

DRAFT MINUTES OF ALDBOROUGH AND THURGARTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on Wednesday 22nd May at 7.30PM in Aldborough Community Centre

1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME
2. MINUTES of the last Annual Meeting – The minutes of the APM 2025 were not available to sign and have not been received from the former clerk despite requests by D Hooker. D Hooker notified attendees of this and apologised for their absence.
3. CHAIRMAN’S SUMMARY of the Parish Council Activities and Subcommittee Reports– D Hooker read the attached report.
4. COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS- John Toye shared updates regarding the upcoming changes to the framework of the Council; North Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council will be reconfigured to act as one. Council. J. Toye will be in position for a further 2 years but will be slowly replaced by a shadow council in 1 year. J. Toye aims to make sure that the community is not impacted by these changes and will continue to serve as a point of contact and spokesperson whilst in post. J. Toye also shared that due to changes in boundaries, Aldborough and Thurgarton will be positioned centrally in the new Erpingham, Roughton, Gresham area, which he believes will leave the village in a stronger position.
5. REPORTS FROM CLUBS/SOCIETIES/BUSINESS’
Healthier Aldborough and Thurgarton Initiative – Dee Jupp
Dee read the attached report.
Parishioners discussed community gym options, or access to fitness equipment for young people. T Hooker stated that the Parish had considered taking a donation of gym equipment before but had come across too many hurdles with storage, insurance, supervision etc.
A parishioner raised a previous discussion around a wellness trail at the back of the doctor’s surgery. Alex Lorryman said they had reached a dead end with this due to insurance.
T Hooker said the Parish would like to consider an outdoor gym.
Aldborough Cricket Club – Rory Stephens
The cricket club nearly folded in 2025, at which point it had 15 people. It now has 45, largely due to a considerable uptake from Women and girls. It is the club’s first time having a female team, and doing this has encouraged friends and partners of the females to come along as well, thus growing the club further.
The club is now 229 years old, and will play it’s first ever Women’s game, Rudham v Aldborough on Friday. During May the first home game of the season, Aldborough v Aylsham will occur.
Two club members have been sent on coaching courses and have received coaching badges. The club aims to secure a Junior League. The club coached 40 children last year.
The club has had a change in ethos and finds as a result that it’s players value the community more and are more invested.

The club will host mid-week and Sunday games, and a touring side. It has been a great year for the club, and it is a privilege to play in such an amazing village. The Chairman's Day is on 5th July 2026, and will have a BBQ for the community. All are welcome to attend. There will be a Children's game in the morning, Women's at lunch, and Men's in the afternoon.

Aldborough Surgery – Alex Lorryman (Practice Manager)

Alex Lorryman read from a report – attached.

David Hooker commented on the improvements to the grounds since the employment of a new gardener.

Church Room – Jamie Mumford

There are blocks on the planning for the Church Rooms, which was applied for in August. The organisation in charge of this has now closed, which has caused progress to stall. Jamie is informed that the work will still go ahead, and then the room must be formally marketed for sale. There are currently several interested parties.

Village Fayre – Helen Hudson

Helen read from a report – attached.

Aldborough Primary School – Richard Hembling Chair of Governors

Richard read from a report – attached

Aldborough Players – Jane Maguire

May 2025 - 2 hilarious one-act farces by the French dramatist Georges Feydeau.

Feb 2026 - our 32nd pantomime "Cinders". A first-time writer and director, working with cast of regulars joined by some welcome newcomers. Astonishing range of talent in the village, covering not only acting but also all the vital backstage roles such as set construction and costumes (often the unsung heroes).

Forthcoming production of "Ladies' Day", an extremely funny but also moving play about four northern women who escape their daily lives at a fish packing factory and go to the races, May 8th and 9th.

Aldborough Community Centre – Dee Jupp

Dee read from a report – attached

Greener Aldborough – Tina Hooker

Tina read from a report – attached

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS etc

D Hooker requested that the attendees consider the replacement of the existing village sign, which has suffered significant wear and tear. Helen Hudson shared A3 images at the meeting to give parishioners an idea of how the sign should look once work has been undertaken to improve/replace it.

