



Minutes of the **Aylsham Climate Emergency** Group Meeting held on 7th April 2025.



Present:

Grizelda Tyler (Chairman)
Leslie Cannon
Adam Curtis
Anna Magyar
Reannon Tapp

Sue Bayliss
Sue Catchpole
Bryce Davies
Kay Montandon
Heather Walters

Sarah Bell
Philip Comer
Kate MacKenzie
Yvonne Stuart

Also Present: Faye LeBon (Town Clerk)

1. TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cheryl Bould, Patrick Prekopp, Jenny Haycocks and Shelley Hudson

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2025 were **agreed** as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None raised.

5. PROJECT WORK

Presentation of new Projects for consideration.

Nature – Yvonne discussed two ongoing projects. These were the verge rewilding on Henry Page Road. A programme of maintenance had been put in place, which the Town Council's grounds officer had been very supportive about.

The second project was the tree planting project for the boundary of the old station yard. The Town Council's grounds officer has cleared the scrub and placed notices in the area so that members of the public are aware of the project.

A further project being considered is that of 'gardens matter'. The Cromer Green Spaces group has been helpful with this project. It is hoped to bring together Aylsham in Bloom and U3A along with ACE to work together to promote the importance of gardens and soil health. The intention of the project is to be similar to Open Gardens but for wilding.

Kay raised that the standards and ideas brought forwards could be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.

The verges are to be left to grow longer before cutting. The Clerk is to try to locate the explanation boards.

Anna had circulated the feedback from the Six Inches of Soil film which had been shown in conjunction with Aylsham Picture House.

Waste – Heather reported that the blister pack recycling scheme was going strongly. Members of the public are now encouraged to take their blister packs directly to Boots. The high school is working with Terracycle, but regrettably the recycling scheme for toothbrushes and pens has ceased due to Philips and Rymans respectively withdrawing from the scheme.

Sistema is now working with the school to recycle lunchboxes and drinks bottles.

Comms – Reannon reported that there was five new followers on the Instagram account, and ACE had been tagged on the page of Six Inches of Soil. There was a real buzz as a result of the Six Inches of Soil film and all were agreed that this was an excellent community event. It is hoped that more people would join ACE as a result.

Adam was a panel member at the Six Inches of Soil event and offered to continue in this role for future events.

An appeal was made for someone to assist with the facebook page.

The video montage is in progress.

Sarah offered to write articles for Just Aylsham.

Discussions occurred about noticeboards specifically for ACE. It was noted that one couldn't be placed at Woodgate because the management company would not permit it. A noticeboard had been previous agreed by the Town Council to place on the Town Hall. The Clerk is to follow up with this project, and check whether permission would be required to attach it to a listed building.

Transport – Kay reported that work continues on the Transport Hub project to alleviate traffic coming into the town.

Energy – Grizelda reported that several training sessions have been run with the thermal imaging camera, but only three people have taken up the loan of the equipment. Consideration could be given as to whether Energy and Transport could join. This would make the group bigger and could cover projects such as electric charging stations.

6. GROUP UPDATES

To receive updates from all groups. To include the results of internal group reviews, and purpose of ACE

Yvonne raised that ACE had been going for several years and suggested that an update may be advisable. The aims and objectives should be reviewed. There was a need to ensure that the group is not working in silos and to be aware of what other groups are doing which may complement the work of ACE.

Kay suggested that ACE could take a leadership role for the town.

There was support for events similar to that of Six Inches of Soil, which was well attended.

Reannon suggested working in partnership with Eves Hill, with themes such as learning to buy local, waste food and seasonal food.

Adam raised the importance of influencing behaviour through motivation, and doing positive things.

Adam will see if he can assist the group to get funding for the hedge planting at the old station, particularly if the event is community led.

Yvonne is trying to get together a calendar of events where local people can join in. Events such as identifying plants on the verges and at the old station yard, and the raking of the grass verges will be included.

It was suggested that plants could also be incorporated at the food events, along with information about what the plants do. Reannon suggested that Eves Hill may be able to provide flowers to take away.

Heather advised that Eves Hill would allow the ACE group to piggy back off their events. It was **agreed** that a joint venture between ACE and Eves Hill would be beneficial. Heather will take this forwards.

Kay suggested that there may be other areas which are in the ownership of the Town Council which may be suitable for tree planting, hedging or wild flowers. This can be run through council when a project is put together.

Discussions occurred as to how to engage and empower young people. Ideas discussed included:

- After school activities for older children.
- Engaging in Activities Week at the school.
- Making space available for children to cook and take home what they eat.
- Engaging with the Eagles nurture group.
- Bryce volunteers with the Papillon Project, which works with schools with gardens to promote sustainable living and environmental awareness.

7. CIL PROJECTS

There were no further updates on this subject. Kay encouraged any projects that required capital spending to be submitted to the council.

Grizelda raised the subject of community land trusts, whereby a parcel of land is purchased and the trustees work in conjunction with a Housing Association. Under these schemes, Passivhaus design can be insisted upon, therefore helping to alleviate fuel poverty.

