



Aldworth Parish Council

Members of Aldworth Parish Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Aldworth Parish Council on **Monday 18th May 2026 at 7pm at Aldworth Village Hall**

Mel Taylor

Mel Taylor, Parish Clerk
12th May 2026

AGENDA

1. **Election of a Chairman and appointment of a Vice Chairman**
To **elect** a Chairman of the Parish Council for the municipal year 2026/27, and to **appoint** a Vice Chairman.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
To **receive** apologies for absence from Members of the Council.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To **receive** any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests by Members.
4. **Minutes of previous meeting**
To **approve** the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16th March 2026 as a true and accurate record.
5. **Aldworth Parish Council Annual Report 2025/26**
Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Kate Walters, will **present** Aldworth Parish Council's Annual Report 2025/26.
6. **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 a proposed 20mph zone
 - iii. Responsibility for gully maintenance adjacent to the highway by St Mary's Church
 - iv. Local Government Reorganisation
 - c. To **receive** any suggestion cards from members of public.
7. **St Mary's Church**
To **note** that St Mary's Church are seeking to raise £40,000 for essential renovation works, and to **consider** any potential support from the Parish Council.

8. Ongoing Matters

To **receive** and **consider** any updates regarding the following ongoing matters:

- i. **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor**
To **consider** actions to promote the ongoing vacancy for a Parish Councillor.
- ii. **Contribution towards aldworthvillage.org domain (Cllr Bennetts)**
It was agreed at the last meeting that the Parish Council would fund the current cost for the domain and hosting and seek transfer of the domain and hosting to the Parish Council. To **receive** and **consider** any updates.
- iii. **Aldworth Footpath Leaflet (Cllr Rutter)**
To **consider** printing costs of £116 for 100 copies or £159 for 200 copies.
- iv. **Recreation Ground bench repairs/replacements (Parish Clerk)**
'Aldworth Parish Council' bench has been delivered and installed.
- v. **Village Hall footpath enhancement (Parish Clerk)**
A grant application is live on The Good Exchange but no funds have been received as yet. When the busyness of year-end and audit has eased, an application will be submitted to the National Lottery, and other funding opportunities will be actively pursued.
- vi. **Aldworth Pop-Up Library**
To **receive** and **consider** any feedback following the first two months of operation.
- vii. **The Well (Parish Clerk)**
To **receive** and **consider** correspondence from West Berkshire Council regarding ownership of The Well. The Parish Clerk will engage with specialist contractors to obtain an assessment of work required and potential costs.
- viii. **Community Litter Pick**
To **receive** and **consider** any feedback following the event on 22nd March, and to **consider** purchasing 2 new litter picking road signs.
- ix. **Speed Awareness**
To **consider** speed awareness matters.

9. Finance

- i. To **note** a financial report for the financial year 2025/26, 1st April 2025 – 31st March 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
Playsafety	£99.60 (£83.00+VAT)	97134 06.05.2026	05.06.2026		Annual play area inspection
ICO	£47.00	-	17.03.2026	17.03.2026	Data Protection annual subscription
M Taylor	£375.36	n/a	31.03.2026	24.03.2026	Parish Clerk's Salary – March 2026
Tactical FM	£10.96 (£9.13+VAT)	SI-5154 25.02.2026	27.03.2026	24.03.2026	Waste collection February 2026
Tactical FM	£10.96 (£9.13+VAT)	SI-5328 25.03.2026	24.04.2026	26.03.2026	Waste collection March 2026
TPJones	£85.92 (£71.60+VAT)	TPJ/P2240 25.03.2026	08.04.2026	27.03.2026	Payroll services April 2025 to March 2026
G Rutter	£35.96	n/a	-	27.03.2026	
Unity Trust Bank	£7.00	-	31.03.2026	31.03.2026	Service charge
Aldworth Village Hall	£20.00	n/a	-	07.04.2026	Contribution towards defibrillator electricity

Tactical FM	£62.04 (£51.70+VAT)	SI-5484 31.03.2026	30.04.2026	13.04.2026	Disposal of waste from litter pick
Engraved Benches	£433.00 (£360.83+VAT)	11244 26.03.2026	-	13.04.2026	'Aldworth Parish Council' bench
PWLB	£590.69	-	27.04.2026	27.04.2026	Loan repayment
Unity Trust	£7.00	-	30.04.2026	30.04.2026	Service charge

