

ALPINGTON WITH YELVERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.30pm at Alington Village Hall

Present: Jeremy McNulty (JMcN) Chairman, Sue Stacey (SS) Vice-Chairman, Barry Gelder (BG), Ivan Green (IG), Hayley Jakeman (HJ), Steve Hunter (SH), John Lain (JL), and three members of the public.

This meeting was quorate.

1. Apologies of Absence

County Councillor Kay Mason-Billig (KMB) and District Councillor The Lord John Fuller.

2. Declaration of Business and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 11th November 2024

Were proposed by IG seconded by SS and duly signed off.

Actions

SS will contact UK Power Networks for tree maintenance work in areas where trees are obstructing power cables on the village hall field.

LMcN updated that KMB has confirmed that plans to implement a 50-mph speed restriction limit at Hellington Corner will commence January '25.

JMcN reported that he does not believe that the post in the hedge at Arcadia is missing a 30-mph sign. A sign is already in place on the approach to the village, and repeater signs are typically not required in built-up areas.

JMcN confirmed that the double planted hedging at Russell Engineering is alive but growing slowly. Whilst the site may appear untidy, this is beyond our control.

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

None received and no questions to be passed to the District or County Councillors taken.

5. Correspondence

Bus shelter damage. A Perspex panel has been ordered at a cost of £145.52 (inc. vat) to replace the damaged one which is believed to have been caused by a youth swinging his feet against it. The panel is scheduled for delivery next week ready for installation soon.

Bergh Apton Recycling Centre. A parishioner advised that he was unaware of the new requirement to book in advance before using the site. The centre actively advertised this change ahead of implementation and it was also publicised in The Link magazine, delivered to every household, and reported in the EDP newspaper. It was agreed that no further action was necessary.

Litter. Litter is being dropped daily along Slade Lane, on both sides of the verges leading into the village, and it is consistently the same type of litter. This has led to the assumption that the litter is the work of a single perpetrator. This has prompted the question of whether "Do Not Litter Our Village" signs should be installed to address the issue. Research has shown that negative messaging does not effectively change behaviours, and it was agreed that we would not proceed with this. We will make an effort to identify the culprit by capturing the vehicle registration number, which will then be forwarded to PC Goodrum.

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6. Finance

Finance: Balance of accounts, Receipts received & Payments made			
Main Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
9 Nov 24	Balance b/f	£6,084.17	
	Payments		
18 Nov	Foxgloves	12.00	
18 Nov	Key for village hall	10.00	
27 Nov	Hedge cutting VH & Garrick field	174.00	
27 Nov	Clerk salary and expenses	211.60	
27 Nov	PAYE	44.80	
5 Dec	TOP Maintenance	240.00	
5 Dec	TOP Maintenance	192.00	
5 Dec	TOP Maintenance	288.00	
5 Dec	TOP Maintenance	192.00	
5 Dec	Voucher for Webmaster	120.00	
23 Dec	2x SAM2 camera batteries	212.00	
23 Dec	Clerk salary and expenses	210.60	
23 Dec	PAYE	44.80	
			1951.80
	Receipts		
27 Nov	VH contribution for hedge cutting	65.00	
			65.00
4 Jan	Balance c/f		£4,197.37
<i>NB c/f includes £200 ringfenced from King's Coronation grant towards bench. £66.58 ringfenced from Clean up and Bloom grant for plants</i>			
CBF Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
9 Nov 24	Balance b/f	£20,277.42	
	Payments		0.00
	Receipts		0.00
4 Jan 25	Balance c/f		£20,277.42
CIL Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
9 Nov 24	Balance b/f	£0.00	
4 Jan 24	Balance c/f		£0.00

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Setting of the 2025-2026 precept

It was proposed that given the estimated reserve c/f for 2024-2025 is £3.8k that the precept should be increased by £3 (9%) for Band D properties to maintain this position for 2025-2026. Proposed JMcN, seconded BG and carried unanimously.

7. Planning Applications

Application Ref.	Address and Proposal	P/Council Decision	S/Norfolk Decision
2024/0654	Pinewood, Slade Lane Yelverton Norfolk NR14 7PR 2 bay cart lodge, single garage and store. Re-position entrance gate and create driveway	Approved	Approved
2024/2841	Oakdene, Mill Road, Alington Norfolk NR14 7PQ One and a half storey front extension	Approved	Approved
2024/3692	8 Fortune Green Alington Norfolk NR14 7NN Single storey rear extension	Approved	Pending

8. Highways – speed camera, parking, roadworks etc

JMcN provided an update that two replacement batteries for the speed cameras have been purchased. These are higher capacity and expected to hold a charge longer than the old ones. They will be installed in a lockable box, fixed to the post under the camera. It was unanimously agreed that the cost would be covered by the CBF account.

9. CBF 2024

The list of CBF awards was agreed at the meeting and successful applicants will now be notified.

10. Reports

a) Responsibilities Matrix

This was agreed at the meeting. JMcN will arrange for it to be posted on the website. LMcN to request data on how many hits the website is getting. It was agreed that all councillors have a H&S responsibility especially when organising activities. The lead councillor will ensure that a suitable risk assessment and a briefing is completed prior to works starting. Risk assessment templates will be developed and circulated JMcN

b) Tree Warden

IG has replaced JL as tree warden. IG attended a South Norfolk Tree Warden Network meeting. A petition objecting to the reintroduction of neo nicotinamide pesticides was signed on behalf of AYPC. SS will hand over a tree species identification handbook left by a previous tree warden.

c) Village Hall Committee

The VHC has given permission for two moveable goal nets to be placed on the VH field, with the old broken one to be removed. The VHC also has no objections to the post and link barrier at the end of the car park being realigned to enable the grass area to be used as an overflow carpark. JMcN to get quotes for the work.

d) Village School

HJ has introduced herself to the school as their PC representative. HJ will inform the school about outside lights being left on at weekends, follow up on their interest in becoming involved at the pond and remind them about parking availability at the

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Wheel of Fortune and the Village Hall to help reduce the inconsiderate parking around the school seen daily.

e) Play Area Monthly Inspection.

BG will prepare an inspection report for the next meeting. A known issue is that the fort platform is worn at the edges and lifting. It is recommended that the top layer is replaced or a new top layer added. LMcN to track progress. BG will repair the protective matting. David Bracey H&S has retired and has recommended Peter Briggs as his replacement. Contact details will be shared with BG.

f) Garrick Field Monthly Inspection

There is a fallen tree in the Jubilee Wood area which will be cleared. A working party will also coppice the hazels by the end of February if time and weather allow.

g) Village Pond Monthly Inspection

The pond report has been circulated by SS. Work has commenced to prune the trees adjacent to the pumping station and will continue if time and weather allow. Additionally, there is a dead tree on the island that will also need to be removed.

11. Parish Projects

Play Area

This will be the next Parish project focused on upgrading, improving and adding new equipment along with surrounding perimeter fencing. SH and BG will co-ordinate this project. LMcN confirmed that National Lottery funding of up to £20,000 is available and does not require match funding. LMcN has shared with BG the details of a company that provides play equipment and has completed similar projects in Norfolk. The company comes highly recommended by David Bracey (Health & Safety).

The meeting closed at 21:35

Next meeting to be held on 3rd March 2025

Minutes approved and signed 3rd March 2025
Jeremy McNulty - Chairman

