

ALDBROUGH ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

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Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of MEETING of ALDBROUGH ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL on MONDAY 19TH MAY 2025 at
6.30pm held in the Village Hall.

Present: Mike Banks - Chairing the meeting
Members of the Parish Council
Jenny Pears - Minute taking
Residents of the Parish

- 06-05A/01 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE **ACTION**
None.
- 06-05A/02 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME
The Chairman welcomed all those present and gave a brief overview of the activities which the Parish Council had undertaken throughout the year. An annual report was referred to later on in the meeting. **ACCEPTED.**
- 06-05A/03 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
Agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. **ACCEPTED**
- 06-05A/04 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 24/25
The Annual Report from the Parish Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report detailed council activity over the past 12-month period with a focus on the budget and accounts. A copy of the report is attached – Appendix 1. **ACCEPTED**
- 06-05A/05 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
Members of the public present at the meeting were provided with an opportunity to ask questions. No questions asked. **ACCEPTED**
- 06-05A/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting would be scheduled to take place in May 2026.
- The meeting closed at 6.45pm

SIGNED: DATE:(Chairman)



ALDBROUGH ST JOHN PARISH MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

19th May 2025

The Parish Council Members

Mike Banks Chair
Steve Baddon Vice Chair
Stuart Reed
Kirstie Thornton
Tony Lewis
Jenny Pears Parish Council Clerk/RFO

Just over a year ago, the Parish Council was reformed after all previous councillors resigned simultaneously. The current members volunteered to ensure that village administration remained within the Parish and was not managed by an external body.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jenny for her dedicated work on behalf of the parish council. Her knowledge and expertise have significantly eased the challenges we faced this past year.

The village community website contains detailed information about the Parish Council, available under the Parish Council tab. The Parish Council aims to ensure transparency for all Aldbrough parishioners. Therefore, the website includes minutes of meetings, financial reports, key documents, consultation papers, to-do lists, and archived materials.

Financial Information

As discussed in last May's Parish meeting, the Parish Council's expenditures have exceeded its income for several years. This has eliminated contingency funds for emergencies or urgent works. With rising costs, this situation was unsustainable, leading to a shortfall in income to cover financial and legal commitments such as grass cutting, the Clerk's salary, liability insurance, arborist inspections, tree maintenance, and village clock maintenance.

Before last November's meeting, we posted a notice on the village board and Facebook page to inform parishioners about the discussion on the village precept increase and its alternatives, inviting those interested to attend.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the Parish Council would request an increase in the precept to £6700 for the year 2025/26, up from £4499 for the year 2024/25. This adjustment represents an approximate increase of 20 pence per week, or £10.40 per year, for a Band D property. This increase is intended to ensure that the precept sufficiently covers the day-to-day operational costs of the Parish Council.

It was observed that the Parish Council had previously received an annual wayleave fee from Northern Power Grid for several electricity poles erected on the village green. However, these payments had ceased some time ago.

Although the amount was not substantial, it was deemed worthwhile to pursue this matter. Consequently, we received a cheque for £233.90, with an agreed annual fee of £47.00 per year.

Additionally, we engaged with Open Reach regarding their equipment and cables located on and beneath the village green. After several months of negotiations, they acknowledged that a wayleave payment was due to the Parish Council for the use of the village greens for siting their equipment. They agreed to a one-time payment of £7,602.29.

As a result, the Parish Council's finances are now in a much healthier position, enabling us to maintain a contingency fund for extraordinary events that may occur within the Parish boundaries requiring financial support. For instance, we can now fund necessary tree work that falls outside the councillors' expertise and requires the services of a professional arborist.

Money in the Bank

The PC manages two bank accounts. The NAT WEST account handles general parish expenses and income, such as precept and encroachment fees, and pays for expenses like grass cutting and insurance.

The CO-OP account is specifically allocated for the maintenance, repairs, and inspections of the play park. The funds, originally raised through fundraising efforts, donations, and grants to replace the original play park, are strictly designated for this purpose. This allocation has been agreed upon by the play park fundraising committee and must not be used for any other purposes.

NAT WEST: £9164.80

CO-OP: £4594.00

What has been achieved this year

- Best Kept Village Winners **No Cost**
- Bus shelter floor replaced, paid for with a £800 grant and the £400 prize money for the best kept village. **No cost**
- Bookshelf installed, and quoits club bench utilised to replace original bench that had woodworm, paint downpipe. **No Cost**
- Footpath between cricket pitch and beck installed, stone given to PC by Bentleys who were carrying out work on STW, Excavator and Dumper had to be hired. **Cost £466**
- Erosion around High Green filled in with road planeings supplied free of charge by Todds **No Cost**
- Donated trees planted below cricket pitch and around the village greens **No Cost**
- Footpaths on village green maintained all year round as well as bird feeding area. Grass cutting to East End, Beckside, Lucy Cross Road footpath **Petrol costs**

- 4 of the 7 benches cleaned and oiled **No Cost**
- 2 Sleeper benches installed below cricket pitch **No Cost**
- Trees pruned and removed, Bridge House, Old School, St Johns park path, Packhorse bridge. **£200 donation received from resident for PC funds**
- Minor repairs to play park **Material costs**
- Repairs to village sign Lucy Cross Road **Material Costs**
- Repairs to village hall notice board **Village Hall Material Costs**
- Parking signs installed at village Hall **Paint cost only as the actual Stainless-steel signs were supplied by Peter Montgomery free of charge**
- Engagement with the Tees River Trust to gauge condition of the aquatic life within the beck and to raise ideas to help improve the beck

Aldbrough St John Village Green Management Plan

A plan was produced and approved by the previous Parish Council this has been tweaked and is now published on the PC Web Site. The Parish Council has produced a summary document of the Management plan as the full document is quite lengthy. Copy is held on the PC Web Site.

Things that are an issue

- Speeding vehicles through the village
- Dog fouling around the village
- Damage to village greens by vehicles
- Disturbance of wildlife in the beck
- Refurbishment of the Old Post Office Clock bought by Miss Spenceley to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.