



Minutes of a Meeting of Aldworth Parish Council

held on Monday 20 July 2026 at 7pm at Aldworth Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Bill Bennetts, Cllr. Ilona Herbent, Cllr. Graham Rutter and Cllr. Kate Walters (Chairman)

In attendance: Mel Taylor – Parish Clerk
West Berkshire District Councillor Laura Coyle
3 members of public

07-2026-01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence, all Councillors present.

07-2026-02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

07-2026-03 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2026 as a true and accurate record.

07-2026-04 OPEN FORUM

a. Questions or comments from members of the public regarding items on the agenda

There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

b. Update from West Berkshire Council - Councillor Coyle

Cllr Coyle advised that government had confirmed the creation of a new unitary Ridgeway Council, comprising West Berkshire, parts of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils. Councillor elections would be held in May 2028.

Data collected from recent speed monitoring carried out by West Berkshire Council Officers had identified speeding on the straight, passed The Glebe. Discussion was ongoing with Officers, and it was agreed to request that the section of highway that narrows to single file traffic be formally designated as a single-file section.

Westridge Green was also highlighted as an area of concern with speeding vehicles.

It was noted that West Berkshire Council Officers had advised that additional gateway features and enhancements to existing gateway infrastructure, discussed at the previous meeting, could not be progressed due to the narrow width of the verges, and a desire for uniformity in the style and design of such highway infrastructure.

Cllr Coyle continues to liaise with Officers regarding the potential loan of CCTV equipment for monitoring a fly-tipping hot spot.

Cllr Rutter had reported an issue with flooding eroding a bank at Westridge Green to Cllr Coyle.

c. Suggestion Cards from members of public

There were no suggestion cards.

07-2026-05 POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF THE VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Clerk provided an overview of advice provided by Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) and Hampshire Association of Local Councils regarding the potential transfer of ownership of the village hall to the Parish Council, following a recent request from the Charitable Trust and Management Committee.

The Charity Commission views the appointment of a Parish Council as sole trustee of a village hall as a last resort, and the Council is not under a duty to accept the role. The advice also highlighted that becoming sole trustee carries significant governance complexity and potential conflict-of-interest risks. Alternative models exist, such as acting as a custodian trustee, which carries fewer obligations, but requires a functioning management committee. Guidance strongly recommends first seeking to strengthen the existing charitable trust. Connecting Communities in Berkshire had offered further support.

Action: Parish Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Parish Council, Charitable Trust, Management Committee and Kate Mead CCB's Hall Adviser.

Cllr Coyle and 3 Members of public left the meeting

07-2026-06 UPDATES ON ONGOING MATTERS

i. Speed Awareness

Nothing further to add to discussion in Cllr Coyle's report above (minute reference 07-2026-04b).

ii. The Well

It was noted that a request had been submitted to West Berkshire Council Officers to transfer the Title Plan for The Well to the Parish Council, as agreed at the last meeting.

Two quotes had been obtained from two structural engineering companies to provide a structural inspection of the timber superstructure over The Well, including the staddle-stones, and a brief report on its current structural condition, together with outline proposals for potential remedial works and any further investigations considered necessary.
Contractor A: £630, Contractor B: £900

Local Listing of The Well may be considered in the future.

RESOLVED to appoint Clive Hudson Associates to conduct a structural inspection of The Well and provide a report on condition and potential remedial works, at a cost of £630.

iii. Contribution towards aldworthvillage.org domain

It was noted that following agreement at the meeting in March 2026 that the Parish Council would fund the current domain and hosting cost for aldworthvillage.org, and seek transfer of the domain and hosting to the Parish Council, a one-off payment of £120 has been agreed with the current domain holder and transfer of the domain is to be pursued.

iv. Village Hall footpath enhancement

It was noted that a grant application was being submitted to the National Lottery and other funding opportunities are being actively pursued.

