

# ALDBROUGH ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Parish Council: Charlotte Liversedge-Gell  
Email Clerk@aldbroughstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk

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## Annual Parish Meeting

MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026 at 7:00pm held in the Village Hall.

### Minutes – draft until signed

1. Welcome and no apologies
2. Approval of Previous Minutes accepted and signed
3. Declaration of Interest – none declared
4. Public Participation – no questions raised
5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting - none declared
6. Chairmans Report

### **The Parish Council Members**

Mike Banks Chair

Steve Baddon

Stuart Reed

Kirstie Thornton

Charlotte Liversedge-Gell Parish Council Clerk/RFO

First of all, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Jenny our former Parish Clerk for her dedicated work on behalf of the parish council. Her knowledge and expertise significantly eased the challenges we faced when the Parish Council reformed.

We have been fortunate enough to acquire the services of Charlie our present Parish Clerk who has proved to be equally as dedicated to the role of Parish Clerk as was Jenny.

The Parish Council still has a vacancy for a councillor to fill the role of councillor vacated by Cllr Lewis; the vacancy has been open for some time now with no parishioner coming forward to find out about the role they could play being part of the Parish Council and representing the community.

The Parish Council aims to ensure transparency of all the decisions made by the Parish Council on behalf of the Parish and as such the village community

website contains detailed information about the Parish Councils actions. The website includes minutes of meetings, financial reports, key documents, consultation papers, to-do lists, and archived materials.

### **Financial Information**

As discussed in the last two annual Parish meetings, the Parish Council's expenditures had exceeded its income for several years. This had eliminated reserve 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. The Parish Council took a major step forward last year by increasing the precept on a band D property by 20 pence per week, this gave the Parish Council a precept of £6700 per year to cover the costs of the expenditure previously mentioned.

This year the Parish Council agreed to request an increase equivalent to 10 pence per week on a band D property giving the Parish Council a precept of £7900 per year.

**App 1** is a copy of the precepts received by parishes close to Aldbrough. Examples of Band D property precepts are:

Village	Band D	Precept	Equivalent Properties
Aldbrough	£35.67	£7,900	221
Melsonby	£41.07	£12,980	316
Eppleby	£59.71	£7,100	119
Manfield/Cliffe	£31.67	£4,357	138
Middleton Tyas	£81.67	£30,200	370

Miscellaneous income is received via the encroachment fees charged for village green use, e.g. Cricket Club.

VAT refund £620

NYC Grass cutting refurb £321

### **Expenditure**

Over the last year expenditure has been in the region of £10,398 accrued value

Plant hire for footpaths £336

Insurances £380

Tree survey £680

Mole catcher £300

Clock service plan £970 3 yrs

Clerk salary £2500

Computer and software £600

Miscellaneous Petrol/oil mowers £300

Web site shared with Village Hall and Feast

Domain for Gov website and emails that we had to have this year

Clock repair £175

VE day sign £25

Grass cutting £3527 has been paid in 26/27 financial year

Projected budget for the coming year will be £9508

Projected Expenditure £10414.00 plus we will have to use some of the reserve money to pay to have the large willow tree trimmed back approx. £900

This all being said the Parish Councils finances are in a much healthier place than they were two years ago when we were struggling to pay the grass cutting invoice.

### **Money in the Bank**

As was laid out in the last years Parish Meeting, the Parish Council holds money that was raised by donations etc through the then playpark committee to renew the play park. This money is ring fenced and is only for use in maintaining, repairing and inspection of the playpark. This money does not belong nor can be used by the Parish Council for any other purpose.

This money has now been moved from the coop ordinary account into a 95-day savings account to allow it to accumulate some interest.

Total in account £4325.02

The Parish Council hold a reserve account for emergencies and works outside the normal business of the Parish Council, this was funded by chasing down BT for wayleaves they had never paid, as explained in last year's Parish Meeting. This money is held in a 35-day savings account for the same reason as the play park funds but with a shorter timescale if money is needed to be withdrawn in an emergency for an unplanned event.

Total in account £7120.88

The Parish Councils working account is an instant access account and holds £800.00

### **What has been achieved this year**

The Parish Council entered the Best Kept Village competition ran by the Rotary Club of Richmond in 2025, unfortunately we did not win the competition, but we were awarded The Encouragement of Community Life prize and received a cheque for £100

- Play Park inspection now being undertaken bi-weekly by the Parish Council and yearly by RoSPA
- Footpath between cricket pitch and beck extended, stone given to PC by Bentleys who were carrying out work on STW
- Donated trees planted below cricket pitch and around the village green
- Footpaths on village green maintained all year round as well as bird feeding area. Grass cutting to East End, Beckside.
- 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 continues with Beck guardians being trained up by River Tees Trust.

All the above work is carried out on a voluntary basis by the Parish Council

**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 Victoria's Jubilee.

7. Next Meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2027

8. Close Meeting at 7.45pm