

MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 9th February 2026 at 19:00

Present:

Chair Jeff Hayward (JH)

Vice Chair Mal Ward (MW)

Councillors Joanne Butler (JB), Anne Jessup (AJ), Bob Loughlin (BL), Alan Austin (AA)

Parish Clerk Vanessa Austin (VA)

Members of Public: Chris Green (CG),

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **Declarations of member's interests in any items on this agenda:** AA declared an interest in item 13e.
3. **Requests for Dispensations:** None.
4. **Approval of minutes of meeting:** The minutes of the meetings held on 10th, 26th November 2025 and 14th January 2026 were a true and correct record and were approved and signed. There were two amendments on 26th November 2025 minutes which have been updated.
5. **Public Participation:** CG was representing the Thirsty Thursday Club and requested approval to proceed with a quarterly brunch scheme, to be run on a Saturday by TT Club. Profits would be donated as fund raising for the village. It was agreed that there would be no charge for the VH hire as this was a fund-raising exercise for the village. CG to plan, cost and advise dates to be advertised.

Additionally, CG wanted to understand the process of how to become a Councillor as she expressed an interest in joining the APC. **VA** to send application form for completion and return. CG will be invited to join the next APC meeting.

6. Clerk and Chairs Report. – JH advised of the following:

- i. In-Post parcel service is now Live. This needs to be communicated to the village and the website updated.
- ii. Charging points – this seems to be a non-starter and will now be closed with NFA.
- iii. Litter Pick will be Sunday 22nd February. **JB** to advertise.
- iv. Grants – Hollesley Funday has requested funding for Alderton children. JH/VA to discuss further but this was approved at the meeting.

7. Allotments

- i. T&C's have been revised and now include allotment holders, where applicable; that it is their responsibility to keep any hedges neat and trimmed as part of their rental conditions. Up to date GDPR notices are to be sent out for signing. **JB/VA** to put this in place before end February 2026.

8. Recreation Ground –

- i. Playground and equipment – AA met with a company representative from Playdate who are happy to assist with grant applications e.g. sports fund, and lottery fund. A rough ballpark figure of approx. £40k for the children's area. AA advised that 1.9m is the max height for a slide, a spinning cup was recommended as it is a fully inclusive piece of children's play equipment and a mesh larger swing. Grass lock flooring should be installed to keep costs down. A quote will be sent to AA which he will pass on once received. The company representative said that all equipment was guaranteed for 20-25 years. AA has a follow up meeting arranged for 24th March to proceed, it was also suggested that own skip hire and using our pavilion toilet facilities would help to keep costs low. Proposed BL seconded JB.
- ii. Pump track event day - £300 raised by the children of Alderton which is sitting with AA (not banked). The revised quote is £2.2k plus vat Approval required to move forwards with this idea. Proposed JB, seconded BL. **AA** to meet with mum's group and start to plan the event and report back to council.
- iii. Basketball ground repairs quote – suggested that a sign is created to make people aware that the ground is uneven and they use the facility at their own risk. Proposed MW, seconded BL. **AA** to take this forward.
- iv. Caravan Rally – suggested that we try this to see whether it works. We could have 4 meets per year and it was felt that this would also support the village shop and pub. Proposed JB, seconded AA. **AA** agreed to take this project forward and to up-date Council for final approval.

9. Village Planning Application Watson Way –

- i. No further updates available. JH has emailed Planning for information on meeting dates.
- ii. If this is approved JH will prepare CIL documents for submission to ESCC.

10. Village Hall and Pavilion –

- i. In-Post lockers –Waiting for an update from RICOH re the installation of the 2nd set of lockers. JH updated that the system has now been put to Live. This needs to be put on the website and the village community informed on the process to be followed. JH to provide details.

11. Finance –

- i. Auditor for 2025 / 26 accounts needs to be engaged. VA has asked Peter Caldicott if he could do this again for Alderton Parish Council, however he was non-committal as he has recently moved to Butley. Suggested that an alternative auditor is found. JH to pursue.

12. To authorise payments –

- i. None.

13. AOB

- JB proposed a jumble sale
- BL to lead and resolve to tidy containers by Mid April 2026
- Parish Clerk vacancy – Clerk was asked to leave the meeting whilst Council discussed her resignation and options until a replacement was found. It was agreed that a flyer would be prepared for a house drop regarding vacancies.

14. Date of next meeting –

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 13th April 2026

The date for the Parish Open meeting is 11th May

On-going Council meetings are:

6th July – 5th October – 11th January 2027

The meeting closed at 20:30

Signed...Jeff Hayward.....

Dated.....