



Minutes of the **Aylsham Climate Emergency** Group Meeting held on 6th October 2025



Present:

Grizelda Tyler (Chairman)
Corinne Houlden
Heather Walters

Sue Catchpole
Shelley Hudson

Bryce Davies
Yvonne Stewart

Also Present: Faye LeBon (Town Clerk) and four guests.

The Chairman welcomed guests Ali, Charlie, Dee and Phil to the meeting.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cheryl Bould, Jenny Haycocks, Kate Mackenzie and Fiona Scott.

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None received.

3. To Agree the Minutes of the 1st September 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2025 were **agreed** as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting.

4. To Note Matters Arising from the Minutes, not Included on the Agenda

Yvonne raised that there needed to be better communication after meetings, citing the agreement to have a stall at the Biodiversity fayre. Sue Catchpole was thanked for her work on the stand. Shelley also popped in to assist.

It was noted that the Aylsham Show was a great success.

5. To Recognise Nominations for the Following Awards

a) Broadland District Council Community Awards

It was reported that ACE has been shortlisted in the Environmental Champion category, and Heather and Bryce have been nominated in the Rising Star category. The award ceremony will be held on 16th October when the winners will be announced. Broadland District Council has assisted with short films about each shortlisted nominee.

b) Norfolk Biodiversity Awards

Yvonne reported that the awards were held on 4th October at which there were 38 nominees, many of which were large organisations. There was an opportunity to network, most notably with the Felbeck Trust, the Chair of which gave the keynote speech at the event. It was noted that there should be a balance of people and projects. If there are too many people for the projects, people get fed up and leave the

group. If there are too many projects for people, people become overwhelmed. In development is the Felbeck, upper Bure and Glaven Trust, which covers Aylsham. A volunteer from the Felbeck Trust wishes to join ACE to be a link between the two groups.

Sue Catchpole advised that the local groups at the Biodiversity Fayre included 'Greening Wymondham' and similar groups in Ryburgh and Blofield and Brundall.

Kate and Yvonne will be attending a Norfolk Wildlife Trust event in Wymondham to network.

6) To Receive Update on ACE Noticeboard

The Clerk reported that the ACE noticeboard has now been refurbished and reinstalled. It was agreed to retain the key with the Town Council and ACE members wishing to place items in the board will collect the key from the office.

7) To Agree Questions to be Raised in Brainstorming Session on 25th October

A brainstorming session will be held between 10am and midday at the Drill Hall.

Grizelda stressed the need to be absolutely clear about the purpose of ACE, and how ACE and its activities are promoted, particularly to those who are sceptical about the climate crisis.

Yvonne suggested a household membership at £7.50 per annum, for which an email newsletter would be received.

The clerk will ensure that all those on the distribution list are made aware of the brainstorming session.

Grizelda will collect the key to the Drill Hall on 24th October.

8) To Receive Update on Hedge Planting at the Old Station Yard

A grant application has been submitted to the Network Rail Community Tree Planting fund and the response is awaited. Should the grant application be successful, a working party will be advertised for the planting. The Town Council groundsman has placed signage up in the area to explain the project.

9) Broadland District Council's Fund for Nature

a) To Consider Projects for this Funding (deadline 21st November)

It was reported that, as part of Broadland District Council's commitment to the climate and ecological emergency, they launched the 'Future for Nature Fund' in October 2025. The fund will consist of grants of up to £5,000 for Town and Parish Councils, community groups and charities, to fund biodiversity projects across Broadland.

Funds will be awarded to projects that best meet the following criteria:

- Carbon sequestration: Projects that actively contribute to tackling carbon emissions.
- Biodiversity benefit: Initiatives that enhance local ecosystems and support a diverse range of plant and animal life.
- Public accessibility to greenspace: Creating and improving green spaces that are accessible and enjoyable for the entire community.

It was **agreed** to create a project for a circular nature walk in Aylsham, with signage detailing QR codes to make the walk more interactive. Extensions to the walk to places such as Blickling should also be considered.

b) To Consider Delegates to Attend Application Support Workshop on 15th October

To support with the application process, Broadland District Council is holding a workshop designed to support potential applicants in developing and delivering their project ideas and understanding the practical and technical considerations to project delivery (such as acquiring planning permission, licenses, and landowner permission). This will be held on 15th October between 1pm and 4pm at Lingwood Village Hall. It was **agreed** to give further consideration to this outside of the meeting.

