

ALPINGTON WITH YELVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting on Monday 28 March 2011 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Alington

DRAFT MINUTES

Present : Jack Taylor (Chairman), Jerry Davies (Vice Chairman), David Whitehead, Chris Black, John Lain, Kevin Gotts and Suzan Thomson.

Also Present: Linda Gray (Clerk), Adrian Gunson, County Councillor Sue Thomson, District Councillor PC Joe Pike and Jim Bagley South Norfolk Council and 5 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs Osborne, Doug Ratcliffe, Tricia Gunson and Polly Brompton.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2010** previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising**
Pot holes and the quality of the road surface of all the roads in the village

4. **Chairman's Report by Jack Taylor**

The Parish Council is in place and forms a tier of local government. Parish Council meetings are public meetings that residents are always able and invited to attend to voice their comments and concerns. Unfortunately this year the Parish Council had been undermined by a few that did not follow the protocol of attending Parish Council meetings but instead held their own public forums to voice their own opinions. The information given at these forums was found to be incomplete, inconsistent and was not representational of the whole community. Your Parish Councillors are residents of the Alington and Yelverton who voluntarily give up their time to look after the village and who always try to act in the best interests of the whole village.

Acknowledgements of thanks were extended to all the councillors for the time and support given in the last year especially to the voluntary time given to inspect and repair the areas of responsibility in the village such as the Play Area, Garrick Field and Pond and the support given at the recent public forums. Thanks were also extended to Adrian Gunson, County Councillor, and Suzan Thompson, District Councillor for attending meetings and providing a valuable link to the local councils. Thanks also went to Linda Gray the Clerk for her work during the year.

Affordable Housing Development. The dwellings were now complete and were handed over to Saffron Housing in January 2011. All of the residents now settled in were from Alington except for the 3 bedroomed house that had to be offered to people from surrounding villages as no Alington or Yelverton residents had made a bid for it.

Play Area and Village Hall Playing Field; A new Play Fort had been installed on the Play Area behind the Village Hall. Grateful thanks were extended to Carl Wilkins, Barry Hutchins, Barry Cushion and Andrew Morris as well as Parish Councillors Jerry Davies, Chris Black and John Lain who were all instrumental in pressure washing, rebuilding, repairing and rebuilding the Play Fort and resulted in a real "community spirit" project.

Gritting Route Change, The Parish Council had requested the gritting route from the School to Nichols Corner to be changed to cover the School to Fortune Green, resulting in many more of the community being able to take advantage of a gritted road in bad weather.

Planning; Nine planning applications were received in 2010. The Parish Council continues to offer consideration and support regarding the planning application process including site visits and planning hearings. Protecting the interests of the majority of residents and trying to foresee any implications relating to future development from planning decisions were seen as vital importance.

Local Development Framework, the site specific consultation was sent to the Parish Council in September and the Parish Councils response rejecting all the sites included on the map for the whole of Alington and Yelverton was sent to Tim Horspole at South Norfolk Council.

Unfortunately two residents undertook to undermine the Parish Council by holding two of their own public forums regarding the site specific consultation. The Parish Council were not invited to these forums however, Councillors attended when the details were discovered. The information included in these forums was found to be incomplete, Alington was reported as being represented although only certain sites in the centre of Alington were included and the sites on Mill Road and Nichols Corner were completely excluded along with the site in Yelverton.

The Parish Council has had to redress the inconsistencies in the information given at the Public Forums and state that the Parish Council continues to support the whole of Alington and Yelverton. When further consultation events are published regarding the site specific consultation, information will be placed on the Notice board along with notices around the village. Please be assured no decisions on the land included on the LDF site specific plans have been agreed nor have any planning applications been submitted. Further consultation is expected during 2011 with a decision being made in early 2012.

Pond; Had not received any work this year but some work will be needed on the trees surrounding the pond and thanks were extended to Ray and Marion Moreton who were instrumental in keeping the area very tidy.

Garrick Field; Remained well used by the football club and the community and thanks were extended to John Lain for keeping the field tidy and safe.

Village Hall Committee; The Parish Council fully supports the Village Hall Committees efforts to sustain the Village Hall and tries when possible to help with maintenance and has sole responsibility of the Play Area.

5. Parish Council Elections

2011 was Election year when the whole of the Parish Council would need to stand again to be re-elected on to the Parish Council. The nomination papers were available from the Clerk and needed to be returned to South Norfolk by noon on 4 April 2011.