D Hooker explained that the sign cost around £3200 four years ago. The sign now has significant cracks and therefore cannot be repainted. Attendees agreed. D Hooker shared two options for the sign, which were to replace the original with a like wooden sign at a cost of around £2,000, or to replace the sign with an aluminum version with UV-sensitive inks and a better chance of lasting longer. D Hooker also proposed leaving a second set of these available to be changed as required for a future Parish Council. The cost for this would be a few hundred pounds.

D Hooker requested people consider these options and informed attendees that this would be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

J. Toye stated that he would need to make sure that this was acceptable due to Aldborough being a conservation area. He said he would have this information by the next meeting.

A parishioner requested an update on the planning application for the pig farm. D Hooker informed him that the farm has appealed the refusal issued for planning. The next step will be for the Government Planning Inspectorate to consider the appeal. This will be done on a written basis, and all comments will be considered.

J. Toye advised anyone commenting to do so on a factual basis rather than an emotional one.

Comments on this will not be considered if received after 20th May 2026.

D Hooker stated that this issue will be on the agenda for the next Parish meeting.

A parishioner passed on huge thanks to the Parish Council.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 20:58.

Attendance – approx. 20 parishioners

Attached reports to follow:

Healthier Aldborough Initiative

As was announced in the last Village Newsletter, Aldborough has been selected as one of only two pilot villages in North Norfolk for NNDC's Healthier Villages Initiative (an initiative which previously was only focussed on small towns). The other village is Briston.

The purpose, as explained by NNDC, is to support the coming together of the community in order to build on existing efforts to make the village even stronger and more resilient. The idea is to be community-led so that local resources and support can be matched to local needs. We therefore kicked off in February with an open day for various local services to showcase how they were already supporting Aldborough and to enable them to listen to our concerns and ideas for further support. There were two parts to this launch. The first was the PositiviTea Event organised by the community team of NNDC which was open to everyone and was well supported by the community. The second, on the same day, took the form of two parallel workshops where invited community representatives helped to identify health and wellbeing priorities for Aldborough. This was initiated by examining the health and wellbeing data specially compiled for our area.

Discussion noted

High number of people providing un-paid care ~10%

1 in 5 children at the primary school are receiving special educational support

Although there is provision of social, recreational and fitness activities in the village, they are costly, concentrated on particular days (e.g. Tuesday), missing many people who would benefit. Almost nothing currently for 14-18 year olds.

14-18 year olds and elderly face transport problems to access activities outside of the village. Potential for feelings of isolation

Aldborough is often viewed by statutory and other external organisations as relatively well-off and not in need of support or not prioritised.

Few village volunteers under 60 and almost none under 20.

Only intergenerational activities are Aldborough Players and Cricket Club (both catering to very small numbers of young people)

Among the strengths identified were the peace and quiet we enjoy, facilities such as the Community Centre and the activities that go on there, the GP surgery, the primary school, shop/PO and pub. Several clubs were noted (e.g cricket, motorbike) as well as our sense of community and voluntarism. The challenges included very poor Wifi, dependence on oil and wood (no gas), frequent power cuts, remoteness as evidenced by problems with transport (including problems such as driving instructors unwilling to come), very few activities for young people, fitness activities are costly and some residents are 'hard to help' (stigma, pride etc)

Some solutions were put forward;

- Wifi Booster advocacy (Cllr. Toye)

- Negotiate route with NN Community Transport (Cllr. Toye)
- Offer free exercise classes / funding / surgery initiative (NHS Gym referral)
- Aim to better reach vulnerable people: through an 'awareness network or trusted friends group' . Train local mental health first aiders. Distribute Lions Club 'Message in a Bottle'
- A regularly updated resource pack (incl route to access the Link Worker)
- Domestic abuse posters in Pub / Pub toilets / CC toilets
- Initiate intergenerational projects (school, motorbike club keen)
- 'what 3 words' for all households

The opportunity arose in March to apply (very quickly!) for a small grant from the North Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Partnership Fund.

