

## ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

### **MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JULY 2025 IN SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM**

Present: Cllrs M Gray (Chair), K Cullimore, J Moore, J Nunn and T Rix. Also present: Sarah Headland, Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Malvisi and Cllr Kemp
2. Declarations of Interest Cllr Gray and Cllr Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in DC/25/02958 and DC/25/02959
3. To approve Minutes of the meeting of 8 May 2025 The minutes were approved. Proposed by Cllr Moore and Seconded by Cllr Rix
4. Public Forum. No members of the public were present.
5. To receive an update on co-opting a councilor vacancy, no applicants. The vacancy notice has been updated slightly, removing the deadline date and the contact details will now include all Councilors.
6. To consider any new planning matters and report on any decisions

**DC/25/02888 and DC/25/02889** Tye Green Cottage Tye Green Alpheton

The Parish Council considered the above application and have agreed to send a neutral response.

**DC/25/02958 and DC/25/02959** Alpheton Mill Bridge Street Alpheton

The Parish Council considered the above application and have agreed to send a neutral response.

7. To receive the Parish Clerks report:

- (i) Update on bank account: change of business address and access.

A new mandate form has been signed by Cllr Gray, Cllr Moore, Cllr Nunn and the Clerk. This is to start the process of allowing clerk access to online banking and to change the banking address.

- (ii) To consider and approve the Payments list of items awaiting authorisation Clerk to find out Alpheton Garage bank details so we can pay them for the defib electricity costs.

2	<b>Expenditure to be approved</b>		
3			
4	Village Hall hire - 8th May (prepaid)	£25.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
5	Evan Markell - May Cut (prepaid)	£210.00	FHA 1975 s. 164
6	Evan Markell - June Cut (prepaid)	£190.00	FHA 1975 s. 164
7	ICO Data Protection Fee renewal Direct Debit (paid)	£47.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
8	Glasdon UK - Village Gates (approved and paid)	£9,037.39	HA 1980 s. 274A
9	Alpheton garage cost of elec reimbursement (approved but not paid)	£30.00	FHA 1936, S.234
0	Village Hall cost of elec reimbursement (paid)	£30.00	FHA 1936, S.234
1	Clear Councils Insurance (1 year renewal)	£495.68	LGA 1972 s. 111
2	*subject to 3 year agreement conditions		
3	Clerks Salary	£213.67	LGA 1972 s. 111
4	Clerks tax	£288.60	LGA 1972 s. 111
5	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£10,567.34</b>	

Signed .....

Dated.....

It was noted that the grass has been cut for July but invoice has not arrived, it was agreed this can be paid upon receipt of invoice (£190.00).

8. To receive District and County Councillors Reports Cllr Kemp and Cllr Nunn's reports were noted. Cllr Nunn reported on the term MOD – which means Mayoral Development Order – this is a tool that can be used by the mayor to grant planning permission instead of going through the planning department process.
9. To receive an update on the moving of the SID devices (Cllr Moore) The SID's have now been redeployed. The data needs to be downloaded; Cllr Rix is going to obtain a device that has enough memory to do this. More research is needed to determine exactly how/when and what it displays (i.e. does it only flash if over the speed limit). The SID manual and padlocks have unfortunately been lost by Sudbury Town Council. Cllr Moore will send receipt of new padlocks purchased to Clerk who will try to recoup this expense back from Sudbury Town Council. The Parish Council will keep 2 copies of the new padlock keys; one will reside with Cllr Moore and the other with the Clerk. A schedule for future redeployment is in place.
  - (i) To receive ANPR Data Report

The ANPR data report was considered (data below). It was noted that it only records vehicles that are speeding so there is no way to work out the percentage of vehicles speeding vs those that were not.

The SID can provide more data than this so this is being investigated.

The next time the ANPR will be placed in Alpheton will be 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**24/02/2025 – 03/03/2025:**

**Alpheton – A134**

- Total photos – 1989
- 30-34mph – 1672
- 35mph+ - 275
- 40mph+ - 88
- 50mph+ - 16
- 60mph+ - 0
- Fastest Speed – 59mph

10. To receive a progress report on progress with the Village Gates project, receipt of gates, tenders and installation (Cllr Moore) – Installation was scheduled for today 17<sup>th</sup> July. Assembly commenced this morning, but it was discovered that 3 out of 4 gates were incorrect. The supplier and installer have been in contact to rectify this. New installation date to follow. Cllr Rix will communicate this to residents. A question was raised as to who is responsible for cutting foliage around the gates. It is believed that it would be SCC that should do this. As an aside, it has been observed that there are not many repeater signs on the main road through the village. Unfortunately, Suffolk Highways no longer replace repeater signs if they get removed or broken.
11. To receive an update on Neighbourhood Planning (Cllr Moore) – It was recently announced there is no further funding available for Neighbourhood plans. Advice from a local expert suggests that it would not be worth pursuing one at this time. There may be some changing of hierarchies as to which land is classed as countryside so this is another reason to wait.

Signed .....

Dated.....

12. To receive an update on the signage regarding dog fouling in Old Bury Road (Cllr Moore) As previously agreed, laminated signs have now been created and will be put up around Alpheton and Bridge Street.
  
13. To consider and approve updated Signage policy (Cllr Gray) – The PC has considered the new policy, there is now a point that says the PC will remove any signs that have been put on any land owned by the PC without permission. There are some further changes to be made so this will go on the agenda for the next meeting for approval.  
 Clerk to send an email to WH Brown estate agents in Sudbury regarding the ‘Sold’ sign on Bury Road, asking for it to be removed.  
 It was also discussed that there is a need for some ‘soft verge’ signs along near the entrance to the village near the garage where large machinery is going up onto the grass to let traffic pass from the other direction. Cllr Moore to research.
  
14. Update on Devolution (Cllr Gray) It has been proposed that there will be 2 unitary authorities (Norfolk and Suffolk) and one Mayor. The location of that Mayor is undisclosed at present. There is a large push from the County Council for one Suffolk Unitarity council. The preferred option from the District Council is for three: West Suffolk, East Suffolk and Greater Ipswich. There is a large concern that there would be far less communication and connection with rural parishes and the new ‘local’ Cllr would represent so many parishes that they would not have the time or resource to visit the smaller, more isolated villages. If more responsibilities fall on parish councils because of this, then this would ultimately increase the precept. It is a fast-moving situation and information seems to be changing daily. The Parish Council will continue to keep informed of the situation.
  
15. To consider the Community Governance Review – part of the review is asking if any Parishes would like to merge. It was discussed that a merge with Long Melford could be beneficial to Alpheton and Bridge Street. Being part of a bigger Parish could be helpful with regards to devolution among other things. This will be investigated more thoroughly over the summer and will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Gray will send an email inviting all Cllrs to come up with pros and cons. A survey should also be sent to residents to ask their opinion on this. The response window for the review is the end of October.
  
16. To discuss crime prevention and crime reporting following a recent burglary  
 There is a reporting tool on police.co.uk that shows how many crimes are reported and investigated in any given area, this will be added as an agenda item going forward and Alpheton and Bridge Street crimes figures will be reported on.
  
17. To consider sending a letter to the Village Hall Committee regarding the heating and hire costs of Alpheton Village Hall  
 There have been multiple complaints to the Parish Council regarding the lack of heating in Alpheton Village Hall. Residents would like some reassurance that they will be able to use the hall during the winter months. The heating system is an air-to-air system which have a good reputation for being very efficient. When it was first installed it worked very well. There was an infestation of mice sometime ago which caused an issue but this was resolved. The contractor who services it has mentioned there is a lack of insulation but to improve on this this is expensive and it has not been confirmed this would solve the issue. Perhaps a second

Signed .....

Dated.....

opinion by a local expert would be prudent. All agreed a letter should be sent to the Village Hall committee. Cllr Gray to draft and circulate for comment.

18. Date and time of next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 7pm in Alpheton Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

Signed .....

Dated.....