

**Minutes of the Alderholt Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall, Station Road, Alderholt**

**Present**

**Alderholt Parish Council;**

Cllr G Logan (Chairman), Cllr A Hibberd, Cllr D Tooke, Cllr M Smethers, Cllr K Murton, Cllr J Walker, Cllr S Greenland and Cllr S Archer (arrived at 7.20pm)

Mrs M Humby (Clerk) Mrs K Brooker (Assistant Clerk)

County Councillors Spencer Flower and Toni Coombs (left at 7.10pm)

PCSO 5443 Joe Cherrett (left just after 7.00pm)

Approx 23 members of the public

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Simcock

Doors opened at 6.45pm at which refreshments and handouts of the agenda, budget report and crime statistics were available to residents.

**Welcome from the Chairman**

Cllr Gina Logan, Chairman of Alderholt Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting including newly elected County Councillors, Spencer Flower and Toni Coombs.

Cllr Flower introduced them both and advised that they would attend (separately) the monthly Parish Council meeting, provide a written report and be available to answer questions. They look forward to supporting both the Parish Council and Alderholt residents. He advised that as they are both also Verwood Town Councillors they are unable to stay at this meeting as they are required to also attend the Mayor making event in Verwood.

Cllr Logan also advised that PCSO Joe Cherrett had intended to be present but had to leave on police business. He hoped to return before the meeting ended but if unable to was happy for any questions to be passed on to him. He had provided annual crime statistics for Alderholt which had been printed as a handout for residents.

The minutes of last year's Annual meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were then approved and signed.

**Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Gina Logan**

Cllr Gina Logan gave a report on the activities of the Council over the last year. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

**Report from Chairman of the Parish Council Planning Committee, Cllr Adrian Hibberd**

Cllr Hibberd reported on the activities of the Parish Council Planning Committee, advising that the Committee have no planning powers but are advisory (consultees) and bring local views to the attention of the District Council who are the Local Planning Authority (LPA). He discussed the loss of the affordable housing element of the Surplus Store planning application and the 2 new applications for 60 and subsequently 48 houses on the Ringwood Road site, outside of the village envelope. The former application is now at Enquiry stage and the latter still pending a decision from the LPA.

Cllr Hibberd advised that following the recent Village Survey, Planning Committee members will be analysing the results alongside the 2005 Village Plan to consider whether further development within Alderholt is required by residents.

### **Report from Chairman of the Parish Council Policy and Finance Committee, Cllr Dave Tooke**

Cllr Tooke explained the handout given to residents which detailed the 2017/18 budget requirements for Alderholt Parish Council which had resulted in an annual increase of only £2.30 for residents in a band D property.

He explained that the Council had budgets set aside for Community Grants, one for new capital projects and the other towards running costs of community groups. The Council makes annual provision for reserves some of which is to support the cost of maintaining and replacing its assets and some for Capital projects, of which the Council is currently working on a few. He also advised that some of the pending capital projects, particularly the Pavilion Project which has a potential cost of £1mn, may put a strain on staff resources and a change in Council accounting procedures

### **Report from Cllr Dave Tooke, Representative for the Alderholt Defibrillator Group**

Report attached to the minutes. Cllr Tooke circulated a collection box of which £24.00 was raised towards the Alderholt Defibrillator Project.

### **Report from Cllr Gina Logan regarding the 2017 Village Plan Survey**

Report attached to the minutes

### **Open Questions:**

The Chairman invited open questions from the floor which included the following;

1. The difference between a planning appeal and an Inquiry in respect of the proposed development at Ringwood Road.
2. Affordable housing and the Surplus Store Development. It was confirmed that some work had started as part of the planning permission conditions but it is unknown how long it will be before the development is completed, which could be years.
3. A request that the crime statistics in future include comparative figures from last year
4. A request that in future the council expenditure for the last financial year also be included. The clerk advised that the accounts had yet to be audited but once they have been, there is an opportunity for electors to view the accounts which will be available on the council website.

