Minutes of a Meeting of
Aldworth Parish Council
held on Monday 21 September 2026 at 7pm at Aldworth Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mel Taylor – Parish Clerk
2 members of public

09-2026-01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
An apology for absence was received from Cllr Ilona Herbent.

09-2026-02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

09-2026-03 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2026 as a true and accurate record.

09-2026-04 OPEN FORUM

a. Questions or comments from members of the public

i. Following ongoing discussions on speeding and highway signage, a member of public suggested that white markings on both sides of the highway could identify the narrowing of the highway to single file as well as shortening of central white lines approaching the village may encourage drivers to slow down. Cllr Bennetts confirmed that data was available from speed monitoring conducted by West Berkshire Council. **Action: Cllr Bennetts to continue to work with District Councillor Coyle and West Berkshire Council Highways Officers for safety highway improvements**

ii. A member of public had copied the Parish Council in correspondence with District Councillor Coyle regarding road closures at the beginning of September. Two issues were highlighted:

Streatley Hill closure (from 2 September, four nights): Notification signage was only placed at the bottom of the hill, and the road was not closed on the first night as advertised. Online information referenced a closure between Streatley Hill and Hermitage, causing further confusion.

Unannounced full closure near the Four Points: No prior notification was provided. The signed diversion route directed traffic down Hartridge Lane, a single-track road unsuitable for tankers, delivery vehicles and high volumes of diverted traffic. This resulted in congestion and vehicles becoming stuck.
Residents request that future road-closure planning takes account of local access needs and the suitability of diversion routes.

b. Update from West Berkshire Council - Councillor Coyle
Cllr Coyle was not in attendance to provide an update.

c. Suggestion Cards from members of public
There were no suggestion cards.

09-2026-05 POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Following discussions regarding a proposal from the Aldworth Village Hall Trustees and Management Committee to transfer ownership of the village hall to the Parish Council, it was noted that a meeting was held on 15 September 2026 with representatives of the Parish Council, the Village Hall Charitable Trust, the Village Hall Management Committee and Connecting Communities in Berkshire's Halls Advisory Service (Kate Mead) to explore options.
The outcome of the meeting was that, in the first instance, the Village Hall Charitable Trust should liaise with the Charity Commission to discuss appropriate status and structure options.

09-2026-06 UPDATES ON ONGOING MATTERS

i. Speed Awareness
Nothing further to add to discussion in Open Forum (minute reference 09-2026-04ai).

ii. The Well
Following agreement at the last meeting, a structural inspection report for The Well had been received and circulated.
Action: Parish Clerk to obtain quotes for the recommended remedial works

iii. Contribution towards aldworthvillage.org domain
As agreed at the last meeting, the Parish Council funded the cost of a year's hosting of the village website at a cost of £120, including domain registration. It was also agreed to transfer the domain and hosting to the Parish Council, however, the current website administrator had advised that they would like to continue maintaining the site.
Action: Parish Clerk to draft an outline of expectations to support an annual grant for hosting and domain registration costs of the village website

iv. Village Hall footpath enhancement
It was noted that the outcome of a grant application to the National Lottery for footpath accessibility enhancement was awaited.

09-2026-07 PLANNING

a) Council considered the following planning application:
26/01917/HOUSE – 3 Hungerford Green – Proposed outbuilding: Section 73 application to vary condition 2 of previously approved application 22/02534/HOUSE

RESOLVED no objection.

b) 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	Approved (amended plans)
26/01217/COND	Glebe Cottage	Approval of details reserved by conditions 8 & 9 of planning permission 26/00234/HOUSE	Not consulted	Split decision – condition 8 refused, condition 9 approved
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	Refused
26/01793/COND	Glebe Cottage	Approval of details reserved by condition 8 Biodiversity Enhancements of planning permission 26/00234/HOUSE	Not consulted	Awaiting decision

09-2026-08 FINANCE

i. A financial report for the period 01 April 2026 to 31 August 2026 was noted.

2 members of public left the meeting

ii. The following payments were approved:

Payee	Amount	Invoice Number & Date	Date Paid	Detail
Tactical FM	£16.60 (£13.83+VAT)	323 24.06.2026	27.07.2026	Waste collection - June 2026
M Taylor	£305.56	n/a	31.07.2026	Parish Clerk's Salary – July 2026
Tactical FM	£16.60 (£13.83+VAT)	433 27.07.2026	31.07.2026	Waste collection - July 2026
J Clark	£120.00	100209 11.08.2026	13.08.2026	Village website domain and hosting
Clive Hudson Assoc	£756.00	26164 14.08.2026	28.08.2026	Structural survey of The Well
Tactical FM	£16.60 (£13.83+VAT)	630 26.08.2026		Waste collection - August 2026

iii. It was noted that agreement had been reached on the 2026/27 pay award for employees on local government 'Green Book' contracts, at 3.3%, backdated to 01 April 2026, and that the revised rate of pay and backdated payment would be included in the Parish Clerk's salary payment for September 2026.

iv. Council considered costs to purchase additional litter picking signage.
RESOLVED to agree expenditure of £40.00 to purchase 2no x A2 Correx signs 5mm.

09-2026-09 ASSET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS
Costs for maintenance of the children's play area and installation of a replacement dog bin had been requested for consideration at the meeting but had not been received.
Action: Parish Clerk to enquire who neighbouring Councils use for maintenance tasks

09-2026-10 VILLAGE MATTERS
Council considered the following matters:

i. Potential sharing of the code to the defibrillator cabinet
It was agreed not to share the code

ii. Dog foul signs for Ambury Road
It was agreed to place a notice in The Leaflet to highlight the dog fouling issue

iii. Purchase of Bleed Kits
It was agreed that Cllr Rutter would carry out further research

iv. Dedicated email address for reporting issues to the Parish Council
It was agreed to place an article in The Leaflet advising where residents could report issues

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09-2026-11 FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA
Nothing at this time.

09-2026-12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Monday 16 November 2026, 7pm at Aldworth Village Hall.

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

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.03pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____