

ALPINGTON WITH YELVERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the AGM and Parish Council Meeting
Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm at Alington Village Hall

Present: Jeremy McNulty (JMcN) Chairman, Sue Stacey (SS) Vice-Chairman, Ivan Green (IG), Hayley Jakeman (HJ), Shaun Getley (SG) and three members of the public.

This meeting was quorate

1. Appointment of Chairman

IG nominated JMcN for the role of Chairman, seconded by SG and duly approved by the Councillors

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

JMcN nominated SS for the role of Vice-Chairman, seconded by SG and duly approved by the Councillors

3. Declaration of Business and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None

4. Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Kay Mason-Billig, District Councillor The Lord John Fuller, Barry Gelder and Steve Hunter.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 2nd March

Were proposed by SS, seconded by HJ and duly signed off.

Actions

The repositioning of posts and chain on the village hall carpark to enable the field to be used for overflow carparking has been completed.

The Ancient Tree Inventory has been mapped and documented by Woodland Trust. Our parish has the Veteran Oak ID 49973 which is the tree located close to the Garrick Field and a Common Yew ID 53436 identified as a Notable Tree and located close to St. Mary's Church. Weeding of the gravel path at the pond has been actioned. It is noted that the weeds are reestablishing themselves and a further weed will be necessary. SSandJMcN

Maintenance works at the play area, cutting the boundary hedging, cleaning the play equipment, gravelling the entrance to the play area and grass seeding where needed has been completed.

A new litter bin has been purchased and installed on the A146 layby in our parish and added to SNDC collection round.

6. Reports from the District and County Councillors and Parishioners' questions

The monthly report from KMB is awaited and will be circulated to Councillors and published on our website once received.

JMcN summarised the report provided by JF

- Under the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) there is still no clarity on whether Alington with Yelverton PC will be in the East Norfolk Council or Greater Norwich Council as no detailed map has been published. East Norfolk Council is likely to be England's poorest Council with the oldest population. JF believes that the proposal will fail at Judicial Review as due process has not been followed
- JF states that the cancelling of the Bergh Apton concrete works as a suitable site under VCHAP by the Inspector is outside the law as the Devolution and Community Empowerment Act makes it a statutory requirement to use brownfield land before

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greenfield land is developed. This may add further delay. The Church Meadow Alington site has been approved.

- JF has no further information on the potential solar farm development at Yelverton.
- A round of public consultation with the planning inspectorate of East Pye solar farm has commenced with a deadline of 10th June. Any previous responses must be resubmitted for this further round of consultation which the PC will do. JF hopes that this application will be refused on the grounds that poor land needs to be consumed before the best land is tainted and the East Pye proposal is on 86% of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

7. Correspondence including review of standing orders and Local Government restructuring

The Financial Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were reviewed by Councillors and approved unanimously.

As mentioned earlier in the meeting JF has advised that there is no clarity yet as to which Council Alington and Yelverton will be aligned to.

The annual Health and Safety inspection for the play area will be due in June/July 2026. Seagrave, who carried out the inspection last year, are unable to undertake the 2026 inspection. ROSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) can carry out the inspection at a cost of £83 + VAT for up to five pieces of equipment, with an additional charge of £4 + VAT for each extra item. As the play area contains eight pieces of equipment, the total cost will be £95 + VAT. Councillors approved the appointment of ROSPA as the supplier, and LMcN will arrange for the inspection to be carried out.

The owners of the land adjacent to the footpath leading through Avenue Farm from Mill Road have erected a sign on their gate stating that dogs must be kept on a lead. The parishioner who raised the matter was advised that this is not a legal requirement and it is considered likely that dog owners will be aware of this and therefore not be unduly concerned by the sign.

The Norfolk Ramblers Association has asked all Parish Councils to assist by preparing a document detailing the condition of the footpaths within their parish and publishing it on the Parish Council website. IG agreed to undertake this task and SG offered his support, and LMcN will provide a template for completion.

LMcN thanked HJ for her peer review of the internal audit and confirmed that this has been delivered to Adepta for sign off.

Finance including 2025-2026 Audit

Finance: Balance of accounts, Receipts received & Payments made			
Main Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
1 March '26	Balance b/f	£4,564.70	
	Payments		
11 March	Wordpress renewal	43.20	
11 March	Topsoil/grass seed for play area	16.89	
25 March	Clerk salary and expenses	212.70 *	
25 March	PAYE	44.80	
27 March	CAN annual subscription	20.00	

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8 April	Ashfords	315.42	
20 April	Glasdon litter bin	257.71	
22 April	Clerk salary and expenses	223.50	
22 April	PAYE	44.60	
5 May	Ashfords	315.42	
5 May	NALC annual subscription	187.27 *	
5 May	Resin for litter bin fixing	3.99	
7 May	Anglian internet software renewal	30.00	
		Total	1,715.50
	Receipts		
10 April	Community Action Fund	5,318.00	
27 April	Precept	5,999.40	
		Total	11,317.40
8 May '26	Balance c/f		£14,166.60
<i>£66.58 ringfenced from Clean up and Bloom grant for plants</i>			
<i>*Denotes spend over £100 that is not VAT recoverable</i>			
CBF Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
1 March '26	Balance b/f	£940.19	
	Payments		
20 March	Defibrillator pad village hall	63.54	
27 March	Posts/material overflow carpark	65.85	
		Total	129.39
	Receipts	Total	0.00
8 May '26	Balance c/f		£810.80
CIL Account			
Date		Amount	Totals
1 March '26	Balance b/f	£53.49	
	Payments		0.00
	Receipts		0.00
8 May '26	Balance c/f		£53.49

2025-2026 Audit

This has been submitted to Adepta for sign off. The current account closed with a balance of £4,227.11. The CBF account closed with a balance of £810.80 and the CIL account closed with a balance of £53.49.

