

# Aldbrough St John Village Green

**Supplementary notes** offered as an introduction to the **Aldbrough St John, Village Green and Common Land Management Policy.**

The following notes are offered to help explain some of the complexities of managing and maintaining registered village greens in the modern era, balancing modernity with historical acts of parliament made to protect our culture and the environment in which we live.

**Aldbrough St John village green is one of the largest village greens in England and has “registered village green” status.**

**The Parish Council** is the registered owners of the village green on behalf of the parish of Aldbrough St John (ref: Common Registration Act 1965.

Associated letter on web site 09.08.77), and as such, is bound by law to uphold the laws, rules and regulations regarding its green spaces. This is in respect to several acts of parliament, the two most relevant being, The Inclosure Act 1857 (section 12) and The Commons Act 1876 (section 29)

DEFRA have published several documents regarding the management and protection of registered village greens and open spaces. These documents provide a helpful amount of information for anyone interested.

Our Village Green consists of four main greens, High Green, Low Green, Chapel Green (West Green) and East End Green, together with several smaller areas of land distributed within the parish boundary. (See parish map)

**Roads tracks and footpaths.** There are several historical roads, tracks and footpaths crossing the village greens that have, over many years, hundreds in some cases, been used by the public to socially access other parts of the village.

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### **Access across village green to private land, dwellings, and other property.**

As above, historically, land owners / property owners have been able to access their lands / property (which otherwise could not be reached) by mutually agreed tracks and or footpaths. However, there is no provision for the mode of transport used in this respect, to be left or parked on any part of the village green.

### **Repetitive parking of vehicles on the village green by residents. (Ref. DEFRA Management and protection of registered village greens)**

Some parishes follow the ruling to the letter and do not allow any parking of vehicles what so ever on their greens. Here in Aldbrough St John, we try to exercise a measure of flexibility. However, this does require a degree of consideration, flexibility and cooperation by residents and visitors alike. Parking on the village green is not a right and cannot be attached to any house or property.

Repetitive parking inevitably causes erosion. Residents and visitors are asked to keep this in mind when driving onto, parking on and driving off the greens. It is also important to give due consideration to the condition of the ground. Sometimes it is not advisable or prudent to park on the greens if there is a danger of causing damage.

**Village Hall Parking.** The road and hard standing leading up to the village hall are village green and as such, has the same status and legal protection. It replaced at considerable expense, what can only be described as a rough track and a very uneven and often muddy parking/turning area. This parking area from the village hall down towards the post box is reserved for village hall use (patrons only) and **should not be used for commercial or private parking at any time.** The dwellings to the south east of the road and parking have pedestrian access rights only. No motor vehicle access or parking.

**Repetitive parking of commercial vehicles, caravans and motorhomes on village green is not and has never been condoned.** This is as much a matter of Citizenship, consideration and respect for one's neighbours, rather than a compliance with rules and regulations.

As custodians of the greens, the parish council reserve the right to request individuals to make good any damage, through erosion or otherwise. If non-compliant, the parish council reserve the right to seek recompense by whatever means necessary.

Any repair work to any part of the greens must adhere to a specification agreed with the parish council. Any person/party who undertakes to do such work without agreement is in danger of committing an offence. **(REF. DEFRA)**

**Village Events. Feasts, fetes and other events organised by and for the benefit of the parishioners/people who live within the parish.**

Custom and practice allows for the supervised parking of vehicles, erection of gazebos, stalls, temporary cordons, etc. For example, the Annual Aldbrough Feast and public celebrations such as royal anniversaries.

Any business, public body, or private individual, who wishes to encroach/access the green for an event of any kind must first approach the Parish Council to seek permission and discuss feasibility. The parish council reserves the right to reject any or all applications in this respect.

**Encroachment and fees payable.**

A number of properties that border the village green pay an encroachment fee agreed with the parish council, for the privilege of extending assets, onto, under or over a designated part of the green. This also applies to the cricket pitch and quoits pitches respectively. This is a historic practice, done not to raise money but is a legal obligation designed to maintain the status of village greens.

### **Authorised access to the village green for sporting activities.**

At the current date, Summer 2025, the following organisations have authorised access to specific areas of the village green for sporting activities.

Aldbrough St John Cricket Club. The cricket club has permission for one structure (clubhouse), and partial fencing around the cricket pitch boundary. It is responsible for the safety and maintenances of the ground and boundary fence. The cricket club pay an annual encroachment fee to the parish council for this privilege. Historically, players and spectators for cricket matches have been allowed the option of parking on the green for the duration of game.

Aldbrough St John Quoits Club. The quoits club has permission for two parallel quoits pitches and is responsible for the safety and maintenance of the pitches including the protective covers. The quoits club pay an annual encroachment fee to the parish council. Historically, players and supporters have been allowed the option of parking on a designated area of the village green for the duration of the match.

The football pitch including the goal posts, is maintained by the parish council. The village no longer has a football team. However, local football clubs can hire the pitch for a season / annual fee. Local groups are also able to use the football pitch for one off charity games at the discretion of the parish council. In both cases those hiring the football pitch are obliged by contract, regarding norms of socially acceptable behaviour, parking, litter, etc.

### **Children's Recreation area.**

The current play equipment was installed in 2018. It replaced the original equipment that was deemed to be unsafe. The fund raising for this became a whole village effort with everyone generously supporting the various events. Our grateful thanks go to all, local business, family trusts, individual private donations and the many charitable organisations from the wider area.

**Lawful access and activities by Parishioners. - Those who live within the village/parish boundary.**

The best way to reference this information is through the DEFRA documents (on line), as it is generic to almost all registered village greens across the country.

**Lawful access and activities by the general public. (not living within the village)**

As above. In addition, for the enjoyment of all who use the village green, respect and a modicum of common sense is desirable at all times. The lighting of fires or barbeques is strictly forbidden as is the erection of gazebos, windbreaks and tents. (with the exception of organised village events such as the feast).

**Exercising of dogs on the village green.**

Dog walkers are expected to have full control of their animals at all times. During the bird nesting season, it would be reasonable to expect that all dogs are kept on a lead and out of the water when near the beck. Water foul and smaller species of bird are very sensitive to disturbance at this time of year. If other dogs are on the green, the use of a lead is strongly advised.

Remember to pick up! It is the responsibility of every dog owner to have eyes on their animal at all times.

**The full Management Policy is available on the Aldbrough St John, Parish Council website.**

**Aldbrough St John Parish Council 2025.**

## Reviewed/Revised

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