We proposed and sought feedback from families with young people on a **Summer EATS programme** aimed at 14-18 year olds over April – September. The idea was to encourage them to volunteer while themselves gaining skills, confidence, DoE credits, references, building intergenerational relationships as well as promised improvements in their transport options through financing a bus shelter and bike lock-up at Alby PO, offering lifts to/from the bus stop, providing a flat-bed trailer base on which to establish a meet-up space for them. The programme was designed to result in important health and wellbeing outcomes for Aldborough families.

After an anxious wait we got confirmation that our grant application had been successful! £2,332.00 , with their interpretation of the project purpose '*To pilot a summer volunteering project for 14-18-year-olds and create a mobile meet-up spot.*'

The expected outcomes can be summarised

- Every household will be provided with their own 'what 3 words'. This provides easier access for emergency services. Printed cards will state the 'what 3 words' and provide key information in case of emergencies (**RISK/EMERGENCIES MITIGATION**).
- Printed maps of the community paths/tracks , which will lead to increased cost-free outdoor exercise. (**FOCUSED ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TAKING EXERCISE LOCALLY, MSK objective**) . Separate leaflets will provide
 - Increased knowledge of a variety of footpaths, length of walks and accessibility to encourage more walking for all levels of fitness as well as for families.
 - Marked 5K routes to encourage more people to run/walk
 - Clear, safe bicycle routes for more people to get on bikes and enjoy the local countryside in their journey to better fitness
- Preparation for 'Walk, Run, Ride' family event in September- with confidence building, safety and fitness advice (**MSK objective**)

- Two initiatives to give a little thought for people when faced with difficult moments (temporary crises due to illness, disability, bereavement, job loss etc) (**MENTAL HEALTH BOOSTS**)
 - Growing and delivery of Hug Flowers
 - Making and delivery of Hug Pies
- Cadre of young people with volunteering experience (**RESILIENCE**)

So our immediate next steps under this project are

1. **Promote Summer EATs initiative**, register interested youth 14-18years.
2. **Identify leads/mentors** for the different volunteering opportunities offered to 14-18year olds and allocate small budgets to each to support these activities effectively (including running costs, capital costs (e.g software, garden tools etc), printing costs (what 3 words cards, walk, run and ride leaflets), training costs.
3. **Orientate youth 14-18 years** to the scheme, explaining expectations and benefits. Enhance, develop and provide alternative ideas for activities and incentives with ideas from registered youth.

SO WE HAVE TO GET GOING SOON – all money needs to be spent by end of August!

In addition to this grant, with help from our Community Officer Rebecca Matthews we have also made progress on

1. Mental Health first aiders – have contacted Twelfth Man to give training
2. Established possibilities to self-fund the bus stand and bike lock up
3. Contacted Carers Voice to review what sort of support may be available to carers in Aldborough
4. Made enquiries re subsidised fitness class provision

As we stated at the start of the Healthier Aldborough Initiative, this will only work if many get behind it. Thank you!

Aldborough Surgery Update

Staff

- Dr Shelley Gray joined us in October 2025 and is working 3 days per week – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Dr Jayne Welfare-Smith continues to work with us 2 days a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Dr Joss Butters – GP Registrar will be with us until February 2027.
- Sharon Thompson – Receptionist retired at the end of March and Amy McGregor has joined the surgery as a new receptionist this week.
- Gail Warrington joined our Dispensary department last week.

Covid Vaccinations

- Patients eligible are aged over 75 or immuno compromised.
- We aim to vaccinate around 450 patients this spring and have vaccinated 200 so far.

Surgery Grounds

- We have a new gardener, Matt who is doing a great job of smartening up the surgery grounds.

Aldborough Village Fayre 2025

Last year's Fayre was held on Sunday 22nd June. The committee had worked tirelessly since February to coordinate and organise the event. The day before the Fayre, David Hudson and David Hooker, set out the site and numbered stalls with white paint. We have always set out stalls around the cricket square. This hopefully deters people from excessively walking on, and God forbid, driving on the cricket square!

On the day, which started early, volunteers were on hand to meet and greet stallholders, exhibitors and food vendors, before the public arrived.

