

ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL WARDENS UPDATE: AUG/SEPT 2025

AREA	ALLOTMENTS & MILLENNIUM ORCHARD
TO CHECK	Fencing & gates, benches, trees, hedges & shrubs, grass height, signs, footpaths, housekeeping, ground conditions
INSPECTION DATES	01/8, 08/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 05/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9
ISSUES TO REPORT	1. The public footpaths are clearly marked and in acceptable condition. 2. Fences and benches are in adequate condition. A latch on an entrance gate has been repaired and is now functioning as intended. 3. Information signs are installed and legible. 4. Grass height conforms to mowing specifications. 5. There is an abundance of fruit present on the trees this year. 6. Most allotment holders are upholding their plots to a commendable standard. Outstanding Items ❖ Footpath matters raised with DBC have not yet been resolved. ❖ APC to consider the provision of a skip in February 2026 to assist with housekeeping objectives.

AREA	PLAYGROUNDS
TO CHECK	Equipment, Safety Information, Fencing & Gates, Benches, Trees, Grass height, General ground conditions, Empty litter bin.
INSPECTION DATES	01/8, 08/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 05/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9 Tring Station 21/8, 22/09
ISSUES TO REPORT	7. Both playgrounds were inspected visually, with the following observations recorded: - User and ownership information was clearly displayed at both playgrounds. - Grass height met the specified mowing requirements. - Benches were intact, and gates operated properly. - The litter bin was emptied on a fortnightly basis. - Overgrown vegetation is present at the perimeter of both playgrounds and requires removal. Grass at the Tring Station playground was found too high (Photos 1-5). The clerk is discussing these issues with the contractor. - A bench has visible signs of decay. ROSPA recommend replacing the entire bench. - Several logs on Log World bridge and at ground level are not in good condition. ROSPA advise replacing the affected logs. Outstanding Items ❖ A gatepost and fence panel at Aldbury Playground are unstable and gaps between rubber tiles in the swing area need to be closed to prevent tripping and foot entrapment. The Clerk has arranged for a contractor to address the gatepost but is engaged in more detailed discussion concerning the rubber tiles. ❖ Update playground signage to include emergency advice, a 'What Three Words' location, contact details i.e. telephone number and email address. ❖ Secure loose fixings on the log world apparatus (see recent playground inspection report).

AREA	RECREATION GROUND
TO CHECK	Tennis court, Basketball area, Pavilion, Fencing, Benches/seats, Bollards, Trees & vegetation, Grass height, car park, Litter & dog waste bins, Footpaths.
INSPECTION DATES	01/8, 08/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 05/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9
ISSUES TO REPORT	8. Weekly litter picking was conducted. Likewise, DBC continue to empty waste bins each week. 9. Grass height is currently within specification. 10. The benches remain in fair condition; however, APC may wish to consider replacement of one bench next year due to evident decay, loose fixings, and a missing slat on a frequently used asset (Photo 6). 11. The tennis court was found in good order. A new net has been fitted and welcomed by users. (Photo 7). 12. No new tree defects were observed, though there is a notable presence of acorns beneath oak trees. 13. Although the CP hedge has been lowered, the outcome appears not to align with previous standards. During the operation, a dog waste bin supplied by DBC was damaged, and portions of the hedge were either left unfinished or omitted altogether (Photos 8-9). The Clerk has spoken with the Contractor, who has agreed to replace the damaged dog waste bin. Outstanding items ❖ The removal of graffiti is needed from the sports pavilion wall. This will help towards deterring future incidents. ❖ The car park entrance requires urgent surface and pothole repairs, which has drawn disapproval from visitors. The Clerk is currently seeking alternative quotes due to the prohibitive cost of those received thus far.

AREA	VILLAGE GREEN(S) & POND
TO CHECK	Benches, Trees, Pond, Grass height, Stocks, Litter Bins, Notice board.
INSPECTION DATES	01/8, 08/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 05/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9
ISSUES TO REPORT	14. All benches were found to be in functional condition. Some decay visible on one bench (nearest the bus stop). 15. The trees showed no visible defects except for normal life-cycle shedding. 16. The grass areas continue to meet the specification. 17. DBC emptied the litter bins on a weekly basis. 18. Weekly litter picking was conducted. 19. The notice board contained current and relevant information and was orderly.

AREA	HIGHWAY'S, PUBLIC FOOTPATHS & DITCHES
TO CHECK	Surfaces, Pedestrian routes, Signage, Drainage, Grit bins, Litter, Street lamps, Bollards, kissing gates, Notice board (Tring Station)
INSPECTION DATES	01/8, 08/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 05/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9
ISSUES TO REPORT	20. A visual inspection of the streetlights was completed on 8th of September, with no additional defects found for the outstanding items list.

	21. Litter was collected along Stocks Road (to the parish boundary), New Ground Road (to the GUC bridge), Malting Lane, Stonycroft, and Toms Hill to FP15. 22. The drain south of Stonycroft is overgrown, causing water to pool after recent heavy rain (Photos 10 and 11). APC may wish to contact the landowner before winter to request vegetation clearance. 23. A large pothole area on New Ground Road (between Brightwood and Aldbury End) was reported to HCC Highways (Ref: 401004807991). A blocked drain on Toms Hill Road near the Beechwood Drive junction was also reported (Ref: 401004807995). Photos 12-13. 24. As a result of a highway accident, a traffic calming gate on Tom's Hill has been irreparably damaged (Photo 14). Social media speculation linked the accident to poor parking by building contractors on Toms Hill. Outstanding Items ❖ Reinstate waymarker on Hitchins Field (public footpath no:63). ❖ Replace decayed street nameplate on Toms Hill; included in DBC replacement list, Ref No: 895084. ❖ Restore streetlighting at the Recreation Ground entrance, opposite the Church, Malting Lane junction, and near Beechwood Drive junction. ❖ Repaint two faded SLOW road markings on Toms Hill and Station Road, HCC Ref Nos: 401004654989 and 401004654999. ❖ Reinstate two metal kissing gates on Footpath No: 68 (Stonycroft to former Isolation Hospital).
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PHOTOGRAPHS





