

ALPINGTON WITH YELVERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Monday 8th January '24 at 7.30pm at Alpington Village Hall

Present: Jeremy McNulty (JMcN) Chairman, Sue Stacey (SS) Vice-Chairman, Barry Gelder, Ivan Green (IG) John Lain (JL), David Whitehead (DW) and one member of the public. This meeting was quorate.

1. Apologies of Absence

County Councillor Kay Mason-Billig and District Councillor John Fuller

2. Declaration of Business and Pecuniary Interest

None

3. Minutes of Meeting held 6th November 2023

Were proposed by IG seconded by DW and duly signed off

Actions

The church gate latch work has not been completed. JMcN will continue to speak to the person concerned to see when he will be able to repair it.

NCC Highways has confirmed it will reinstate the H bar at the school crossroads which was lost when the road was resurfaced. JMcN to monitor.

Framingham Earl PC has purchased a convex mirror to improve visibility at the 90-degree bend at Aldiss Farm Shop on Burgate Lane and are awaiting permission from Aldiss to have this installed. They have approached AYPC for a contribution to the cost of the mirror.

Bergh Apton PC has updated that Thimble Cottage homeowner has refused to reduce the width of his hedge which encroaches onto Highways land reducing visibility at the junction. JMcN will update KMB and ask for Highways intervention.

IG reported that BAPC has cut down the Japanese knotweed on Mill Road.

4. Reports from District and County Councillors and Parishioners' questions

JF's email advised that additional VCHAP consultation is a result of two sites having fallen away and the need to seek alternative plots to meet the 20-40 homes shortfall. SNDC has a ditch walker, although overwhelmed with reports of flooding reports of blockages and excess water should still be reported. JMcN to request contact details.

5. Correspondence

We have been successful in our bid for a £300 Clean-up and Bloom grant. This will be used to purchase native plants i.e. primroses for the banking in front of the village hall, foxgloves for the Jubilee Wood and plants for the pond.

6. Finance

Finance: Balance of accounts, Receipts received & Payments made			
Main Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
5 Nov 23	Balance b/f	£4,387.76	
	Payments		
13 Nov	Three Pastures	216.00	
27 Nov	Clerk salary & expenses	194.30	
27 Nov	PAYE	37.80	
11 Dec	Vouchers to webmaster	120.00	
28 Dec	Clerk salary & expenses	183.00	

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28 Dec	PAYE	38.00	
			789.10
Receipts			
13 Nov	Village Hall hedge cutting	100.00	
17 Nov	Transfer from CIL account for play area maintenance	109.22	
18 Dec	VAT reclaim	595.71	
5 Jan	SNDC Clean up and Bloom grant	300.00	
			1,104.93
7 Jan 24	Balance c/f		4,703.59

NB c/f includes £200 ringfenced from Coronation/Jubilee grants towards bench and £300 ringfenced from Clean up and Bloom grant for plants

CBF Account

Date		Amount	Totals
5 Nov 23	Balance b/f	£21,732.70	
Payments			
13 Nov	Defibrillator pads	132.00	
13 Nov	Cullum brothers, pond project	330.00	
			462.00
Receipts			
18 Dec	VAT reclaim	425.90	
			425.90
7 Jan 24	Balance c/f		£21,696.60

NB Balance c/f includes a maximum committed spend of 21,696.60 to unpaid CBF awards shown below

£21,431.54 Pond project

£265.06 Jubilee celebrations

CIL Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
5 Nov	Balance b/f	£367.22	
Payments			0.00
15 Nov	Wensum prints play area signage	258.00	
17 Nov	Transfer to current a/c for play area maintenance	109.22	
			367.22
Receipts			0.00
7 Jan 24	Balance c/f	0.00	

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Setting of the 2024-2025 precept

It was proposed that as our anticipated reserve c/f will reduce, (£6.6k c/f 2023-2024 to an estimated £3.4k c/f 2024-2025) due to a number of authorised one-off spends in 2023 along with below-inflation precept increases in previous year; therefore we should raise the precept by £3 (10%) for Band D properties to mitigate this position. Proposed DW, seconded SS and carried unanimously. We will retain money in the 2024-2025 budget for a herbicide treatment of the football pitch but work will be undertaken based on its condition given that the pitch had a treatment in 2023.