Meeting ended 8.25pm

### **Reports:**

#### **Annual Report from the Chairman**

I will do my best this evening to cover all the salient activities that have occurred in the last year.

Firstly, I wish to thank Steve Butler who as our dedicated County Cllr has given his support to Alderholt over the last four years and wish him well in his new Division. It's appropriate to welcome in his stead our two new County Cllrs Toni Coombes and Spencer Flower who represent us in the reconfigured Verwood Division, and will ensure that we continue to have our local issues raised at County level.

We are extremely fortunate to be looked after by a very knowledgeable and able clerk Maria who keeps both myself and my fellow councillors on track in terms of legal compliance, as well as ensuring that meetings are conducted in a format where discussion is open, honest, representative and fair, and where possible with a little humour.

Maria has been very ably assisted by Kerry Brooker who is proving her value to the council in an ever-increasing way. So, my thanks go to Maria and to Kerry for their help so far and hopefully their ongoing support over the next year.

During the year, we have said goodbye to Lynn Evans, and look forward to welcoming Stuart Greenland to the Council for the coming year.

So what have we done in the last year or so: -

We set our annual budgets at the end of the year and are pleased to say that we have been able to keep the precept at a low increase.

### **Allotments**

Cllr Adrian Hibberd has carried out minor maintenance jobs at the allotments over the last month. The Dorset County Council Community Highways Officer has confirmed that Wessex Water has now completed work on the drain near the entrance to the allotment gardens and it is hoped this will alleviate the problem with flooding in heavy rain.

We have 31 plots of which 2 are currently in the process of being rented out. Following advertising on the local facebook page about the vacancies, we have had renewed interest and once again have a waiting list. The annual competition, now in a different format will take place in July so good luck to all of our hardworking tenants.

### **Rifle Range**

The project has moved forward in order to lease the land to the local Scout group so that they can convert it and use it as a camp site and thriving scout facility. The detail of the lease is hopefully in the final stages and it is hoped that it can be finalised in the very near future. I wish to thank Cllrs Hibberd, and Smethers for their local knowledge and commitment to this project.

### **New Sports and Social Club Pavilion - referred to as the Recreation Ground Re-build Project**

Work has continued on the best way forward of providing this much needed facility. The planning application has been submitted to EDDC and following the requirement to provide information on bats we await the decision. I have been leading the working party ably assisted by fellow Cllrs Simcock and Murton as well as Ian Cole from the Recreation Ground Association and representatives of the sports clubs and the Alderholt Sports & Social Club.

In order to take the project forward and achieve funding, an up to date Needs Survey is required to ascertain the level of community interest in project. This formed part of the Alderholt Survey a parish wide consultation undertaken during March & April. The results

from this are currently being analysed independently by Dorset Community Action. Once we have established a way forward we will be advising the village.

## **Planning**

This continues to be an active part of the council and has been led for the year by Cllr Hibberd who with his wealth of local knowledge has very capably chaired this committee. My thanks go to all those who sit on this valuable committee that continues to meet every three weeks if applications are submitted. Cllr Hibberd will be giving his report as the next agenda item.

### **During the past year we have also: -**

- Provide an annual grant to St James's PCC towards the maintenance of the Churchyard and War Memorial
- Continue to help the Alderholt Recreation Ground with an annual grant to help maintain the rec.
- We pay for a dog warden to help patrol the recreation ground keep our village clear of unwanted waste
- Purchased a replacement grit bin for one that was damaged
- Purchased replacement bin for children's play area and repainted some of the equipment. Looking at further maintenance of this area
- Celebrated Christmas with a large tree very kindly donated by a resident erected and decorated outside the village hall – the enthusiasm and compliments for the Tree were very welcome
- Local resident/Volunteer Tim Mellor has refurbished some of the finger posts -APC paid for materials and he is currently working on the remainder
- Refurbished parish office - thanks are due to Cllr Murton for the decoration
- Carried out our 3-yearly tree inspection -works currently underway but delayed due to birds nesting - boundary along tennis court cleared so no overhanging trees.
- Placed flowerbeds at village entrances which are replanted seasonally. Thanks to Cllr Murton and others who help.
- We supported a number of organisations with grants, including Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, the CAB, East Dorset Environment Partnership, Alderholt Sunbeams and Supertots, WOTS coach in the community, and this year's Recreate Festival