10) To Receive Refill Report from Aylsham Quakers

A report was received as follows:

The monthly market stall continues to be well supported both by volunteers and customers. Our best sellers are always laundry liquid and washing up liquid, but we also supply a range of products including shampoo and handwash, fabric conditioner and multi-surface cleaner. We also sell soap, kitchen roll and toilet paper.

Our hope is to encourage the use of sustainably sourced products at affordable prices and to reduce the number of plastic bottles sent to landfill. We estimate that we have filled over 1500 bottles in the last year.

We operate on a not-for-profit basis and have made several donations of cash and refilled bottles to the Food Bank. Lupin the dog remains a draw and customers enjoy guessing our slightly superfluous seasonal password.

It was noted that the Quaker stall contributes well to the aims of ACE Waste and is very supportive of the monthly mangling sessions, pitching alongside ACE. Their volunteers are a great help on the day.

11) To Receive Update on Tree Warden for Aylsham

Yvonne will meet with Helen Bowman next week and will discuss the need for additional tree wardens in Aylsham. It was noted that there needs to be a stronger link between the Nature and Biodiversity group and the tree wardens.

12) To Receive Response from Mary Creagh MP regarding Blister Pack Recycling

A letter had been written to Mary Creagh MP about the blister pack recycling that Aylsham is doing and the cost incurred, comparing this to the profits made by the large pharmaceutical companies. Ms Creagh advised that new Producer Responsibility Regulations came into effect on 1st January 2025 placing financial responsibility on businesses that place packaging on the market to incentivise the use of packaging that is more recyclable. However, there will be limitations in place for businesses where there are other regulatory requirements in place.

Bryce advised that there have been blister packs donated which filled five large green bags, meaning there was insufficient time to mangle.

Discussions occurred over the Terracycle scheme, whereby a zero-waste pack can be ordered from Terracycle, filled at home and then sent back. It was noted that the

Terracycle zero waste boxes started at £25 and therefore made recycling unaffordable to many.

The benefits of having collections at the Food and Craft market included encouraging footfall into the town and also being able to receive donations.

Grizelda suggested contacting the EDP and Look East to raise awareness of the extent of the problem.

13) To Agree Actions or Updates on Planned Events

The next event is the film event Riverlands on 1st November. There will be two films, Riverwoods and Re-wiggling Rivers, which will then be followed by a panel discussion on Soil and River Health. Food will be provided by 'Society Alive'. Tickets are £3 and available from Postles, on the door or via ACE directly.

Grizelda advised that she had contacted RWE about potentially sponsoring a 'mini COP'. To date there had been no response from RWE.

14) To Receive Group Updates

Nature and Biodiversity

Updates from Nature of Biodiversity had been covered in other areas of the agenda. Shelley was thanked for all her work with the group, as she is now relocating.

Waste

A recycling collection bin has been placed at the Community Church. The church would like some flyers so they can hand them out and push the service a bit more.

Heather and Bryce are unable to attend the Food and Craft market on 1st November, so volunteers are required.

Transport and Energy

Sue reported that the group continues to look at the Aylsham Traffic Strategy, with approximately 12 projects being worked up and prioritised. These include the possibility of changing vehicular priorities around the Soame pump, and making improvements to Burgh Road. The projects are moving forwards, just slowly. The group would also like to see how more consultation can be done.

Concerns were raised over the weight limit on Millgate Bridge and how buses can be permitted to use this route.

The Town Council agreed with the transport group that Norfolk County Council's indicative ideas for a bus hub in the market place are not suitable due to the impact on town centre businesses.

15) Finance

a) To receive update on ACE budget

The Clerk provided an update on the ACE budget in both the earmarked reserves and the revenue budget, along with committed funds.

b) To consider items for the ACE budget 2026/2027

It was noted that the 4th film due to be shown falls into the 2026/2027 budget period. Further budget ideas will be discussed on 25th October.

c) To consider biodiversity projects for Green Infrastructure Funding

It was reported that there is £10,900 of Green Infrastructure funding available as a result of the development of the land West of Hungate Street. This needs using by April 2026 and Broadland District Council has invited biodiversity projects to be considered. It was ***agreed*** to defer this until the next meeting.

d) To consider projects for the Veolia Sustainability Fund

It was reported that an application was submitted in time for the deadline of 30th September, for a project to utilise an allotment for the benefit of the Community Cupboard. A response is awaited.

16) Items for Future Agendas

Feedback from the brainstorming session on 25th October

17) To Agree the Date of the Next Meeting as Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7pm

This was ***agreed***.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Signed_____

Date_____