

## ALDERWASLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at St Margaret's Hall

Present: Mr K MacArthur in the Chair, Mr D Deaville, Mr W Dickinson, Mr K Matkin, Mr M Oulton and Clerk

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**26/25 Apologies for Absence**  
None

**27/25 Declarations of Members' Interest**  
None

Date .....
Signed .....

**28/25 Change in Order of Business**

None

**29/25 Public Speaking**

Councillor Oulton reported that a car had hit the bridge on Holly Lane and had pushed the stones down into the water on the goyt side and had significantly damaged the bridge on the right hand side by pushing it out of line. He was concerned that the residents at that end of the Parish had suffered in the past year with the bridge being closed on two occasions for as long as 9 weeks whilst repairs to the bridge were carried out which made it extremely difficult for farmers to access their land on the other side of Belper as the diversion took them via Bridge Foot and they were unable to get their trailers under the overhead bridge at East Mill. He said the road markings on Holly Lane were worn and needed repainting, there is a light on the right hand side before the bridge but it could do with improving, the chevrons could do with extending, perhaps a crash barrier could be installed to protect the bridge and avoid further repairs and interruptions and rumble strips be introduced to slow traffic down for safety.

The Council asked the Clerk if she could write to Councillor Hatchett and ask her to take the issue up with DCC Highways to see what improvements could be made

PCSO Worrall was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update. In July there were some issues with young people in vehicles on the car park at Alport Heights, we increased our patrols up there and two people were dealt with for smoking cannabis. There was also an incident of a young male being robbed which was linked to the young people attending the location in cars. In addition to these incidents there was an incident in August involving walkers on a footpath crossing over fields off New Road being attacked by cows and having to attend hospital and a second incident in August was that a car had crashed on Sandhall Lane and was on its roof

**30/25 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 July 2025**

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 July 2025 and they were signed by the Chair as a true record

**31/25 Finance**

(a) RESOLVED to approve the following payments

Chq no	Payee	£
000669	Staff	£865.78
000670	Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers	£3,138.10

(b) RESOLVED to note the bank reconciliation as at 30.7.25 showing reserves of £12,867.45

(c) RESOLVED to prepare the budget proposal for 2026/27 on a 5% increase basis

**32/25 Clerk's report**

**(a) Bank Account Closure**

The Clerk reported that the closure of the RBS Bonus Reserve Account was almost complete, the signatories had completed the forms and she was waiting for a confirmation email of closure from the bank. Once the account is closed she will start the process of opening the savings account at the Hampshire TB

**(b) Cemetery Issue**

The Clerk said it had been brought to her attention that a burial had taken place in Alderwasley Cemetery without her knowledge. After some time consuming investigation, it was apparent that there had been some mis-communication between

Date .....
Signed .....

the church and the Funeral Directors. She reported that she had written to both parties and informed them that this was a breach of the Cemeteries Order 1977 as the Council is the burial authority and told them that this must not happen again. She was now in receipt of the correct paperwork and had invoiced the Funeral Directors for the fee

**33/25 Items for consideration and decision**

**(a) AVBC Community Governance Review**

AVBC are carrying out a review of Parish boundaries and the proposal has been based on post codes. If the proposal was to go ahead it would have a drastic effect on Alderwasley Parish reducing the electorate from 412 to 156. RESOLVED that Councillor Dickinson send an agreed message in the village WhatsApp group to alert residents to the review and to urge them to complete the online questionnaire. The Council to complete the questionnaire, write to AVBC Chief Executive and copy to all AVBC Councillors and DCC Councillor to explain the effect this will have on Alderwasley and to write to the MP. Councillor Oulton will contact Radio Derby to help raise awareness of the review

**(b) Bench on Chapel Hill**

The Clerk had reported that she had received an alternative proposal for a replacement seat after the last meeting. It was proposed for a local business to build a seat with cast iron ends and oak slats which was more in-keeping and aesthetically pleasing for the location at a cost of £395 including removal of the old bench and installation of the replacement. RESOLVED to rescind the decision to purchase a recycled bench and to accept the new proposal

**(c) Email from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust**

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from DWT asking for clarification of the landowner of Kennel Wood as they had received a letter from a member of the public regarding concerns about the spread of Japanese Knotweed in Kennel Wood. DWT stated that the Council must address the issue and they are legally required to stop the spread of the knotweed. The Clerk confirmed the Council's ownership of Kennel Wood and that the Council is looking to engage a specialist to manage the issue. RESOLVED to note

**(d) Management of Knotweed in Kennel Wood**

The Clerk reported that a local contractor was unable to take on the management of the knotweed due to red tape. The Clerk had contacted a specialist who carried out a site visit with Councillor Wordley. The specialist provided a quotation and management plan to manage the issue. RESOLVED to accept the quotation and plan at a cost of £1,950

**(e) Remembrance Sunday**

RESOLVED that Councillor Matkin will attend the service and lay a poppy wreath at the Memorial on behalf of the Council

**(f) Insurance 3 Year Long Term Agreement**

RESOLVED to accept a 3 year long term agreement on the insurance policy

**(g) Contribution from the Village Hall Management Committee towards the contents cover insurance**

RESOLVED to invoice the Committee for £200.00 towards the cover as the insurance premium has risen substantially in the last two years

**(h) NJC Salary Award for 2025-26**

RESOLVED to adopt the award back dated from 1 April 2025

**(i) Client Brief on AGAR changes 2025/26**

The Clerk said she felt that the Council met most of the requirements for the changes but would review the information further. RESOLVED to note the information

**(j) DCC Snow Warden**

The Clerk said she was still waiting for confirmation as to whether the scheme would be running again this year. Councillors Matkin and Oulton were happy to continue as Snow Wardens. RESOLVED to take part if the scheme goes ahead

**(k) Bank Signatories and Mandate Review**

The bank mandate was reviewed and agreed to retain the current signatories as Councillors Deaville, MacArthur and Matkin and to remove H Wordley and R Spendlove. RESOLVED that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 1.3, be changed in accordance with section authorised signatories and the current mandate will continue as amended

**(l) Beech Hedge at St Margaret's Hall**

Members considered that the Beech hedge will need to be cut this year and in addition the Laurel hedge on the drive way will require cutting back on the side and top to below the top of the gate posts and the Holly hedge needs a tidy up. RESOLVED for the Clerk to ask a local contractor to provide a quotation to carry out the work and remove all arisings from site

**(m) Councillor Resignation**

The Clerk reported that she had received Councillor Wordley's resignation. She had been a member of the Council for 30 years and had been Chair since 2001. RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Wordley

The Clerk said she had reported the vacancy to the Elections Officer and Monitoring Officer at AVBC and the authority will be issuing the Clerk with a notice to be displayed on the notice boards and website

**34/25 Consideration of Planning Applications**

None

**35/25 Dalc**

RESOLVED to note the August and September newsletters

**36/25 Items for Information**

RESOLVED to note the following item

- (a) Ecclesbourne Express - Summer issue
- (b) Clerks and Councils - September
- (c) AVBC Local Plan consultation

**37/25 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 8pm