their hard work and also a big thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to making it a special day.

The fete made a nett profit of £3683.00 and it was agreed that £3000 be placed into the Community Deposit Account and the balance be allocated to our Christmas Celebrations

10. Village Flag Pole. MW advised council that the pole has some problems with the raising and lowering of the flag and will have to be taken down and inspected.

11. Christmas Activities. Councillors decide our annual switch on celebrations will be on Saturday 6th December.

12. Nick Rose advised council that after 18 years' service to the Parish that he has decided to retire. In recognition of this exceptional contribution Council presented him with a card and a farewell gift.

13. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council – None

14. Date of next meeting – 10th November 2025

The meeting closed 8.50pm

Signed.....

Dated.....