

## ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

### **MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2024 IN ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM**

Present: Cllrs M Gray (Chair), G. Baker, J Moore and J Nunn. Also present: Cllr L Malvisi Mary Luton-Woodburn, Parish Clerk.

1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Kemp and Rix.
2. Declarations of Interest None declared.
3. To approve Minutes of the meeting of 3 October 2024 The minutes were approved. Proposed, Cllr Baker, Seconded, Cllr Gray.
4. Public Forum. No members of the public were present. Cllr Malvisi asked if the Parish Council would be looking for a Locality Award for the second phase of the Village Gates project. It was agreed to discuss this at Item 9.
5. To consider any new planning matters and report on any decisions No new matters. The Parish Clerk reported that the following two items had been resolved.
  - (i) DC/24/04606 Application for works to a tree protected by Tree Preservation Order BT/103/T2 - Cut back 1 No Horse Chestnut to previous points. DC/24/03838 Application for Works to Trees subject to Tree Preservation Order WS176/G5 - Fell 1 No. Ash (T1) Green Apple Old Bury Road Alpheton Sudbury Suffolk CO10 9BT. Granted.
  - (ii) DC/24/04633 Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of side extensions to farm building to provide additional storage. Formal approval not required.
6. To receive a report on any progress on filling the Councillor casual vacancy The Clerk reported that no applications for the co-option of a new Councillor had been received to date. The Parish Council agreed that further advertising, on the noticeboards, by WhatsApp, website and social media would be needed. The Clerk will circulate an updated version of the notice and suggest that a link to the website is made available to help spread the word.
7. To receive District and County Councillors' Reports Cllr Kemp's and the Babergh report were noted. Cllr Malvisi reported that Kingfisher Leisure reopening was further delayed and that the parking charges in Sudbury would commence on 1 Jan 2025.
8. To receive an update on the removal of Bridge Street bus shelter and progress on replacement options Cllr Moore reported that all items for the project were now ordered and Cllr Gray reported that work had started to prepare the site. The work is likely to take place early to mid January. This report was noted by the Parish Council.
9. To review progress and costs for the Village Gates project Cllr Moore updated the Parish Council on the most recent costings for the Village Gates project. The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that it would not be financially prudent for the Council to purchase the items for this project until the bus shelter replacement is complete and the VAT reclaimed. Until that time, the PC will have to bear the VAT amount until the reclaim has been received from HMRC. Following discussions, the Parish Council resolved that the project would be divided

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into the purchase of all village gates and signage as Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be the installation phase. Cllr Nunn and Malvisi hope to be able to provide funding from Locality Awards for Phase 2, the installation and Cllr Kemp is also expected to provide funding for this phase. The Clerk will review the funding assessment following the meeting discussions but expects that, based on existing cost estimates, the project is close to fully funded. Unless the costs rise the remaining balance should be able to be funded from PC resources.

10. To approve the annual pay award for Clerks, back dated to April 2024. The Parish Council resolved to approve the annual pay award. Proposed, Cllr Gray. Seconded, Cllr Baker.

11. To receive the Parish Clerk's report

(i) The Council approved the payment of all items on the schedule of payments. Proposed Cllr Nunn. Seconded, Cllr Baker.

Evan Markell grass cut 04/11/24 (prepaid)	£	200.00	PHA 1875 s.164
CAS – one year web hosting (VAT £10)	£	60.00	LGA 1972 s.111
SALC payroll services – 6mths to 30 Sept 2024 (VAT £3.80)	£	22.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Friends of Lav Airfield – Memorial Plaque – from CIL money Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s1	£	230.00	War Memorials (Local
Pre-approve Clerk's Salary & tax from 1 Oct – 30 Dec 2024 (includes £98.28 backpay from 1 April 2023 following pay settlement)	£	1,183.26	LGA 1972 s.111
Ian Etherton – grass cutting	£	80.00	
Alpheton Village Hall hire Oct 3 meeting	£	20.00	LGA 1972 s.111

(ii) To discuss the draft budget for 2025-26 The draft budget was discussed in detail. Cllr Malvisi advised the Parish Council that it was likely that the litter bin collection charges would rise considerably as BDC aims to collect the full cost. The Parish Council discussed how to manage this and will consider in a future meeting reducing the number of bins to be collected. Some small revisions are needed to the budget, including the cost of bin emptying. The Parish Council resolved to delegate to the Clerk revising the budget and circulating this to Parish Councillors before the next meeting so that a final version can be agreed and signed at the 30 January meeting. The Precept application to BDC has to be made by 31 January deadline. Proposed, Cllr Moore. Seconded, Cllr Gray.

(iii) To consider some possible changes to the Asset Register for 2024-25. The Clerk explained that Parish Council Asset Register must show assets at their purchase price which can make it complicated when insurance values are addressed. The Clerk and Chair will look at adding a column to the register to reflect a current estimated replacement cost for insurance purposes. The Asset Register will be presented in January for approval.

12. To agree arrangements for the 2025 grass cutting season, in all areas Evan Markell has been reappointed for the 2025 grass cutting season at his new rate. In addition the Parish Council resolved to increase the cost per cut for Ian Etherton to £15. Proposed, Cllr Moore. Seconded, Cllr Baker.