- iii. To **approve** the following contractual payments, Standing Orders and Direct Debits for the year 2026/27:

M. Taylor	Currently £349.36 (less PAYE) + £26.00 per month	BACS	Parish Clerk's salary + WFH allowance
HMRC	variable	DD	PAYE
Tactical	Inline with agenda item 14	BACS	Waste disposal monthly charge
Public Works Loan Board	variable	DD	Loan repayment
Aldworth Village Hall	£20.00	SO	Annual contribution towards defibrillator electricity cost
Unity Bank	£7.00	DD	Monthly service charge
ICO	£47.00 (2026/27)	DD	Data Protection registration

iv. Bank Signatories

To **note** that Cllr Bennetts has been added to the bank mandate, as agreed at the meeting on 19th January 2026.

v. Savings Account

To **consider** opening a savings account with Unity Trust to benefit from interest payments on the Parish Council's credit balance. The account provides instant access and easy transfers to/from the current account.

vi. HALC / NALC membership

To **consider** renewal of membership of BALC (Berkshire Association of Local Councils) and NALC (National Association of Local Councils) for the year 2026/27 at a cost of £76.68 (£69.89 for 2025/26).

vii. Insurance Renewal

To **consider** renewal of the Parish Council's insurance for the year 2026/27, due on 31st May 2026. A renewal quote of £437.00 has been received from Zurich, the current insurer. No change to the premium for 2025/26.

viii. West Berkshire Council Members' Bids

To **note** that West Berkshire Council Members' Bids are open for applications until 25th May 2026 and to **consider** potential projects (additional dog or litter bins? incorporating other services into the Saturday market? anything needing refurbishing?).

10. Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

- i. To confirm that Aldworth Parish Council meets the qualifying criteria for exemption and wishes to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review for financial year 2025/26
- ii. To receive and consider the Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2025/26
- iii. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for financial year 2025/26
- iv. To approve the Accounting Statements for financial year 2025/26
- v. To approve the proposed dates for the exercise of public rights as Wednesday 3rd June 2026 to Tuesday 14th July 2026

11. To review and adopt Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Asset Register for 2026/27.

12. Planning

- i. To **consider** planning application 26/00933/HOUSE – Parsonage Green – Replacement of existing summerhouse with single storey timber garde studio.

- ii. To **note** the following planning updates since the last meeting:

Application No.	Address	Details	APC response	WBC determination
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 *	Approved
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	Approved
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
26/00746/FUL	Bower Farm Bower Road	Construction of lean-to to the sides of the existing cattle building	No comment	Awaiting decision

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

13. Play Area

To **consider** the annual ROSPA safety inspection report, following an inspection on 1st May 2026.

14. Dog Bins

- i. To **receive** notification from Tactical Group Ltd that the cost of dog bin and waste bin collections increased on 1st May 2026, as follows:
2 x Dog Bins @ £4.61 per bin = £9.22 per month
1 x Waste Bin @ £4.61 per bin = £4.61 per month
Monthly total: £13.83
Annual total: £165.96

An increasing of £4.70 on the current monthly cost of £9.13. An annual increase of £56.40 on the current annual cost of £109.56.

A further increase to £4.79 per bin will be implemented at the beginning of 2027.

- ii. To **consider** whether the current frequency of litter and dog waste bin emptying is sufficient.
Monthly emptying: £165.96 per annum – current service
Fortnightly emptying: £359.58 per annum
Weekly emptying: £719.16 per annum
- iii. To **consider** a quote of £300.13 to purchase a replacement dog waste bin for the recreation ground, plus cost of installation onto existing post that requires re-setting.

15. Westridge Green

To **consider** flooding and wear-and-tear concerns at Westridge Green corner.

16. Village Gateway Entry Signs

To **consider** village gateway entry signs.

17. 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.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20th July 2026, 7pm at Aldworth Village Hall, followed by Mondays 21st September 2026, 16th November 2026, 18th January 2027, 15th March 2027 and 17th May 2027.