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance	200.00
New Forest CAB	250.00
ED Environment Partnership Grant	50.00
Wots Project (coach in the community) Grant	250.00
Alderholt Sunbeams and Supertots Grant	200.00

- We entered the County Best Kept Village Competition again under the EDDC section, but weren't successful - only 3 points between 1<sup>st</sup> and last position so it was very close
- In April gave Commemorative coins for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday at St James school to each pupil

### **Speeding**

We purchased a DCC approved SID (speed indicator device) to replace the SIDs previously provided by DCC along with two additional poles and solar panels on which to mount and power this mobile device. Thanks go to Cllr Smethers for his contribution and continued involvement in moving the device on a regular basis around the village, working for the benefit of the village to reduce the levels of speeding traffic.

It remains for me as the previous and new Chairman to thank all councillors for the time, effort and knowledge they have imparted selflessly over the past year and ask that they continue with our ongoing projects and work for the village.

And lastly as your ward member for Alderholt I will continue to raise local concerns and represent you at district level.

Gina Logan  
Chairman  
Alderholt Parish Council

### **Report from Cllr Dave Tooke, Representative for the Alderholt Defibrillator Group**

#### **Background**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> July last year, I asked, on the Alderholt Facebook page, if residents would support a public defibrillator scheme in the village. This was prompted by my awareness of other similar schemes locally and I thought the village would benefit from having our own. The response was a very strong "YES", and now just on **10 months** later we have 3 Devices installed and working in the village, with a fourth one budgeted for and waiting for installation.

But - What is it for and why are they important lifesavers?  
And how do they work?

#### **Need**

There are about 140,000 Sudden Cardiac Arrests every year in the UK.

It is one of the UK's largest killers.

The potential for saving a life is dependent upon time, the faster medical help can be attained, the better the chance of survival.

In rural areas it takes time to get medical help, and even when we have a First Responder Group they may be not be available all the time.

The UK Resuscitation Council's advice is that you have **less than 5 minutes** to save a life, with chances **decreasing by about 23% per minute** thereafter.

Community Public Access Defibrillators (cPAD) have a very important part to play in helping save lives in rural communities. cPAD schemes are reckoned to be about 10x more effective in saving life post hospital than other community schemes alone.

### **What is it?**

The device is an "Automated External Defibrillator" – AED

A defibrillator is a computerised medical device that delivers an electrical current through the chest which aims to shock the heart back into a normal rhythm allowing it to pump again.

Rapid response using automated technology can significantly improve the quality of life of a survivor, as the longer the brain is starved of oxygen, the more damage that can occur.

An AED is a portable defibrillator especially designed for people with little or no medical background.

### **Safety**

When applied to the victim, voice commands and screen messages will guide the user step-by-step through the process and its intelligent technology will only allow it to shock a 'shockable' heart rhythm.

The machine will not let you cause more damage, you won't hurt anybody by using it.

They are designed and tested, for use by people with no training.

However – Alderholt First Responders are more than happy to run a class for residents who would like to understand better what they can do to save a life.

### **Current Position**

The advice is to place AEDs in areas where there is a high footfall, and we have set up THREE AED devices in the village, with a FOURTH one planned.

#### **Currently we have:**

One at the Chapel

One at the Pavilion in the Rec

One outside the Village Hall in the old BT Phone box

#### **We will also**

Get one installed in the old phone Box outside the Reading Rooms

On that subject, once BT have removed the phone (which they are going to do whether we utilise the box or not) we would ask for some volunteers to clean it up, tidy the surroundings, and apply the new signage – anybody who can spare some time and energy to help when we get to that point please let either myself or Martin know.