The 22nd. June was a particularly hot day which meant that our usual crowd puller, the Norfolk Greyhound Rescue and their all day dog show, was cancelled. This was a very difficult decision made by Hayley and her team, because it really was too hot to have dogs out in the full sun, in the judging arena. However, there were some dog owners and their dogs in attendance, and they were disappointed not to be able to enter the dog show.

We had our faithful exhibitors, Holt Ridge Morris Dancers and their Fool's Puppet Theatre; Norfolk Internal Combustion Engines; Martin Hall's wonderful collection of motorcycles; vintage and classic cars, some proudly on show by our very own residents; The Sam Smith Singers; The Worsted Weavers and many more. Our Eco Gypsy, Reuben Leveridge always camps under the trees by the table tennis table from Friday evening, and so enjoying a whole weekend in our wonderful village.

There was a real eclectic mix of stallholders, featuring crafts and bric-a-brac and this also included Aldborough Cricket Club hosting 'Play Your Cards Right' and Aldborough Art Group showing off their talents, as well as selling some of their artwork. Charity Stalls included Hospice Ethiopia and North Norfolk Aid for Ukraine. We had some children's rides on the green and the children's races were coordinated by Ricki Gadsby.

Keeping everyone fed and watered, was a good mix of food vendors; Kent and Julie and their team at the Cricketers were extremely busy and the Community Centre and bar were also open for delicious refreshments.

Also, on the subject of comfort, because the Church Rooms were no longer unavailable to us, we made the decision to hire two port a loos which were sited on the hardstanding area over by the basketball hoop.

To round off the afternoon, Kent again organised the tug-of-war, but due to the still very high temperatures, these bouts were kept to a minimum.

Bob Eke was a photographic wizard and provided us with a time lapse video of the whole day; this was set up in the Padgham's house, overlooking the green and ran for ten hours. It was then condensed into three minutes! Really super watching and great advertising on our Facebook page.

Bob Botwright was the king of car parking management and volunteers marshalled traffic to make this as smooth as possible. Sadly, there was an incident of car park rage and two cars were damaged. A driver came to find me to tell me that he was blocked in at the car park. Before I had time to make a public announcement he returned to his vehicle and shunted two other cars to get out. You couldn't really believe it.

Overall, a very enjoyable and most rewarding Fayre buoyed up by the very positive comments I received on the day and afterwards.

We try to keep funds of roughly £700 in order to finance the next Fayre. Some of our income is provided by the car park charge of £5 per car. This is kept relatively inexpensive so as to encourage people to use the facility rather than park around the village and around the green. This obviously does not stop people from doing so. Even with Jack Houghton (our police officer from Sheringham) parked on the green.

I personally had to politely ask one driver to move on, as he was blocking the drop kerb opposite Keith and Nita Good's house. This is the suggested access for getting onto the green.

Another source of income is the stallholders' pitch fee of £10 and then the food vendors give us 10% of their takings on the day.

Unfortunately, with all our hard work, and the cost of everything going up, Aldborough Village Fayre 2025 only broke even. It also meant that we were unable to donate to any local charities.

Our costly outgoings include:-

Roadside signage and advertising, port a loos and the Sam Smith Singers. We gave a voucher with a value of £5, for refreshments, by way of a thank you, to exhibitors that were not charging us for their time and efforts. That cost over £200, but I still felt it was a gesture to thank them and to keep them returning to us.

So, to conclude, the committee again got on their starting blocks in February. To date there are very favourable number of stallholders who have already committed and paid for their pitches. We have increased the pitch fee to £15 from £10 this year. We have also put on a £10 pitch fee for charity stalls. In the past there has been no charge to them. To be honest the two charities I mentioned earlier did far better takings wise than we did last year so, I hope they will do well again.

Aldborough School want to get involved again (they haven't supported the Fayre for the last two years but have a new and very keen PTA Committee) It's good to have as many local representatives as possible.

We will be joined again by the Aldborough Cricket Club.

Likewise there are a lot of our faithful exhibitors returning along with some new ones. For 2026 we also have the talented chainsaw carver Luke Chapman demonstrating his skill and selling his wares; a Photo Booth along with more children's rides. We will also welcome, for the first time, the Norfolk and Norwich Medieval Association and their 14th century living history displays. Also Khaki on Campaign who also showcase WW1 & WW2 living history.

