

ALDFORD AND SAIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on **THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY 2026 AT 7.15PM at Aldford Village Hall.**

Present: Cllr M Davies (Chair), Cllr A Cotton, Cllr B Roscoe, Cllr D Weaver, Cllr H Gornall, Cllr D Walker.

In Attendance: C Taylor (Clerk), A Farbon (Grosvenor Estate), G Vickers (Forestry – Grosvenor Estate).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr L Humphries, Cllr P Cummins, Borough Cllr A Waddelove, S Dawson (Grosvenor Estate). **Resolved:** Noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Members were invited to declare any personal, prejudicial, or pecuniary interests they may have in any item on the agenda, subject to the rules regarding disclosure contained in the current Members' Code of Conduct and as defined by regulations made under section 30(3) of the Localism Act 2011. **Resolved:** Cllr Davies declared an interest in Planning application **25/02994/FUL**.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Greg Vickers, Head of Forestry, Grosvenor attended the meeting to share plans with members for proposed planting of a new broadleaved woodland (Eaton Estate New Woodland 2028). He provided a map showing woodland within the Parish Boundary. The project was being developed as part of Forestry Commissions English Woodland Creation Offer and the Parish Council had been identified as a consultee. The estate had written to the Parish Council asking for any comments on the proposed scheme and Gregs attendance at the meeting was to explain the proposals and take away any Parish Comments as part of the consultation process. Following this initial consultation there would be consultation with CWaC, Natural England, and the Forestry Commission.

Members thanked Greg for his comprehensive overview and advised that the main concern was regarding the impact of any shading on Smithy Cottage. Greg confirmed that they would look to address concerns (there was room for open space, leaving open under the power cable, grading back with low lying shrubs before the main forestry block).

Resolved: The Parish Council supported the proposal with the assurances built in regarding the potential shading issues at Smithy Cottage and agreed that Greg would continue to liaise with Cllr Roscoe who would keep the Parish Council updated.

4. POLICE UPDATE.

Police not in attendance / report not circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that there was an intention to significantly reduce the number of PCSOs but that the situation was currently unclear following a move by the PCC to find additional funds through the police precept to avoid this happening. PC Gardner had contacted the Clerk to discuss attending parish meetings going forward. It had been suggested that he would attend one meeting every few months around the Farndon ward which would mean long spells between his attendance at any one parish. The Clerk had written to ask if the PCSOs previous suggestion of a ward cluster meeting was still an option.

Resolved: Noted.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT.

Cllr Wadelove was not in attendance due to another commitment but circulated his report prior to the meeting.

In addition:

i) CWAC Review of 'community – led' speed limit policy.

Resolved: Noted. Members view was that any likely needed schemes in and around the parish had already been addressed.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of the Meeting of 25th September 2025 were approved as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr B Roscoe **Seconded:** Cllr A Cotton

7. MATTERS ARISING.

i) Update on proposed telecommunications installation at Aldford Farm. Delayed but in progress. Covered in Borough Councillors report.

ii) **Defibrillator at Saighton.** Sarah Dawson had previously advised that Grosvenor Estate had given their consent (on the 7th June 2025) to

Saighton Village Hall Committee to relocate the Village Hall defibrillator to the front of the building (external). The Parish Council had previously agreed to fund the move if relocation agreed. Sarah had also advised that the defibrillator had 'dropped off' but was now back in service. The Clerk had since spoken to a member of the Village Hall Committee regarding the potential for the defibrillator to be relocated and to explain how and why the issue had been raised on a Parish Council agenda. Christine Grass had agreed to discuss it with the Village Hall Committee and report back. The Clerk had spoken with Christine again prior to the meeting and she had advised that she intended meeting with an estate representative to discuss a possible resiting the following week. The original site identified by the estate was not possible due to power supply issues and an alternative needed discussing and agreeing. They were also agreeable to looking at better signage if leaving in the current location. **Resolved:** Noted.

