ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in Aldbury Memorial Hall
Monday 2 November 2026 at 8pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Webb (Chair), Cllr Warren (Vice Chair), Cllr McCarthy, Cllr de la Bedoyere, Cllr Brooks, Cllr White

In Attendance: Gosia Turczyn – Aldbury Parish Clerk, Jules Dagonet General Manager for Ashridge, Dunstable & Shaw's Corner and one member of the public.

26/120 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence.
The Council received and accepted apologies sent by Cllrs Houghton and Paterson.

26/121 Declaration of Interests

a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.
None.
b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.
None.
c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.
None.

26/122 Public Matters

To receive questions from members of the public and press on items included on this agenda (max 15 min).
A member of the public enquired about the village Christmas tree.

26/123 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Aldbury Parish Council Meeting held on 5 October 2026 as an accurate record of proceedings.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Warren and seconded by Cllr McCarthy that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the proceedings and were to be duly signed by the Chair.

26/124 Reports to the Council.

a) Warden's report – appendix 1
To note the report and approve expenditure if required.
- Cllr Warren had checked the timber playground structure at the Tring Station playground and said no action in necessary.
- The drain on Stocks Road had been cleared by HCC.
- The Clerk will follow up with County Councillor Symington regarding the drains on Station Road that were disconnected by a utility contractor.

b) Clerk's report; items for information only – appendix 2
- TLC Landscapes have withdrawn from the selection process for grass cutting contract for 2027/28
- AGAR Digital Portal - Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) is introducing a new way to submit the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which is designed to make the submission and management of AGARs simpler,

more secure and more efficient. The digital portal is expected to be available for the 2027 AGAR submissions (voluntary); however, the use will become mandatory for the 2029 AGAR submissions. The Clerk attended an online webinar about the transition and is hoping to use it for the 2026/27 submission of the AGAR and received an email from SAAA with instructions on setting up an online portal account for Aldbury Parish Council.

c) Hertfordshire police – report from PCSO.
No report was received.

26/125 Planning Matters and Consultations – to consider comments on the following:

a) Application(s) received:

- 26/02028/ROC Greenings Farm, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Hertfordshire, HP23 5RX Variation of Condition 3 (Landscape Management Plan) and Removal of Condition 7 (Wildlife Pond) attached to planning permission 23/00253/FUL No comment.

- 26/02306/FHA First floor rear extension and alterations to openings, including new side and rear facing first floor windows 34 Trooper Road Aldbury Hertfordshire HP23 5RW No comment.

b) To consider and approve any Parish Council responses to any planning applications received during the period after which the agenda was published. Those applications will be added in the Clerk's report and can be found on www.aldburyparishcouncil.gov.uk in the Meetings tab.
None.

c) Decision(s) issued by Dacorum Borough Council:

- 26/01689/LBC 44 Stocks Road, Aldbury, Hertfordshire, HP23 5RU Replacement of the cement render with lime render and larth on the gable end and side of building. Replace any decaying timber beams once render is removed with oak timbers – GRANTED

- 26/02081/NMA Uphill, 6 Malting Lane, Aldbury, Hertfordshire, HP23 5RH Non material amendment to planning permission (24/01213/FHA) Addition of two small windows to flank French doors on the south elevation of the new kitchen, dining/living room - GRANTED

26/126 National Trust and Ashridge Estate - update from Jules Dagonet the General Manager for Ashridge, Dunstable & Shaw's Corner

Jules Dagonet had introduced herself explaining her role and responsibilities and updated on the following:
a) Parking arrangements around Monument Drive.
In August, following complaints from members of the local community, parking along the northern verge of Monument Drive was stopped to allow the natural environment to recover and to improve access for pedestrians and horse riders. The temporary car park at Meadley's Meadow, which was open during the summer, has now closed and is expected to reopen in the spring 2027.The Council noted that the loss of parking capacity around the Monument could result in parking displacement into Aldbury village. It suggested that the Ashridge Estate maintain regular communication with the Parish Council to ensure that Aldbury residents are kept informed. Joules Dagonet reported that the planning application for a temporary car park at Meadley's Meadow had been considered by the planning committee. However, following some opposition, the application was referred to the

Secretary of State for review, and a final decision is still awaited. The pre-planning applications for gateway parking facilities at Hill Farm and Ward Hurst Farm had been delayed. However, a further application is expected to be submitted in early 2027.

She also reported that Pitstone Parish Council has submitted its comments on the planning application relating to Pitstone Quarry, and the Ashridge Estate is awaiting a response from Natural England regarding the proposed Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) at the Quarry. The Ashridge Estate would like to introduce a zonal parking system, under which higher parking charges would apply within the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), with lower charges at Pitstone Quarry. Discussions on this proposal are ongoing.