This year we will provide refreshments ourselves for these exhibitors to keep our costs down.

We also have some new and more varied food vendors coming.

At the Cricketers, Julie, Kevin and the team will be as busy or more so because it is Fathers' Day too, so they will do as they always do on a Sunday, and provide a roast dinner.

The Community Centre and bar will be open again for delicious refreshments. Dee and her team, doing what they do best.

We just hope for favourable weather so that the dog show can go ahead and the tug of war can include more rounds.

The Shanty Sirens and Pete Moore's band will play from a lorry trailer on the green during the afternoon. Also on this stage we will have a demonstration by the Aldborough Bellyfit group.

The committee will continue to work hard to get this year's Fayre finalised. On the day we couldn't do any of this without a wonderful group of 15 or so volunteers to do the meeting and greeting first thing in the morning and marshalling throughout the day. Without these volunteers, it would be an almost impossible task. I have to admit that I did commandeer some of them rather than have them volunteer their services!

I'd also like to thank David Hooker for continuing to put in the road closure application, as he has done for the last two years.

I look forward to continuing to chair this sub committee of the Parish Council for 2026 and beyond.

Thank you.

It is a very busy time at school at the moment. We are preparing to welcome our new Reception children for September plus several other new families from the local area and beyond. Our year 6 children are beginning to think about their transition to their different local high schools. The majority of our children will be going to Aylsham High School, but this year we also have children leaving us for North Walsham High School, Cromer Academy and Sheringham High School. The children are making the most of their last term together and looking forward to performing their end of year production – the title is still under wraps!

Several classes will be going on trips this term and making the most of the lovely weather. One class will visit How Hill to support their history topic on The Tudors whilst our youngest children will be taking their annual trip to Amazona Zoo. Our year 6 children will take part in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenge at Gresham School and they also have a visiting speaker to talk to them about careers in the wind turbine industry. Two of our older classes are studying Space Exploration this term – we are excited to see where they suggest for their trip! We are very pleased to be welcoming the Touring Opera Company to school this week for a live performance of their latest opera 'Ada and the Code Crusader'. The vocalists will be accompanied by 5 musicians which is always wonderful for our children to see.

This term we will be working hard on our school garden. We are lucky enough to have been offered the support of a garden designer from the Sandringham Show. Not only is she advising us on how to support the upkeep of our garden, but she is also donating all of the plants from the Sandringham Show for us to use in our school garden. The children's gardening club are very excited to see the improvements in our garden and to see the fruits of their labours. We have also recently planted a fruit orchard which should look lovely in a few years' time.

The Friends of Aldborough Primary School have been very busy fundraising with every penny being spent on the children. The Quiz Night at the Community Centre was very successful and enjoyed by everyone. It raised an amazing £600. The Friends will continue with their cake sales throughout this term and we thank them enormously for their latest fundraiser which was the Easter Readathon. The whole school is looking forward to The Great Aldborough Pentathlon in June and in July we will be turning the school into Monet's garden when we celebrate 100 years of Monet's legacy with various art activities and a cream tea for the parents.

At the end of last term we were visited by a film crew from Channel 4 News who were filming a short documentary about connectivity issues in North Norfolk. Two classes took part and the film crew returned to speak to parents at our latest cake sale. It is not likely that the film will be shown until after the local elections but we are looking forward to having our moment of fame on the TV!

We continue to look for inventive ways to ease the parking situation outside of the school and we are working closely with the relevant Parish Councils in order to try to access funding which we could use to provide additional parking spaces for parents to use. Thank you to all those concerned for their support and advice.

Annual Parish Meeting April 22nd , 2026

Notes from Aldborough Community Centre

Good evening, all.

Aldborough Community centre held its AGM just a month ago on March 24th . We had a very small but select audience on that occasion but some of the highlights you will have been able to see on our display in the foyer.