6. Police Report by Joe Pike

Crime in the Village for 2010-2011 had doubled since 2009-2010. It was reported that the majority of this crime could have been committed by one person who had now been removed from the area. Crime regarding house burglaries had not increased but theft other including theft from garden sheds, outbuildings and garages had increased.

‘Be a good neighbour’ - If you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood call the police. Norfolk is an extremely safe place to live; the chances of being burgled still remain extremely low. Contact the Police Non emergency number to report incidents 0845 456 4567.

7. Village Emergency Plan Report by Jim Bagley

Jim Bagley gave information regarding Alington with Yelverton villages making a Village Emergency plan. Questionnaires would be posted through all households to ask if residents had any equipment or personal skills that would be useful in an emergency. Councillors discussed how facilities at the Village Hall would be used. As the heating at the Village Hall was oil, there would be no heating of the hall if there was a loss of electricity. It was discussed the best way around this would be to provide an outlet outside the Village Hall where a generator could be attached. It was agreed the Parish Council would arrange for questionnaires to be distributed and

to be the main contact point. It was also highlighted that good old fashioned “Community Spirit” would prevail in the event of any emergency in the village.

8. Financial Report by Linda Gray, Parish Clerk

The bank balance had finished at £6,909.03, £577.14 lower than the previous year and the precept had been increased to £6,492.30, a 2% increase in line with inflation. Bank interest, due to the changes in interest rates, was considerably less this year. Section 137 donations were donations from the Parish Council on behalf of the community to non profit making organisations that could potentially benefit the whole community and included the Air Ambulance and Loddon on Call. Capital expenditure of £300.00 had been used to purchase the Play Fort and around £2,500.00 had been spent on the installation of the Play Fort.

9. Garrick Field Report by John Lain

Regular safety checks are conducted of the field and the results discussed at the Parish Council Meetings. Litter is collected on a regular basis to keep the field tidy and the Japanese knotweed was receiving ongoing treatment. The dug out required attention and the Football Club were investigating funding available for maintenance or replacement. The annual Rospa report had not highlighted any new areas for attention. Work to survey the Ancient Oak for remedial work would take place later in the year.

10. Play Area Report by Kevin Gotts

The Play Area received regular safety checks the results of which were discussed at the Parish Council Meetings. A new Play Fort had been installed along with new fencing to the area. The Play Fort had remained closed due to the ground area around the structure needing turf. The turf had now been laid and the Play Fort was open for use.

11. Pond Report by Jack Taylor

The pond also received regular safety checks the results of which were discussed at the Parish Council Meetings. In the coming year several of the trees surrounding the edge of the pond will require some work and the Parish Council would be contacting contractors shortly.

12. County Councillors Report by Adrian Gunson

Hobart High School received consistently good results. The head teacher Mr John Robson had announced his retirement and the Deputy Headteacher Mr Sam Griffin had been appointed the headship. The school would now advertise for the Deputy Head post. The Swimming pool refurbishment would be completed in April 2011.

Parking at the School had greatly improved but had not been completely resolved.

Bus Service changes were due to take place on 4 April.

Re-routing of Gritting lorry had been well received by the residents along Wheel Road.

Trowse By Pass the controllers for the lights were replaced last year and most problems had been resolved although there remained a problem with timings of the lights at off peak times.

Wheel Road Surface dressing had not reacted well to the bad weather in the winter and a lot of the chippings had come away. A road sweeper had been sent to tidy the area.

A146 Speed control was being conducted on Motor bikes

LDF site specific Consultation for the Site specific plan had received objections to any large scale developments in Alington with Yelverton.

13. District Councillor Report by Suzan Thomson

South Norfolk Council had made significant budgetary cuts in the last two years resulting in no redundancies and no increase in Council Tax. The contingency plan included shared services with neighbouring authorities so no services would be affected by budgetary cuts.

Long Stratton by pass planning permission had expired. Housing developers in the area applying for housing development in Long Stratton would be expected to include the bypass in the proposals.

Traffic Wardens were being replaced and would now come under the authority of the Norfolk Police and Highways.

Refuse collection remained on the same day but were being collected much earlier in the day. The uptake of the Brown bin had recently increased.

Affordable Housing 42 parishes had been involved in local needs Affordable Housing developments including Bergh Apton, Alington and Rockland. The buildings were of a high standard and were being considered for a design award.

14. Reports from Local Groups

Alington Primary School- Report by Mrs T Osbourne, Head Teacher.

