



Aldworth Parish Council

Members of Aldworth Parish Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Aldworth Parish Council on **Monday 16th March 2026 at 7pm at Aldworth Village Hall**

Mel Taylor

Mel Taylor, Parish Clerk
10th March 2026

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Council.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests by Members.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**
To approve the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19th January 2026 as a true and accurate record.
4. **Open Forum**
 - a. **To receive** questions or comments from members of the public.
 - b. **To receive** an update from West Berkshire District Councillor Laura Coyle, including any updates on the following matters previously discussed:
 - i. When highway cleansing was last carried out in Aldworth (Minute reference 01-2026-04)
 - ii. Consultation on the proposed 20mph zone
 - iii. Repairs required to The Well – identified as owned by WBC
 - iv. Responsibility for gully maintenance adjacent to the highway by St Mary's Church
 - v. Local Government Reorganisation
 - c. **To receive** any suggestion cards from members of public.
5. **Aldworth Pop-Up Library**
To consider endorsing a Service Level Agreement with West Berkshire Council for provision of a monthly Pop-up library at the village market on the first Saturday of each month, commencing 4th April 2026 for a minimum period of one year, at a cost of £1,935 for the year 2026/27.
6. **Ongoing Matters**
To receive and consider any updates regarding the following matters:
 - i. **Contribution towards aldworthvillage.org domain (Cllr Bennetts)**
 - ii. **Aldworth Footpath Leaflet (Cllr Rutter)**

iii. Recreation Ground bench repairs/replacements (Parish Clerk)

There are currently five benches at the Recreation Ground. Two are understood to be owned by the Cricket Club. The Millenium Bench has recently been replaced by the Parish Council. The remaining two benches are damaged and require work that is beyond economic repair.

To consider replacement options:

Same as Millenium bench – engraved with Aldworth Parish Council – c.£360 + fixings/fitting

Recycled material bench – c.£500 - £800

Bespoke bench made by Oxford based charity – c.£2,000

iv. Village Hall footpath enhancement (Parish Clerk)

A grant application is [going] live on The Good Exchange. The current grant offer from Chilterns National Landscape required projects to be completed by 31st March 2026. If, and when, a grant offer for the new financial year goes live, an application will be submitted promptly. Other potential funders are also being explored.

v. Co-ordination with neighbouring Parish Councils, Police and other agencies on rural crime issues

QR code shared for Parish Councillors and Cllr Coyle to join the Ashampstead Rural Crime WhatsApp group.

vi. Westridge Green – salt bin & repainting of ‘gateway’

‘Gateway’ has been repainted (Minute reference 01-2026-14ii) (quote and agreement to proceed obtained between meetings).

West Berkshire Council have approved siting a salt bin on the highway verge next to the postbox. Bin and 5 bags of salt are on backorder from Willis & Ainsworth – **to consider** storing until autumn 2026 to protect salt from degrading.

vii. Community Litter Pick – Sunday 22nd March 2026

The hall is only accessible from after 10.30am, due to a hirer 8.30-10.30am. Equipment can be distributed from outside the hall during this time but will need to be collected from storage within the hall before 8.30am, or on a preceding day and stored in the Davey Room.

7. Finance

i. To note a financial report for the period 1st April 2025 – 28th February 2026.

ii. To approve the following payments due, and payments made, since the last meeting:

Payee	Amount	Invoice Number & Date	Due Date	Date Paid	Description
Tactical Facilities Management	£10.96 (£9.13+VAT)	SI-4985 26.01.2026	25.02.2026	09.02.2026	Waste collection – January 2026
Tactical Facilities Management	£10.96 (£9.13+VAT)	SI-5154 25.02.2026	27.03.2026		Waste collection – February 2026
Tactical Facilities Management	£10.96 (£9.13+VAT)	SI-[TBC] XX.03.2026	To ensure payment is made for inclusion in the current financial year		Waste collection – March 2026
ICO	£47.00	Email of 10.02.2026	17.03.2026	Direct Debit	Data Protection Fee annual renewal
M Buckle	£50.00	Invoice #06	not stated	26.01.2026	Leaf clearance in play area
M Buckle	£168.50	Invoice #07	not stated		Clean noticeboard, clean and repaint Westridge gateway sign, weed/moss/algae management in play area, jet wash play area #
M Taylor	£375.36	n/a	31.01.2026	09.02.2026	Clerk’s Salary for January 2026
M Taylor	£375.36	n/a	28.02.2026	09.03.2026	Clerk’s Salary for February 2026

M Taylor	£375.36	n/a	To ensure payment is made for inclusion in the current financial year		Clerk's Salary for March 2026
Aldworth Village Hall	£160.00	AVH26/03 08.02.2026	22.06.2026		Contribution towards drinks at Village Christmas Party
HMRC	£58.43	n/a	n/a	23.01.2026	PAYE
Unity Trust	£6.00	n/a	n/a	31.01.2026	Service charge
Unity Trust	£6.00	n/a	n/a	28.02.2026	Service charge

Minute reference 01-2026-07iii - quote and agreement to proceed obtained between meetings

- iii. To consider a request from Councillor Rutter to approve expenditure of up to £45 for an Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt at the Saturday market prior to Easter Sunday.

8. Planning

- i. **To note** the following planning updates since the last meeting (information correct at the time of publication of the agenda):

Application No.	Address	Details	APC response	WBC determination
25/02749/CERTP	Downland Cottage	Fitting solar panels to the roof	Not consulted	Approved
25/02907/HOUSE	Whinwhistles	First-floor extension above garage, conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, additional windows and infill of open porch	No objection, subject to *	Awaiting decision
26/00234/HOUSE	Glebe Cottage	Rear and side extension with rooms in the roof. Demolition of existing side store and replace with new side entrance, new porch to front	Nil	Awaiting decision

* reconsideration of the justification for the windows on the side elevation, which would result in overlooking of neighbouring properties.

- ii. **To note** that an appeal against the decision of West Berkshire Council to refuse planning permission for application 25/01462/HOUSE – Apple Tree Cottage – a retrospective application for a replacement shed, has been dismissed as ‘The development conflicts with the development plan as a whole and there are no other considerations, including the provisions of the Framework, which outweigh this finding.’

9. Play Area

To note that confirmation has been received that the annual ROSPA safety inspection is scheduled for April 2026.

10. Highways Matters

To note any forthcoming roadwork or highway notifications from West Berkshire Council.

11. Further questions from Members of public and items for the next agenda

To receive any further questions or comments from members of the public, and **to consider** items for the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18th May 2026, 7pm at Aldworth Village Hall.

To consider arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.