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8. Planning Applications including VCHAP

Application Ref.	Address and Proposal	P/Council Decision	S/Norfolk Decision
2025/1043	Church Meadow Lane Alington NR14 7NF Notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use and associated building works of agricultural building to dwelling house (QA and QB)	Approved	Pending
2025/1442	Land East of Back Rd Yelverton Norfolk Construction and operation of a c15MW Solar Farm, comprising the erection of solar panels mounted on metal frames, centralised inverter housing, spares container, new access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with CCTV cameras and access gates, temporary construction compounds, landscaping and all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated site works	Refused	Pending
2025/1929	Land East of Nichols Road Alington Erection of 7 residential dwellings and associated garages as part of the settlement extension (SN0529SL) included in the Village Cluster Plan	Refused	Approved
2025/2476	Land North of Mill Road Alington Erection of 1 self-build bungalow	Refused	Refused
2025/2626	Land off Church Meadow Lane Alington Norfolk Installation of concrete pad to be used for storage	Approved	Pending
2025/3364	Land adjacent to Wheel of Fortune Public House Wheel Rd Alington Norfolk Erection of twelve residential units, one self-build site (class C3) and a new carpark and land for the pub (class sui generis) with associated landscaping and highways works	Approved	Pending
2026/0651	Arcadia Wheel Road Alington Norfolk NR14 7NL Proposed front and rear 2 storey extensions, decking to front, replacement 2 storey outbuilding and air source heat pump installation	Refused	Pending

2025/1043

JMcN confirmed that he will make enquiries with SNDC Planning regarding the reasons this application is experiencing repeated delays and requests for additional information, despite it being considered a straightforward application.

9. Community Action Fund (CAF)

An application was submitted via JF for £5318 for new goalposts at the village hall and materials needed to fully refurbish the swings at the play area. This application has been successful. We shall be making a further application for new play area equipment in the next round of funding.

10. Highways – speed camera, parking, roadworks etc

April's data from the SAM2 camera will be circulated to Councillors and uploaded onto the website. *JMcN* will be meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioners team on 27th May to discuss highway improvements with specific attention to dangerous parking

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around the school at pick up and drop off times. LMcN will report the mud and gravel on Reeders Lane to NCC Highways team and the virtually erased SLOW sign towards the church, this was reported one year ago. LMcN will also request a Duck sign to be added to the existing 30mph post on Framingham Earl Road approaching the pond as the ducks are sitting and crossing the road and raising awareness should improve their safety. SG will instal wire mesh over the drain covers close to the pond to avoid any ducklings falling in.

11. Reports

a) Tree Warden

Woodland Trust has mapped and documented an ancient tree inventory of 220,000 trees including two in our Parish. This has been circulated to Councillors and LMcN will provide a link to their website so that anyone who wants to read more can check it out from our website.

b) Village Hall Committee

A committee meeting was held at the end of April. Christine Hunter has contacted Daivd Bloomfield asking that the overflow carpark is opened for training and match days to help keep the front car park clear. The VHC is considering replacement front doors for the hall subject to cost.

d) Village School

HJ reported that as part of the school's sustainability plan a litter pick was undertaken in the school grounds with HJ assisting. The school has also gone wrapper free at snack times.

Plans are underway to install nine 7kW EV charging points in the staff car park by Autumn 2026. Staff will be able to use the chargers at cost price while the facilities will also be available to the wider public during evenings and weekends. A 7kW charger typically provides around 20–30 miles of range per hour and is best suited to locations where vehicles are parked for several hours, such as homes and workplaces. As a result uptake by parishioners may be limited.

The school is successfully fund raising for new outdoor play equipment and has to date raised £21k of the £25k required.

HJ advised that she informed the school that the Police and Crime Commissioner's team will be visiting to review the traffic problems in the Parish which include dangerous parking by parents at drop off and pick up times. HJ will share details with the school of the children's road safety bollards which can be placed on the pavement at appropriate times to encourage more considerate parking by motorists. It is likely that grant funding will be required to support their purchase.

e) Garrick Field Monthly Inspection

Nothing to report

f) Village Pond Monthly Inspection

Water quality is good but has the annual blanket weed covering in places. The metal railings have been repainted by a parishioner. Whilst weeding has been undertaken, it is noted that the weeds are re-establishing themselves and further treatment will be required. The wooden railings around the pond will also require staining this year, in addition to clearing reeds and removing dead trees. These tasks are on the Parish Projects outstanding works list to ensure they are not overlooked.

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g) Play Area Monthly Inspection

SH and JMcN are continuing to develop a strategy for the purchase of new play equipment in anticipation of successful grant funding applications. A recent successful grant application will enable the purchase of replacement parts to refurbish the swing set. The double gate within the fencing also requires attention as the concrete slab has broken. JMcN has reported this to JDMA who will arrange for the slab to be replaced. The Village Hall Committee will consider a request to relocate the basketball hoop onto the grass field together with the installation of a hardstanding area once sufficient funds have been raised.

The bottom of the litter bin on the village hall field has corroded but is still usable and will need replacing in due course but is a low priority.

The meeting closed at 20.41 Next meeting to be held Monday 6th July.

 6/7/26