07-2026-07 FINANCE

i. A financial report for the period 01 April 2026 to 30 June 2026 was noted.

ii. The following payments were approved:

Payee	Amount	Invoice Number & Date	Date Paid	Detail
Tactical FM	£16.60	323 24.06.2026		Waste collection June 2026
M Taylor	£375.36	n/a	05.05.2026	Parish Clerk's Salary April 2026
M Buckle	£125.00	04 22.04.2026	05.05.2026	Prep bases and install new bench
Zurich Insurance	£437.00	554844317 05.04.2026	26.05.2026	Insurance 2026/27
BALC	£76.68	INV-8337 16.04.2026	26.05.2026	BALC/NALC subscription 2026/27
Tactical FM	£10.96	SI-5498 26.04.2026	26.05.2026	Waste collection April 2026
Playsafety	£99.60	97134 06.05.2026	26.05.2026	Annual play area inspection
Claire Connell	£160.00	2224 15.05.2026	26.05.2026	Internal Audit 2025/26
M Taylor	£375.36	n/a	01.06.2026	Parish Clerk's Salary May 2026
Tactical FM	£16.60	26 26.05.2026	01.06.2026	Waste collection May 2026
Holywell Press	£116.00	INV-9326 31.05.2026	29.06.2026	Printing 'Walks in Aldworth' leaflets
Glasdon UK	£333.56	SI940067 16.06.2026	29.06.2026	Replacement Dog Bin
M Taylor	£305.56	n/a	30.06.2026	Parish Clerks' Salary June 2026

07-2026-08 PLANNING

The following planning updates were noted:

Application No.	Address	Details	APC response	WBC determination
26/00076/HOUSE	1 Fayleys Cottages	Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storey side extension	Object on grounds of disproportionate scale and out of character	Awaiting decision
26/00933/HOUSE	Parsonage Green	Replacement of existing summerhouse with single storey timber garden studio	No objection	Approved
26/00746/FUL	Bower Farm Bower Road	Construction of lean-to to the sides of the existing cattle building	No comment	Approved
26/01217/COND	Glebe Cottage	Approval of details reserved by conditions 8 & 9 of planning permission 26/00234/HOUSE	Not consulted	Awaiting decision
26/01529/NONMAT	3 Hungerford Green	Non-material amendment following grant of planning permission 22/02534/HOUSE. Amendments to roof pitch, windows, cladding and ground level corrected	Not consulted	Awaiting decision

07-2026-09 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Councillors reviewed a Scheme of Delegation relating to responding to planning applications between meetings.

RESOLVED to adopt the Scheme of Delegation, as presented.

07-2026-10 PLAY AREA

The Parish Clerk advised that minor repairs were in hand.

07-2026-11 DEFIBRILLATOR

It was noted that replacement pads were required before 12 May 2027.

07-2026-12 WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – UPDATED SERVICE DELIVERY OFFERS

It was noted that West Berkshire Council has updated its Service Delivery Offers for Town and Parish Councils. These are services that Town and Parish Councils can either take over, or fund enhancement of existing services, including: installation of Vehicle Activated Signs and School Flashing Signs, installation of cycle shelters, installation of cycle parking, providing additional library opening hours, providing Pop-up Libraries or Community Bookshelf, installation and maintenance of Bus Shelters, above statutory duty gully cleansing, above statutory duty ditch clearance, converting street lights to LED, street light adoption and maintenance, highway sign cleaning, improvement of existing or installation of new footways, installation of CCTV for fly-tipping deterrence, transfer of playgrounds and open spaces, transfer of dog poo bins, visual tree surveys and reports (minimum of 20 parishes required) and management of rural verges.

07-2026-13 WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2026/27

It was noted that West Berkshire Council is consulting on its Winter Service Plan for 2026/27. There were no proposed amendments to the 2025/26 Plan.

07-2026-14 FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Nothing at this time.

07-2026-15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 21 September 2026, 7pm at Aldworth Village Hall.

Followed by Mondays 16 November 2026, 18 January 2027, 15 March 2027 and 17 May 2027.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____