The Ashridge Estate confirmed that it would not introduce parking charges at Pitstone until parking charges had been introduced across the Ashridge Estate.

b) Cycle route signage and route maps.
The cycle routes had been reviewed, and new maps are available to purchase from the shop on the estate. Cllr Brooks reported that residents had raised concerns about mountain bikes being ridden outside designated routes due to inadequate or missing signage around the estate. Joules Dagonet explained that two community rangers regularly patrol the estate, engaging with visitors and cyclists and checking that the signage is in place.

c) Mitigating wildfire risks.
This year, Ashridge Estate will undertake a review of its wildfire risk and response plan, with the updated plan expected to be available in the next few months. She added that the National Trust is working closely with other teams, including those at the Peak District, which has experienced wildfires, to learn from their experiences and identify improvements and measures to mitigate potential wildfire risks at Ashridge Estate. It was suggested that, once the wildfire risk and response plan has been reviewed and adopted, the Parish Council would invite a representative from Ashridge Estate to attend a meeting to provide an update.

26/127 Recreation Ground - appendix 3

a) To note the new rent fee (as of September 2026) and signing of the rent review on the Recreation Ground lease agreement.
The Council noted that Cllr Webb had signed the review of rent agreement.

b) To receive a quote from Wicksteed for a small MUGA.
The quote will be available at the next meeting.

26/128 Allotments and Open Spaces – appendix 4

a) To receive an update from the Clerk on rent received and available plots.
Following the tenancy renewals, seven allotment plots have been relinquished: two full plots and five half plots. The Clerk has contacted individuals on the waiting list, resulting in the re-letting of three half plots and one full plot.
The Council requested that the allotment risk assessment be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr White agreed to review the risk assessment relating to the water troughs and small ponds and report back to the Council with recommendations on how the associated risks could be mitigated.

b) To consider quotes for swing surface repairs.
The Council received three quotations for the repair/resurfacing of the surface beneath the swings, ranging from £4,500 to £22,000. The Council suggested that the Clerk obtain an additional quotation for cleaning the existing rubber tiles and filling the gaps between them as a potentially more cost-effective solution.

c) To approve a quote for work to trees.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr de la Bedoyere to approve £2,230 plus VAT as per quote dated 10 October. The work will also include clearance of the vegetation at both ends of the tennis court fence.

d) To approve a quote for village Christmas tree.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Warren and seconded by Cllr de la Bedoyere to approve a quote of £385 plus VAT. The Clerk will order the tree to be delivered on 27 November.

26/129 20 mph Scheme for Aldbury
If update.
There was no further update regarding the dates for the public consultation.

26/130 Financial Matters – appendix 5

a) To review and note the accounts including bank reconciliation, bank statement and monthly budget report.
The accounts were reviewed and agreed.

b) To note receipt of income.
Income received in October 2026:
- CCLA Investment – Interest £143.57
- Tennis Court Membership - £20
- Allotment rent – total £1,150
- The National Lottery Community Grant - £10,000.00

c) To pass resolution to authorise schedule of payments.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr de la Bedoyere to approve the payments listed below:

BACS/DD/SO presented for payment at the meeting on 2 November 2026:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT including VAT where applicable
M Turczyn (Clerk)	Salary and HCC Pension contributions – October (Salary paid on 28.10.2026)	£1,486.05
HMRC Cumbernauld	Clerk's PAYE/NI October	£184.48
MW Agri Ltd (SO)	Grass cutting in parish	£595.70
TEEC Ltd	Website hosting annual fee	£199.19
R.M.L Tree &Garden Services	Aldbury playground fence repair	£1,188.00
R.M.L Tree& Garden Services	Gate at the allotments materials and labour	£720.00
Colin Chambers	Tree survey	£320.00
Bidwells	Recreation Ground rent	£92.96
Anglo Dutch Ltd (DD)	Monthly payroll provider fee	£27.00
Lamps& Tubes Illuminations Ltd	Installation of 7 day solar timer	£479.82

N Power (DD)	Streetlights power (paid on 21.10.2026)	£158.13
M Turczyn	Clerk's mileage & expenses	£35.20

d) To receive and discuss the draft budget 2027/28.
Cllr Warren provided an update on the draft budget, which included anticipated expenditure for the next financial year and provision for the associated costs of the allotment land lease renewal, increased recreation ground rent and £500 towards the 2027 election costs. The proposed precept increase is 8.5%. The final budget and precept demand will be confirmed once Dacorum Borough Council has notified the Council of the Concurrent Services Grant allocation.

26/131 Meeting close 20:57

Next Parish Council meeting will be held on 7 December 2026 at 8 pm.