Cllr Walker had received an email from a member of the Village Hall Committee asking about custodianship and funding of the defibrillator going forward if the Village Hall were not able to continue the responsibility. **Resolved:** The Clerk to write to the Village Hall Committee advising that the Parish Council's view was that should this situation arise the Village Hall Committee would in the first instance need to raise it as an issue with the community, local businesses, and the Borough Councillor with a view to finding a replacement custodian and assistance with funding the upkeep of the defibrillator and consumables.

Defibrillators general: The estate had written to advise that they had updated their estate defibrillator location map. Churton defibrillator had been removed. The estate had circulated the revised map where possible and on Aldford noticeboard. Cllr Walker had agreed to post the new map on the Saighton noticeboard, telephone box and provide the village hall committee with one.

Resolved: Noted and Cllr Walker to post the new location maps as agreed.

iii) First Aid Courses:

Resolved: Cllr Humphries not in attendance to report back. To be raised on next agenda.

8.ACCEPTS.

Resolved: That the payment of salaries and expenses, the payment of invoices for goods received and services rendered be approved and the receipts and balances be noted. Balance at 21 January 2026 was £3869.75 in business account and £525.41 in reserve account.

Proposed: Cllr M Davies **Seconded:** Cllr A Cotton

9. BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING 2026/2027.

A Precept of £5600 was agreed for the financial year 2026/2027.

Proposed: Cllr Roscoe **Seconded:** Cllr Davies

All present agreed.

10. PLANNING.

Noted that all planning applications were circulated to members between meetings.

EXISTING APPLICATIONS:

24/00008/LBC Village Stocks Chester Road Aldford Replacement of the timber stocks which are placed within stone supports.

24/03779/DIS Lea Mosses Farm Lea Lane Aldford Discharge of condition 4 (Habitat management and monitoring plan) of planning application **24/01661/FUL**.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

25/03597/FUL Abbey Gate College Saighton Lane Installation of a barrier on main driveway.

25/04006/FUL Yew Tree Farm Buildings Saighton Lane Saighton Retrospective application for the installation of replacement and new rooflights to Barn Buildings 1 and 2 and for the addition of a rear dormer to Barn 1 following prior approvals 25/01376/PMA and 25/01377/PMA.

25/02994/FUL 1 Saighton House Saighton Lane Saighton Erection of a wooden shed, wooden greenhouse, and siting of hot tub to be removed at the end of the occupancy of the property.

DECIDED:

Withdrawn: 25/00174/LBC Abbey Gate College Saighton Lane Saighton Install a rise and fall traffic barrier to drive into college.

(Application listed as no longer available or restricted from public viewing).

Approved: 25/00455/WAS Land near Manor Farm Lower Lane Aldford Construction of an agricultural anaerobic digestion facility and associated infrastructure.

11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

i) Notification received of Marathon/Metric Marathon 11 October 2026.

Resolved: Noted.

ii) Notification received of Deva Triathlon 7 June 2026.

Resolved: Noted.

iii) Severn Trent mains replacement roll out. Water mains to be replaced in various parishes, including Aldford and Saighton, with resulting road closures. Clerk had circulated advisory to members from Severn Trent and some households had received letters direct from the water company. Work was to commence 2 February 2026 and expected to complete by April 2027. Severn Trent had held a drop-in in Aldford Village Hall giving residents the opportunity to engage and find out more about the planned works. Severn Trent to provide regular updates as the project progresses. **Resolved:** Noted.

iv) Head of CWaC Highways had contacted the Clerk to offer a quarterly Teams meeting to discuss Farndon Ward Highways issues. The Clerk had accepted and was waiting for the initial meeting to be set up. Cllr Waddelove would also join this meeting. **Resolved:** Noted.

12. STANDING CONSIDERATION OF HIGHWAY MATTERS.

Nothing further raised.

**13. RESOLVED: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL:
THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026 AT 7.15PM AT SAIGTON VILLAGE HALL.**