At the AGM we were pleased to officially welcome Raymond Noakes as our new committee member. He had been co-opted to the committee at the end of last year. We said goodbye to Karen Tipple and Julie Geere-Wright and thanked them for their wonderful support. Julie had been on the committee for more than eight years and this was marked by giving her a thank you gift. We are now quite a small committee and would be keen to hear from anyone who would consider joining us! Our meetings are monthly and (usually) kept to just about an hour ! We are planning to separate the functions of the Board and the management so that the former can better provide independent oversight and the latter concern itself with the day to day running of the centre and the services it facilitates. This means we are also looking for new Trustees- an annual Trustees meeting is all we require of you!

Di Sains and Catherine Atkinson continue to be our administrative assistant and cleaner respectively and we thank them both for being simply the best. Thanks also goes to our external auditor, Nick Wade who does a wonderful job for us. We thanked our many volunteers and were pleased to have introduced a new Volunteers Christmas get together this year where volunteers were able to meet each other and some were given small gifts in recognition of special support they have given.

Our big project this year was the redecoration of the hall- including painting the entire room and installing new lights. We have received wonderful feedback and hope everyone likes the results. We were lucky to be selected as recipients of works of art from the Artspace initiative last year and, as you will have seen, have now had those paintings replaced by three more. As a result of donations, we were able to replace the kitchen fridge (donations in memory of Jean Halliday) and buy two new chairs with arms (fund raising by Gwen Hall). We have a super new bottle fridge in the bar.

We are pleased to welcome some new regular users – Alby Parish Council, two new yoga classes, Pony Club and Threads craft group. Willow weaving workshops and Soundbaths have become regular events throughout the year too. Pilates, Egyptian dancing, Extend fitness, Spanish classes, monthly Film night, Art club continue. We briefly hosted Tai Chi classes but unfortunately these were not sustainable. Aldborough Players continue to regard the community centre as their home and Friends of Aldborough School have started meeting informally for coffee and holding fund raisers at the centre. We are delighted to have these long term partnerships.

Tuesday Hub activities have continued - with Hub Café very Tuesday, lunches most Tuesdays (including light lunches on the first Tuesday of the month and soup on the fifth Tuesday). We thank the team of cooks and helpers for the two-course meals provided twice per month and the amazing Christmas lunch. Hub Talks are mostly well supported and these take place on

the afternoon of the first Tuesday of the month. Village breakfast is on the second Sunday every month , with this year experimenting with a slight change in menu for Mother's Day.

The Village Transport scheme continues under the dedicated co-ordination of Nita Good, comprises 15 driver volunteers and provided 96 trips last year to medical appointments .

A couple of new initiatives started this year ; the computer club designed to help build digital skills and confidence meets every Thursday at 2pm and there is a new theatre outings group who so far have made two trips to Sheringham Little Theatre. Fund raisers have included Me Time pampering day, two Craft Fairs (For the Love of Craft), harvest supper and bingo.

Our finances remain relatively healthy; 2025-2026 income ~£34,482 and expenditure ~£32,699. Our closing current account ~ £3015 and reserve account ~ £15,392. This is due to the hard work of the committee to encourage new and continued hire of the facilities and to organise fund-raising. We need everyone to recognise that running costs are high and we need your support to continue to offer the services that visitors from outside the village often remark on with envy.

Thank you

Dee Jupp

Aldborough Community Centre Co-ordinator

Greener Aldborough & Thurgarton

The maintenance of the pond and wildlife area has continued to be undertaken by a very small group of volunteers and by employing our experienced contractor (Wayne Risebrow) to clear about 1/3rd of the reed annually in October.

This year we have an abundance of marsh marigolds and primroses and we have also planted a selection of wildflower plugs and seed (including rattle) in the area around the Cherry Tree.

In March, we received a donation towards this area's development following the death of a parishioner and volunteers planted 400 spring bulbs in the Green which will serve as lovely memorial each year to their memory.

The reed around the pond has been cut back now and the next major maintenance will be the meadow cut towards the end of July. Last year, with the help of our volunteers and especially Richard King, we cut and bailed the whole area and the bales were donated to a young family connected to the village for feed and bedding. Every year, over a week or so we rely on a small group of now aging volunteers to help and would love to engage a younger group of volunteers to get involved with this annual event.