

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Alderton Village Hall on
Tuesday, 21 January 2025 commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present: M West (Chair), D Rayton, J Kettle, P Woodman
Attendance: Parish Clerk, 2 members of the public and Cllr Gray, Cllr Madle and Cllr Mason

250121/01 To accept apologies for absence and confirm the meeting is quorate
Apologies were received from Cllr Davies and Cllr Broderick.

250121/02 To receive Declarations of interest for items on the agenda below
Cllr D Rayton for **250121/07.1.2** - 22 St Margarets Rd, **250121/07.1.4** - 20 Orchard Road **250121/07.1.5** –
14 St Margarets Drive
Dispensation Cllr Woodman – Allotments

250121/03 To receive comments from members of the public
No Comments were received.

250121/04 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 December 2024
The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2024 were **AGREED by COUNCIL** and signed by Cllr West.

250121/05 To receive the County and Borough Councillors' reports
Cllr David Gray provided the County council report and shared the following updates:

- The consultation period for the county budget has closed. The scrutiny committee found the budget to be sound, and a balanced budget is expected, with a 0.5% surplus forecast for the financial year-end.
- Additional central government funding has been allocated for local roads, with £7 million specifically for rural roads.
- The Government has published a white paper advocating removing district councils in favour of unitary authorities, combining the role of a borough and a county council. GCC is considering potential local government restructuring, which may result in the combination of borough councils into a new authority. An increase in the number of county councillors may be required. Proposals for Gloucestershire are expected by mid-February, and local government elections could be postponed.
- The school field fence has been repaired, and the adjacent pathway is scheduled for maintenance in the upcoming financial year.

Cllr Mason and Cllr Madle provided the Borough council report and shared the following updates:

- While the Borough Council's financial status is not as strong as the County Council's, reserves remain at a healthy level.
- There is ongoing uncertainty regarding the borough's development plans. The Borough Council is assessing which plans to proceed with. GCC is reported to be supportive of the strategic local plan.

250121/06 To agree or note matters relating to Highways

6.1 To discuss the flooding in the village and agree actions

The Flood and Environmental Agency officers are working with the Dumbleton Estate landowner on a natural flood management plan to "slow the flow" downstream, set to begin within six months. Further updates expected in follow-up meetings to take place in February or March.

Gloucestershire Highways provided an update confirming that culverts have been cleared, with no blockages found. Landowners and residents are responsible for maintaining clear inlets and outlets. The frequency of future inspections of coverts remains unresolved and will be addressed in a future meeting.

ACTION Cllr Kettle to organise a follow-up meeting with Flood and environmental agency officers and landowner.

6.2 To receive an update on the village sandbags.

TBC has offered to provide a bulk supply of sand.

The proposed storage location was discussed, with the Village Hall deemed unsuitable for a delivery. The allotments were suggested as an alternative.

ACTION Cllrs Woodman and Kettle will conduct a site visit to assess suitability.

ACTION Cllr West to include in the newsletter that sandbags are available

6.3 To discuss the request for an additional grit bin for Beckford Road

Confirmation that the Beckford Road location was suitable from Gloucestershire Highways officer.

ACTION Clerk to establish next steps with the purchasing, installation and filling.