13. To receive an update on SIDs and Sudbury Warden involvement. The Clerk reported that Sudbury Town Council have confirmed that they will no longer be undertaking work with parishes SIDs. Following some consultation with Long Melford Parish a new contractor may be able to take on moving the Alpheton SIDs in the New Year. It was agreed that the Clerk will approach this contractor in the first instance but would not have the capacity within the current hours, to take this work further. Cllr Moore offered to act as an initial point of contact for making arrangements with the contractor, if they are able to consider this work.

14. To discuss availability and costs of 30mph/40mph speed signs on wheelie bins The Parish Council discussed the costs for signs which Cllr Gray had researched in some detail. The PC

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feel that with all the pressures on the budget at the current time this expenditure cannot be justified. There may be an opportunity to revisit this at some point in the future.

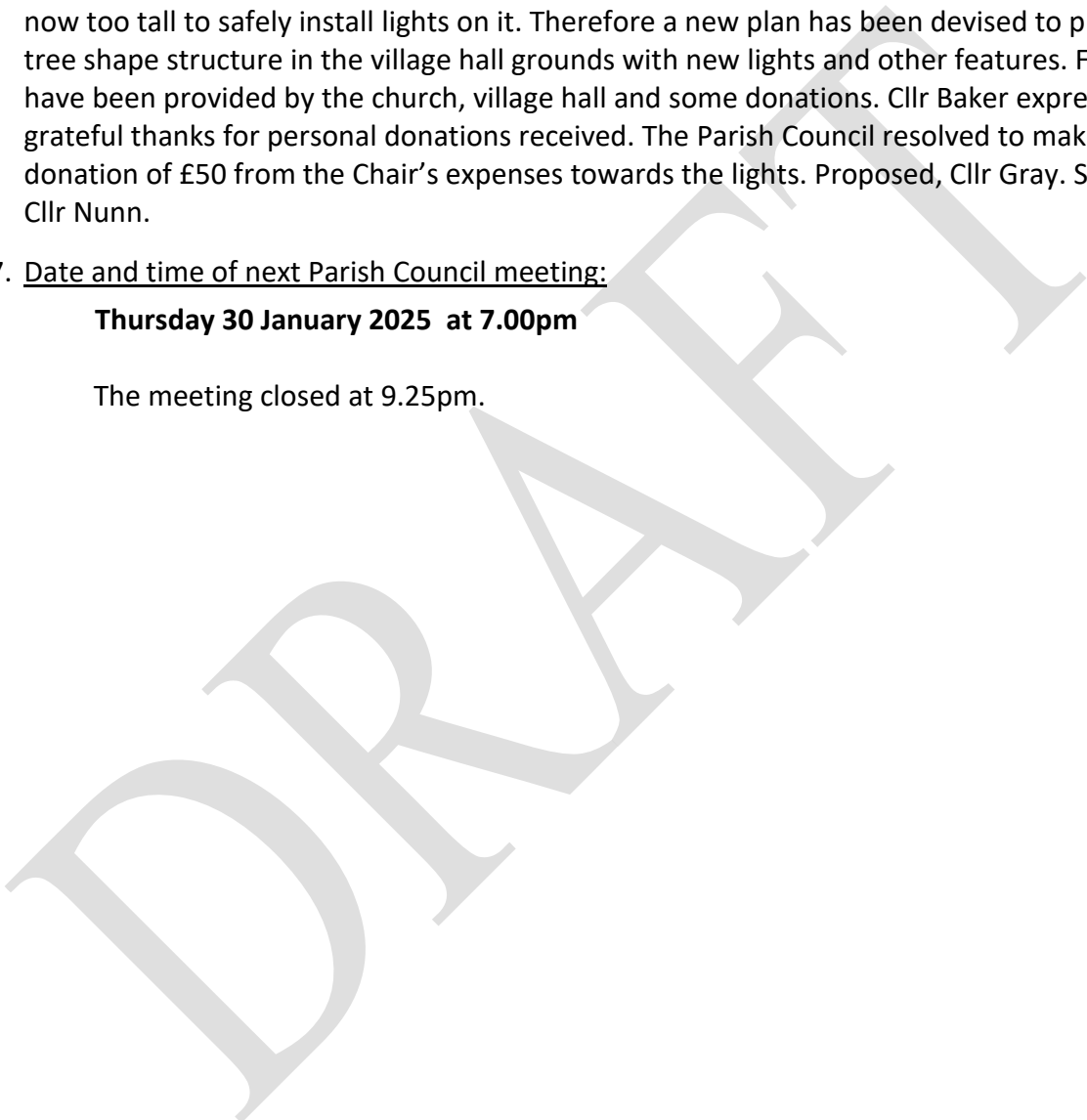
15. To consider a donation towards the work of Gryphon – charity supporting Defibrillators Cllr Gray reported that Gryphon was not responding to emails. Cllr Nunn mentioned that Long Melford PC had experienced some issues with the organisation. The Parish Council decided not to make a donation to the organisation at this time. A possible alternative source of help may need to be considered.

16. To consider a donation towards the cost of village Christmas lights Cllr Baker reported that the previous lights no longer worked despite efforts to repair them. The tree on the green is now too tall to safely install lights on it. Therefore a new plan has been devised to provide a tree shape structure in the village hall grounds with new lights and other features. Funds have been provided by the church, village hall and some donations. Cllr Baker expressed grateful thanks for personal donations received. The Parish Council resolved to make a donation of £50 from the Chair’s expenses towards the lights. Proposed, Cllr Gray. Seconded, Cllr Nunn.

17. Date and time of next Parish Council meeting:

**Thursday 30 January 2025 at 7.00pm**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.



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