## **Ongoing**

There are ongoing maintenance costs which we will need to meet to keep the machines in working order. These costs are around £126 per year per machine – and we rely very much on donations from residents, any time you see one of the Green and Yellow collecting boxes then we would be very grateful for any small change you can spare – or even large change....

(Show Collecting Tin – and pass around)

## **AND FINALLY**

### **We have a lot of people and organisations to thank for making this all possible:**

The success of this project has been in, no small part, down to the work of the local First Responders, including - and especially - Councillor Martin Smethers, who has worked with the Community Heartbeat Trust and managed the project with energy and expertise.

Very many thanks are also due to the Gilberts, and their company – The MADAR Corporation – for sponsoring the AED at the Rec. This is in an important location, not only because of the number of villagers who use the rec, but because physical activity can bring on a Cardiac Arrest.

Thanks are also due to the local branch of the Co-Op who have paid for the installation of two of the devices. Very much appreciated, and wholly in line with their Community ethos.

We must also thank the Community Heartbeat Trust, BT and Scottish & Southern, who sponsored the AED in the retired phone box just outside this Village Hall.

Our thanks also to the Good Energy Community Fund – who donated £800 towards the Project – again very much appreciated.

And, of course, thanks to the Parish Council, which has just awarded a grant of £1,975 which will pay for the fourth AED outside the Reading Rooms.

And last but by no means least – thanks to the residents of our Village whose generosity has helped us throughout the project.

COULD I HAVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR ALL OF YOU.

THANK YOU

### **Report from Cllr Gina Logan regarding the 2017 Village Plan Survey**

This household consultation of the village was undertaken in late March and early April of this year to give you the opportunity to have your say on the things you feel are important for our village over the next 15 years or so. The survey was split into two parts – Local Plan Survey and Pavilion Project Needs Survey.

The Local Plan section arose as the Local Planning Authority East Dorset District Council are undergoing a review of the Local Plan and Core Strategy, and the Parish Council thought it was timely to ask your views on the possibility of future development in Alderholt. The last such exercise took place in 2005 culminating in the Alderholt Parish Plan.

The Pavilion Project Needs Survey was undertaken to ascertain community interest in the proposed Pavilion Project which has an anticipated likely cost of circa £950,000. The project is to refurbish and extend the sports pavilion to provide four team changing/shower areas, facilities for officials and those who require easy access, plus storage, and add a new build extension to accommodate the clubhouse (club area, kitchen, bar and cellar, toilets, storage

and a small function room).

The Needs Survey seeks to evaluate the current level of sports participation and usage of the facilities on the recreation ground and gauge your interest in what it would be like with the new facilities, and is necessary to obtain funding from a variety of sources.

The survey was delivered to all the properties in Alderholt, the number according to Dorsetforyou Alderholt profile is 1310 (2015 Council Tax Records).

The survey was advertised in the Parish Magazine, on the Parish Notice Board, on the Parish Council website and repeatedly on the Alderholt Facebook page. Drop boxes at the parish office, church, chapel, reading room, pub and Co-op were regularly emptied.

The total number of responses received was 460 of which 233 were paper copies – the data entry for these was done by Cllr Logan.

It would appear that this level of household responses received equates to an apparent return rate of more than 30%.

The Parish Council has taken an initial look at the results and has made the following decisions: -

- The Planning Committee will compare the results from this survey with those of the 2005 Village Plan Survey to ascertain if there are any trends, and report these back to the Parish Council.
- The Planning Committee will consider the Village Expansion section of the survey and compile a report for the Parish Council which one agreed will be forwarded to EDDC where it may be considered in their Local Plan Review.
- The Needs Survey results will be analysed independently by Dorset Community Action to enable the Parish Council to make an informed decision on the way forward for the Pavilion Project.

It was hoped to have a more comprehensive report at this meeting, but due to the complexity of the information received a way forward has been agreed, and once completed the Parish Council will provide a full analysis of the results and hopefully host an open morning in the Village Hall.