

ALPINGTON WITH YELVERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Monday 3rd MARCH 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 one member 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 6th January 2025

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

Actions

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

LMcN updated that the 50-mph speed restriction limit at Hellington Corner has been implemented.

JMcN advised that work will commence to reposition the posts and chain on the village hall car park to enable the field to be used for overflow car parking.

JMcN will email Gary Overland, Norfolk County Highways asking for the SLOW sign on the road by the village hall to be repainted and to ask for a rethink on a 20 mph speed reduction through the village.

JMcN will develop risk assessment templates and circulate these.

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

2025 Litter pick. South Norfolk District Council has advised that the dates for this year's annual litter pick, paying a £20 reward to each participating group, is 1st March – 31st May. IG reminded councillors of the litter pick guidance and confirmed we would litter pick the village on Saturday 8th March.

Yelverton F.C. The club has requested that the Parish Council consider a £150 contribution toward a fertiliser and weed-killing product for the Garrick Field, which would be effective for two years. Ashfords provided a quote of £680 + VAT for weed control, which exceeds the 2025-26 budget. It was unanimously agreed to allocate £150 from the main account to the FC.

Internal Audit. Adepta has confirmed its willingness to conduct our annual internal audit again. The agreed timeline is to submit the audit on Friday, May 2nd, and collect it on Wednesday, May 31st.

£300 VE Day Community Grant. This grant is available to a group organising a VE Day celebration. However, it was agreed that the notification was given at short notice. Currently, there are no known plans for a village celebration that could make use of this.

Pavement parking outside the Wheel of Fortune. A parishioner has raised concerns about pavement parking outside the Wheel of Fortune after football matches, which restricts access for pedestrians. They have requested that the WOF explore possible solutions to mitigate this issue. BG took an action to address this.

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6. Finance

Finance: Balance of accounts, Receipts received & Payments made			
Main Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
9 Jan 25	Balance b/f	£4,197.37	
	Payments		
7 Jan	Community Action renewal	20.00	
10 Jan	Microsoft 365 renewal	59.99	
27 Jan	Glasdon bus shelter window panel	145.52	
28 Jan	Clerk salary and expenses	211.90	
28 Jan	PAYE	44.80	
24 Feb	Chainsaw chain and fuel	44.17	
26 Feb	Clerk salary and expenses	210.60	
26 Feb	PAYE	44.60	
			781.58
	Receipts		
7 Jan	CBF transfer for speed camera batteries	212.00	
13 Feb	VAT reclaim	252.93	
			464.93
2 March 25	Balance c/f		£3,880.72
<i>NB c/f includes £200 ringfenced from King's Coronation grant towards football nets. £66.58 ringfenced from Clean up and Bloom grant for plants</i>			
CBF Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
4 Jan 25	Balance b/f	£20,277.42	
	Payments		
7 Jan	Speed camera batteries	212.00	
7 Jan	CBF award History Society	84.00	
7 Jan	CBF award Yelverton F.C.	500.00	
7 Jan	CBF award 1 st Alington Brownies	409.60	
27 Jan	CBF award Village Hall deposit for toilet refurbishment	1,000.00	
27 Jan	Speed camera box and lock	44.97	
			2,250.57
	Receipts		
13 Feb	VAT reclaim	174.15	
			174.15
2 March 25	Balance c/f		£18,210.00

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CIL Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
4 Jan 25	Balance b/f	£0.00	
2 March 25	Balance c/f		£0.00

7. Planning Applications

Application Ref.	Address and Proposal	P/Council Decision	S/Norfolk Decision
2024/3692	8 Fortune Green Alington Norfolk NR14 7NN Single storey rear extension	Approved	Approved
2025/0160	Corner House Mill Road Alington Norfolk NR14 7PQ Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement self-build dwelling	Approved	Pending
2025/0387	Parsons Mead Church Road Yelverton Norfolk NR14 7PB	Approved	Pending

8. Highways – speed camera, parking, roadworks etc

JMcN reported that the replacement batteries are performing well, despite the cold snap. The speed camera data continues to be shared with PC Gooderham. Parking outside the school remains an issue. The school included an email from a frustrated parishioner in its latest newsletter, urging parents to park sensibly. To address ongoing flooding issues, new gullies have been installed and ditches cleared at the Slade Lane junction with the A146. Reeders Lane is experiencing flooding due to a blocked ditch and collapsed bank. JMcN has made a temporary repair and reported the issue to NCC Highways. JMcN advised that www.Fixmystreet.com offers an alternative way to report any issues like potholes etc. to your local council and is more user-friendly than the NCC Highways process.

9. CBF 2024

All 2024 CBF awards have been paid apart from the balance for the Village Hall toilet refurbishments.

10. Reports

a) Tree Warden

IG has contacted the Tree Council, which awards grants ranging from £250 to £2,500 for hedge and tree planting. While all funding for 2025 has been allocated, IG has registered our Parish Council's interest for future grants. IG advised that there is no visible identification to show that a tree has a TPO. *PMN* southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/conservation/trees-hedges/protected-trees/check-if-a-tree-is-protected is the link to a map showing trees with a TPO's in South Norfolk

b) Village Hall Committee

SS reported that the VHC is interviewing for a new cleaner this week. Over £400 was raised from the recent quiz night, which will help with VH maintenance costs. The next meeting will be its AGM.

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c) Village School

HJ updated that she has met with the headteacher, and they plan to hold regular meetings moving forward. Points discussed at the meeting included:

Parking. The school trialled staggered leaving times to alleviate parking issues but this did not help. Children are being educated on road safety and are looking at ideas for the summer to encourage less dependency on driving to school. HJ will share the highway code rules on parking at junctions with the school so that they can be included in future newsletters. This can also be shared with the Chair of Governors.

Litter Pick. The school is also considering organizing its own litter pick to promote positive behaviour.

Village Pond. Children at the school plan to paint pictures of the pond and have asked about display options. HJ will suggest scanning and publishing them on the village website as one option.

Funding. The school is fundraising for new outdoor play equipment and may apply for 2025 CBF funding if additional funds are needed.

Electric charging points. The school is considering installing two EV charging points at the car park which could be made available to parishioners after hours.

d) Play Area Monthly Inspection.

BG shared his latest inspection report. The equipment and fence are in a good state of repair. A general clean-up of all equipment is needed including the removal of graffiti on one piece of play equipment. JMcN will purchase a hose, and a working party will do a clean-up asap.

e) Garrick Field Monthly Inspection

No issues to report, except that the pavilion is grubby and would benefit from a clean.

f) Village Pond Monthly Inspection

The pond report has been circulated by SS. Everything is tidy around the pond but some wildflower planting behind the life-safety device has failed. There are dead trees that need removing on the island when the water level allows.

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 reported that a working group has been formed to oversee and deliver this project. A scope of works has been shared with 6 potential suppliers for tendering, 3 have expressed an interest. These will be evaluated internally and then shared at a meeting with the Village Hall Committee and Cottontails representatives proposed for Monday 17th March. Once the project scope is finalised, we will seek funding from SNDC through John Fuller and from the National Lottery, which if successful will enable the biggest range of improvements.

AOB

BG reported that over twenty people attended the meeting to discuss the proposed Community Village Shop at the Wheel of Fortune, with several attendees expressing a willingness to get involved in various roles.

The meeting closed at 21:22. Next meeting to be held Tuesday 6th May 2025