7. Planning Applications

Application Ref.	Address and Proposal	P/Council Decision	S/Norfolk Decision
2023/1542	Agricultural Building south of Avenue Farm Cottages Back Road Alpington Norfolk Conversion of barn into a two-bedroom annexe	Approved	Pending
2023/1543	Agricultural Building south of Avenue Farm Cottages Back Road Alpington Norfolk Conversion of barn into a two-bedroom annexe	Approved	Pending
2023/1897	Land North of Mill Road Alpington Norfolk Development for two residential bungalows and detached garages together with a new access road and biodiversity area	Refused	Pending
2023/3519	Quackers, Church Road, Yelverton Norfolk NR14 7PB Front, rear, and side extensions, raising the roof with rear dormer windows for accommodation in roof space, solar panels	Refused	Pending

VCHAP update

SNDC is looking for additional sites as one site at Rockland has fallen away and they also wish to build in some contingency should other sites fail to be deliverable. Wheel Road Alpington has been identified as a possible suitable site for 12 properties. If given the go ahead this would increase the total number of additional dwellings in the Alpington/Yelverton/Bergh Apton cluster to 62.

Posters have been placed on the village and Wheel of Fortune notice boards along with our website to raise awareness and inviting comments on the proposal to SNDC

8. Highways – speed camera, parking, roadworks etc

The flooding at the pond caused by a blocked gully was reported 27th Dec (before it had flooded onto the road). NCC Highways has acknowledged there is a problem and the turnaround time to complete the works is 6 weeks. LMcN will raise a further job now that this has caused flooding. LMcN will also raise jobs for standing water at Mill Road junction and The Slad. LMcN will ask KMB for an update on the 50 mph speed restriction at the Hellington Bends. The November speed camera data will be shared and published on the website. The camera needs moving in January, and the December data circulated. JMcN to speak to parishioner who helps with this.

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9. Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan

A draft biodiversity policy and action plan has been circulated ahead of the meeting, produced by SS and LMcn in response to a requirement from the government for all Parish and Town Councils to have these in place. As a responsible Parish Council we are already mindful of our role in protecting our environment and the policy and action plan formalise our existing commitments together with some new ones. The Policy and Plan were discussed and proposed for adoption by BG, seconded by DW and agreed by all. The documents will be reviewed at the May '25 PC meeting.

10. D-Day 80

On Thursday June 6th 2024 there will be national celebrations to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings (D-Day 80). Our village event will be at The Wheel of Fortune. BG will speak to the landowner of the adjacent field about the siting of a bonfire there. Bonfires to be lit at 9:15pm with a prepared speech to be read out. The Hippy Chippy has been asked to supply fish and chips. There is no grant funding from SNDC. The organisation of the event will be led by BG supported by others. BG to arrange and mobilise a working group

Reports

a) Tree Warden

Pollarding of the hazels in the Jubilee Wood will be scheduled in when we have some improvement in the weather together with some tree management around the pond.

b) Village Hall Committee

The fund-raising quiz on 6th Jan 2024 was enjoyed by all who attended and raised c£400 for replacement catering equipment.

JMcN asked if the VH would consider installing an accessible tap for a hosepipe connection for outside works. SS will raise at the 12th February meeting

c) Village School

DW and IG had a meeting with Rosie Welch, headteacher. It was confirmed that the previous CBF grant money has been used towards the cost of replacement windows. The school is fully subscribed and will be every year. No statistics were provided to show the split of pupils from the village and other areas. Despite parking being an ongoing issue the offer to park at the Wheel of Fortune is ignored. The school is investigating the installation of an EV charging point on the staff car park LMcn will email JF to see if there are any grants available. RW will discuss with the Governors the request for one of them to be present at Parish Council meetings or to be a point of contact for us. JG to request a list of Governors and to establish how many times a year they meet.

d) Play Area Monthly Inspection

The new signs have been erected and multiple old ones removed. Further painting and clean-up of the equipment will be undertaken in the summer.

e) Garrick Field

The litter bin has been moved following a request from SNDC. Some football matches were postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

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f) Village Pond Monthly Inspection

The monthly report has been circulated. As reported the gully under the road is blocked resulting in the pond overflowing. The perimeter tree line needs reducing in size and will be undertaken when the weather improves.

Parish Projects

Pond

We have received the three contractor quotes needed to enable us submit a grant application to SNDC Pride in Place. It was agreed that the Parish Council will submit a grant and JMcN will circulate the application to Councillors for feedback ahead of its submission. The funding request must be match funded and delivered by Dec 2024. If we are unsuccessful or do not receive sufficient funding we will apply for National Lottery funding.

The meeting closed at 20:59 Next meeting is the 11th March

Approved 11th March 2024