1. To discuss planning application and agree actions

Reference	Location	Description	Comments
1. 22/00998/FUL	Land Behind 52-74 Willow Bank Road Alderton	Full planning application for the erection of 48 dwellings with associated infrastructure and amenities along with demolition of an existing dwelling on land to the west of Willow Bank Road, Alderton	Site development has begun, with the access point via the track currently being used during the demolition of the house. It is understood that once the house is demolished, the track should no longer be used. There have been comments regarding the building materials, and OWL Homes has altered the social housing to red brick. The 4-bedroom house has been changed to a 3-bedroom with a study. The barn has been demolished. The County Ecologist did not raise any concerns regarding barn owls, and this was not stipulated under the conditions. ACTION Cllr Broderick to provide comments to the planning officer. ACTION Clerk to follow up on Willow Bank road closure and access to properties.
2. 23/00720/FUL	Land Adjacent To 22 St Margarets Road Alderton	Proposed dwelling and altered access	No action awaiting decision
3. 24/00393/OUT	Part Parcels 6318 And 6536 Beckford Road Alderton	Outline planning application with all matters reserved (except for access from Franklin Road) for up to 35 dwellings, including affordable housing, allotments and associated infrastructure	Still awaiting some information. The Parish Council plans to submit additional comments to strengthen the objection. Confirmation is also awaited regarding when the application will be reviewed by the Planning Committee.
4. 24/00622/FUL	20 Orchard Road Alderton	Replacement single garage for double garage with annex above with associated windows and rooflights	A no objection comment has been submitted
5. 24/00745/FUL	14 St Margarets Drive Alderton	Proposed dwelling, parking and turning space.	ACTION Cllr Broderick to review and submit no objection
6. 24/00129/CONDIS	Land East Of St Margarets Drive, Alderton		The bungalow has been demolished
7. 24/01053/FUL	Gilders Yard Gretton Fields Gretton	Change of use of the site from mixed commercial use (Class E) to residential and for the demolition of existing buildings and hardstanding on site and erection of 5no. detached dwellings with associated parking and garden spaces.	Neighboring parish application. More information and clarity on location is needed.

* Cllr Rayton did not participate in discussions.

7.2 To note the following planning application decisions

Reference	Location	Description	Decision
1. 24/00753/FUL 24/00754/LBC	Gardeners Arms Beckford Road	Alterations to a public house with three ancillary lettable rooms, and a manager's flat, including internal alterations and an external staircase and alterations to a second floor window, together with a replacement public house entrance door, canopy, and an access ramp and deck with a pergola	Permit Consent
24/00655/APP	Land East Of St Margarets Drive, Alderton	Reserved Matters (appearance, scale, layout and landscaping) in respect of outline planning permission 22/00624/OUT for the demolition of 16 St Margaret's	Approve

		Drive and the erection of up to 48 dwellings, associated infrastructure, landscape and biodiversity enhancements with details of access and all other matters reserved.	
24/00974/FUL	16 Beckford Road Alderton	Conversion of existing garage into living space, including alterations to the roof design; single-storey rear extension, and construction of an oak framed porch (reduced scale revised submission of previously approved ref. 24/00102/FUL)	Permit

250121/08

To agree or note matters relating to the Allotments

8.1 Matters Arising:

- 8.1.1 The leaking APC shed roof has been sealed.
- 8.1.2 A fox killing chickens on the allotments has been reported.
- 8.1.3 The southern boundary hedge has been trimmed.
- 8.1.4 A follow-up response to a plot holder's correspondence was agreed.

250121/09

To receive an update on maintenance of Parish Council Assets:

- 9.1 **Speed Sign** (VAS) – no update
- 9.2 **Parish notice boards** –War Memorial noticeboard to be repainted in March.
- 9.3 **Pest control at the allotments and playing field** – no update

250121/10

To agree or note matters relating to the Playing Field and Changing Facility

10.1 Matters Arising

- 10.1.1 The newly installed soft-close pedestrian gate is closing too abruptly. The installer has inspected it and will consult the manufacturer for a replacement.
- 10.2 No new issues reported from the Play Area Inspections.
- 10.3 Swings will be repainted in March, weather permitting.
- 10.4 Groundwork for the Playing Field entrance is expected to begin in early January, depending on weather conditions.
- 10.5 **COUNCIL AGREED** to allow Alderton Acorns Preschool to use the Millennium Copse and facilities for Forest School at no cost.
ACTION Clerk send hire agreement for signing.

250121/11

Correspondence

11.1 Changes to Gloucestershire County Council Grass Cutting

GCC has taken over grass cutting from TBC, aiming for two cuts per year for environmental benefits, with additional cuts for safety concerns reported via FixMyStreet. Concerns were raised over the safety when exiting the two junctions out of the village onto the B4077
ACTION Clerk clarify with GCC Highways.

11.2 To discuss the village newsletter as the current editor is stepping down

ACTION Clerk to ask current Editor if anyone has volunteered to take over and confirm if a February edition will be published.

11.3 Village Hall Committee request for documentation and clarification of ownership of the village hall

There is no record of ownership on the Land Registry. Cllr Broderick to conduct a local land search with TBC. Engagement of a conveyancing solicitor to be suggested to the Village Hall Committee if no ownership documents can be produced.

ACTION Clerk to check if parish archives are available with GCC.