The school continues to play a central part in the local community and there are currently 100 pupils on roll. September saw the development of an outdoor play area and the growing of vegetables in raised beds. There are strong links with both Framingham Earl High School and Hobart High School which aides the year 6 pupils with transition to high school. Over the last twelve months the school had worked hard to develop a curriculum for the pupils which is broad and enriching.

Village Hall Committee – Report by Alan Clark

The Hall continues to be hired to several groups on a regular basis during the week along with the occasional bookings at weekends and with a recent enquiry for long term bookings the Village Hall continues to survive. The committee had entered into a programme of rebuilding and refurbishment of the building. A recent planning application to replace more of the cladding and refurbish the oil tank shed were under consultation. The heating system will require updating and insulating the roof in the coming year which was expected to cost around £16,000. £8,000 so far would be gained from grants and fundraising events would add to the funding required. A Fete was planned for September 2011. The Village Hall is very successful but does need volunteers to help, ideas for new fundraising and new people on the committee. Any help or ideas would be welcomed by the committee.

Rainbows, Brownies & Guides- Report by Sandra Savoury.

Rainbows for 4-5 year old has a membership of 23, Brownies maintains a membership of 30; 7 to 10 year olds and Guides 32, 10 to 13 year olds all of whom enjoy cooking at meetings as well as a sleepover in the hall and craft activities. To celebrate the centenary year of guiding the Brownies undertook to complete several badges as well as going away to Whitwell Hall for a pack holiday. Two Guides gained Baden Powell Awards which is the highest award at Guide level. Camping at Nojam and Whitwell Hall was possible due to donations received to purchase new tents.

History Society – Report by Chris Black

Interest in the society continues to be healthy, with a membership of 29. A varied programme of meetings in 2010 included some focusing specifically on the village and other meetings were of more general interest including Garden History, the Norwich Shawl and restoration. A visit to the Beccles Museum was rounded off by visiting Sylvia Ford in her new house. A project to provide an Archive Record to be available at the Village Hall is ongoing and any help from Volunteers for Research and recording are always welcomed.

Painting Group - Report by Pat Barter

Meeting on alternate Tuesdays for 2 hours, 15 watercolourists enjoy a relatively quiet afternoon painting to different styles and themes. Most of the group would be exhibiting for the first at the fete this year.

Football Club – A report by Mr Bloomfield.

The team had gone from strength to strength and the reserves were the winners of both the league and cup. The First team had won the league but lost the cup on penalties. Due to the success of the First Team they had been invited and were looking into moving up a league to the Anglian Combination. Unfortunately due to the facilities at the Garrick Field and Village Hall not coming up to the standard required, the First Team will consider moving matches to Easton College in order to be accepted in the higher league.

A Mini Fete and 5 aside tournament were very well supported by the village and made £1000.00. The Parish Council agreed they were happy for the Football Club to investigate upgrading the facilities on the Garrick Field.

TWIGS - Report sent by Tricia Gunson

A thriving ladies group with over 30 members. Meet every first Wednesday in the month for companionship, light refreshment and to hear a speaker, topics have included, ancient trees, pioneer sisters in Canada, woad, memories of Yetholm (Northumberland) and flower and cookery demonstrations. Three suppers a year held in the Village Hall raise funds along with raffles and membership. There are visits to local places of interest and three further groups who meet to walk, play scrabble and make craft items. We always welcome visitors including gentlemen and new members.

Parish Charities– Report sent by Doug Ratcliffe

The Alington and Yelverton Parish Charities combine four original local Charities which were initially set up to give coal to the poor and old, or widows of the two parishes. The principle income for the Charities is the annual rent from 3 small areas of farmland totalling some 14 acres. The trustees met as usual before Christmas and agreed 22 gifts of £40 to parishioners of the two villages.

Wednesday Fellowship Report by Pat Barter

The group continues to meet every 2nd Wednesday in the month and is open to men and women of any faith. Meetings begin with a short time of Christian worship before an invited speaker covers spiritual or secular subjects and concludes with tea and cake. The charity supported by the fellowship is the Vidyal Trust caring for Children and elderly in the poorest communities of India and Sri Lanka.

Club Cascade – A report by Pat Barter

Meets Tuesdays monthly for the over 55s and continues to be supported by 25-27 members, meetings and outings had been excellent with a full programme organised for next year.

15. Parishioners Questions

A recent double football match on a Saturday at the Garrick Field had received a report of excessive bad language. Although a double football match is a relatively rare occurrence the language on the football field during a match should be controlled by the referee.

16. Next Meeting the Parish Council

Annual General Meeting to be held Monday 9 May 2011

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm