

ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Held on Thursday 9th April 2026 at 7.00pm in Alpheton Village Hall

Attendance

Parish Cllrs M Gray (Chair), J Moore (Vice-Chair), K Cullimore, T Rix, J Nunn (District and Parish)
Cllr R Kemp (Parish and County)
Also present: Sarah Headland, Parish Clerk

One member of the public present

1. Apologies and approval of absences
Cllr E Malvisi (District)
2. To receive any declarations of Interest
Cllr Rix declared a non-registerable interest (NRI) in planning application DC/25/05546 - Buxton's, Old Bury Road and will not be present for the discussion (except in public forum) or take part in any vote.
Cllr Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in DC/25/05546 and DC/26/00462
Cllr Gray declared a non-pecuniary interest in DC/26/00462
3. To approve that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2026 are a true and accurate record
- APPROVED. Proposed by Cllr Moore and Seconded by Cllr Cullimore
4. Public Forum – Questions from members of the public for a maximum of three minutes duration per person (total time not exceeding 25 minutes)
5. To receive the Parish Clerk's report:
 - a. Approval of payments awaiting authorisation - APPROVED
Proposed by Cllr Cullimore Seconded by Cllr Nunn

<u>Expenditure to be approved</u>		
LM Groundcare - SID redeployment - Feb	£111.11	RTR Act 1984 s. 72(1)
LM Groundcare - SID redeployment - March	£111.11	RTR Act 1984 s. 72(1)
Village Hall Hire for PC meeting	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.111
SALC - Payroll services	£22.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Community Action Suffolk - Accessibility audit	£108.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerks quarterly salary	£975.98	LGA 1972 s.111
HMRC	£224.40	LGA 1972 s.111
Evan Markell - grass cutting March	£190.00	PHA 1875 s.164
	£1,763.40	

6. To receive District and County Councilors' Reports

Cllr Richard Kemp is retiring from Suffolk County Council on May 16th 2026. He has very kindly agreed to stay on as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council is very grateful for this and thanks Richard for all of his help and support over the years and wishes him a happy retirement.

7. To receive status reports and updates on:
 - a. SID devices redeployment and ANPR Data Report – Cllr Moore and Cllr Cullimore
ANPR – was meant to be deployed on the SID on 16th March but it has not appeared. Clerk to email John Shaw to check. It has been reported today that one of the solar panels has gone missing. Cllr Moore to investigate. No SID data update.
 - b. Councillor vacancy update – Cllr Gray
No update and no further interest at this time.

- c. Police and crime update – Clerk. One crime reported and investigated in January
Cllr Nunn is going to arrange for a member of Suffolk Constabulary to attend the July meeting, potentially to discuss policing and local crime rates.
 - d. New defibrillator update & possible use of remaining funding towards purchase of Jacket and First Aid Kit. This would be the decision of Cllr Malvesi as it was her grant which was originally given for a replacement battery; however, she is not present at the meeting. In any case, the Jacket and First Aid kit need to be purchased in order for the new defib to go into service (total value under £100 inc. VAT).
Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Rix.
 - e. Update on transition to new Unity Trust Bank Account – Clerk reported that the transition will take place after the year end Audit and annual meetings when things are quieter during the summer months, just in case there are any delays in the process. All agreed this would be fine.
8. To receive an update on Devolution - Cllr Gray
The Mayoral election for Norfolk and Suffolk will be in May 2028.
9. To give an update on LGR and the Community Governance Review – Cllr Gray and Cllr Moore.
Following the announcement that there will be three unitary councils and after the dissolution of the District and County Councils, it is believed that Alpheton will become part of the West Suffolk Unitary. Cllr Nunn to confirm this.
- a) To consider further contact with BDC to reinforce Alpheton’s request to remain within the Long Melford Ward. There is some confusion as to whether Alpheton will become part of Cosford and this needs to be confirmed one way or another.
Clerk to research Suffolk unitary council map online for further information:
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10608/>
10. To consider Gateways’ expenditure and discuss the use of any remaining funding for phase 2 of project.
Cllr Moore shared the final costings spreadsheet for circulation but confirmed there is no remaining funding left.
11. To discuss the results of the poll on WhatsApp group/website regarding support for 20mph limit on Old Bury Road - Cllr Gray and Clerk. It was reported that just under 50% of members on the group would support a 20mph speed limit on Bury Road, Church Lane and Averley Lane. 25-30 people voted in support of the move.
Cllr Nunn will contact Matthew Fox at SCC to take this forward.
12. To discuss the progress of purchasing and installation of a new noticeboard near the bus stop beside Old Bury Road following a request from the Village Hall Committee – Cllr Gray and Clerk. Grant money has now been received and the Parish Council offers their thanks to Cllr Richard Kemp for this. The new noticeboard will be ordered within the next few weeks.
13. To discuss the recent damage to one of the new village gateways and receive an update on the insurance claim.
Insurance claim has been submitted and the insurance company have confirmed they are able to pay out on this. The excess is £250.
The new gateway itself will be supplied by the original supplier (Gladson’s) but the company who installed them are no longer trading. Three quotes need to be obtained for the cost of the installation. All to investigate this.
It was suggested that some low-rise barriers could also be installed in order to become a deterrent. But this would need to be cleared by Suffolk Highways.
Clerk will contact the insurance company to see if there is any way they can trace a similar claim from the culprit for the damage that was presumably done to their vehicle.
14. To consider and approve new Data Protection Policy - APPROVED

15. To consider any new planning matters and report on any decisions (up to and including any new applications received after 9th April):

New applications:

DC/26/00462 – LBC for Alpheton Mill, Bridge Street. Reapplication for Minor adaptations to enhance the existing flood mitigation measures which at present are not sufficiently robust. The work involves raising the flood defence walls by 225mm (3 brick courses), installation of removable 4 no. flood gates and removing and clocking up an external door. **The Parish Council has sent a neutral response by Delegated Action.**

Cllr Rix has left the meeting

DC/25/05546 - Buxton's, Old Bury Road, Alpheton - Householder Application - Erection of a side and rear single storey extensions.

The Parish Council had no comment on this application and will respond with a neutral stance.

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting – scheduled for 21st May 2026 - this will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

Meeting closed at 20:11