250121/12

To receive an update on the community consultation for priorities and agree actions

Awaiting GRCC to confirm a date for a meeting in February to receive draft baseline report.

250121/13

To receive an update on the School Playing Field and agree actions

GCC suggested exploring the promotion of the school playing field as a rural exception site.
COUNCIL AGREED not to pursue this option, as the village has already undergone significant development, including an increase in housing and social housing. The Council believes current needs are met, and further development would not be well received by the community.

250121/14

Finances – documents circulated prior to meeting

14.1 To record income received up to 31 December 2024

COUNCIL APPROVED December receipts received of **£ 13,918.33**

COUNCIL APPROVED the January 2025 Payments list

Agreed direct debits

	Payee	Description	Authority	Amount	VAT	Total
DD	Scribe	Accounts & allotment system	LGA 1972 s.111	57.60	14.40	72.00
DD	NEST	Pension	LGA 1972 s.112	132.23	0.00	132.23
DD	EDF	Changing facility Electricity	LG(MP)A 1976 s.19	45.00	0.00	45.00

December Payments list

	Payee	Description	Authority	Amount	VAT	Total
FPO	C. Bridges	Clerks salary	LGA 1972 s.112s.2	865.34	0.00	865.34
FPO	HMRC	NI & PAYE	LGA 1972 s.112	57.17	0.00	57.17
FPO	DBF Electrical	Installation of defibrillator	LGA 1972 s.137	300.00	60.00	360.00
FPO	Community Heartbeat	Adult pads	LGA 1972 s.137	63.95	12.79	76.74
FPO	N. Broderick	50% of RTPI membership	LGA 1972 s.111	184.00	0.00	184.00
TOTAL						£1543.25

COUNCIL NOTED the internal transfer from the 1% Bus acc to Current Acc of £5000

14.2 To approve bank reconciliation

COUNCIL APPROVED the bank reconciliation for the current state of accounts 31 December 2024 (Appendix A).

14.3 COUNCIL APPROVED the 2025-26 budget**14.4 To consider expenditure items for S106 and CIL monies and agree actions**

COUNCIL NOTED we have received S106 money fencing and reprofiling the mound.

ACTION Clerk to check that the groundwork to the playing field is suitable expenditure for S106 money.

14.5 To consider saving account options

COUNCIL NOTED that the fixed-term deposit account has matured, earning £2,171.84 in interest. A total of £62,171.84 has been transferred to the CIL 1% savings account.

ACTION Cllr Kettle to check the current interest rate and conditions of the APC tracker account.

COUNCIL AGREED that if the interest rate is lower in the tracker or there are restrictions, then £60,000 should instead be transferred to a fixed 12-month account offering 2.65% interest.

250121/15 To agree the 2025-26 precept

COUNCIL NOTED that Alderton's Band D properties has increased by 18.71

Council discussed the impact of inflation and agreed to consider increase the precept to maintain the same purchasing power as the previous year.

COUNCIL AGREED to keep individual contributions the same as the previous year at £46.90, with the increase of Band D properties the precept would increase to £20,950

ACTION Clerk to confirm the 2025-26 precept is £20950

250121/16 COUNCIL AGREED to adopt following documents:

16.1 General Privacy Notice

16.2 APC and staff Privacy Notice

250121/17 To note agenda items for next meeting 18 February

None.

Meeting closed at 10.06 pm. Date of next Meeting: 18 February 2025 commencing at 19.00pm, in Alderton Village Hall.

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Chairman

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Date

2025 Meeting Dates: 18 February, 18 March, 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December

APPENDIX A

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/12/2024		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		124,647.84
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 31/12/2024		40,778.36
			165,426.20
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 31/12/2024		47,629.37
A	Cash in Hand 31/12/2024 (per Cash Book)		117,796.83
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/12/2024	0.00	
	Current Account 31/12/2024	17,178.20	
	Savings Account (1%) 31/12/2024	576.32	
	CIL Savings (1%) 31/12/2024	9,289.56	
	CIL Savings (3.6%) 31/12/2024	60,000.00	
	CIL Savings (% tracker) 31/10/2024	30,967.18	
			118,011.26
	Less unrepresented payments		214.43
			117,796.83
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		117,796.83
	A = B Checks out OK		