Community Heating Systems were also discussed, due to their popularity in Europe. Adam advised that these projects tend to work well on a larger scale. He also noted that community solar works well, as does chicken waste as a fuel.

Discussions occurred as to a project for reducing light pollution to support nocturnal creatures as well as saving energy.

Kate will send Reannon the dark skies flow chart.

The Clerk will circulate the project proposal form.

8. EVENTS

- a) To consider and decide actions regarding any events planned.** It was reported that Yvonne and Grizelda had attended the Carbon Literacy training course. It was noted that the next Saturday that the Town Hall is available is 1st November, although the Drill Hall may be available on an alternative date. Options for films were considered but it was **agreed** to create an event which replicated 'speed dating' but for environmental matters. A question is discussed, and then attendees move onto a different table for a different question. This will help with communication, networking and reduce the concern of working in silos.
- b) To consider expression of interest for Aylsham Tent at Aylsham Show, 25th August 2025.** Kay advised that she had seen the invoice for the new marquee. Heather and Bryce advised that they would be happy to man the stall.
- c) To receive report on success of 'Six Inches of Soil' and consider use for profit made from event.** All were agreed that this was a very successful event, with £621 made from ticket sales and 120 people engaged with on the evening. Slow Food kindly provided the food and drink for the evening. Ideas for use of the profit were taken from the feedback forms and included:

- i. Tree planting
- ii. Giving away plants
- iii. Access to food
- iv. Starting a group for young people

Concerns were raised that future events may not have the level of sponsorship that Six Inches of Soil had, so a reserve would be needed for future events. It was **agreed** that the money would be ringfenced for future ACE events in case sponsorship was not forthcoming.

9. TOWN WASTE

Sue Catchpole advised that she had sought funding from Broadland Council for dual recycling / litter bins for the open spaces in Aylsham, but no funds were presently available.

The Clerk advised that the Veolia sustainability fund would be opening soon.

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

No matters raised.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As the next scheduled meeting fell on a bank holiday, it was agreed to defer the next meeting until Monday 12th May, commencing at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.48pm.



AYLSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ACE PROJECT PROPOSAL



Approved in Principle:

Full Approval:

PROJECT TITLE: Climate Conversations

Following on from the success of 2040 in June 2024, and 'Six Inches of Soil' in March 2025, we would like to capitalise on Aylsham's enthusiasm and engagement with the issues raised, by scheduling a series of films, initially three films over the next 12 months.

ACE SUB-GROUP(S) INVOLVED:

This is a collaborative cross-group initiative from Waste, Nature and Biodiversity, and Energy.

LEADERS OF PROJECT: Grizelda Tyler, Anna Magyar, Yvonne Stewart

OUTLINE of the PROJECT

Please write a brief description of the project, including full details of how the project will be delivered and any working partnerships involved.

Four films have been planned so far:

Hungry for Change - from Cornwall Climate Care – 11th July. This film will follow the theme and issues raised in the Six Inches of Soil film screened earlier this year. It also links with the N&B project 'Gardening Matters in Aylsham'. Food will be provided during the evening using funds raised at the Six Inches of Soil evening. The meal will be primarily sourced from Eves Hill. A 'speed dating' group discussion will follow.

Riverwoods- in collaboration with the National Trust (Lead Geoffrey Morley) – 1st November 2025. The film is produced by Scotland 'The Big Picture', and shows the work of projects that are restoring and connecting river woodlands. The screening will be introduced by Geoff Morley and his team, relating the film to the Riverlands project on the River Bure. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion led by members of the NT Restore Nature team alongside ACE representatives. Refreshments will be provided in the interval.

Climate Scam – from Cornwall Climate Care - February 2026 (DTBC) – This film is formed around conversations with people about their perspectives on the climate crisis. A range of views are shared and discussed. Small group discussions will follow the screenings. Refreshments will be provided in the interval. (Also considering screening to other group e.g. High School)

Greenheart – In collaboration with Norfolk Wildlife Trust - May 2026 (DTBC). The screening will be followed by a panel discussion led by NWT and members of the ACE team. Refreshments will be provided in the interval.

Timescale: 4 films over 12 months

External Funding (please specify):

**Approximate funding required from ACE/Town Council : £450 -
Licence for screening two films from Cornwall Climate Care £100; Publicity (A frame posters £100; A4 posters £100) Refreshments for three screenings £150**

ABOUT the PROJECT

What is the need for this Project?

- To raise ACE's profile in the Town;
- To build on the success of previous ACE film screenings;
- To encourage more people to engage with the issues surrounding the climate crisis, and in doing so recruit more people to get involved in ACE projects;
- To inspire people to take action in their everyday lives;
- To provide enjoyable and thought-provoking evenings for the people of Aylsham. After each film there will be time for discussion. To facilitate this, we will provide wine and food;
- This is also an opportunity for ACE groups to come out of their silos and work collaboratively on a project.

Who will benefit?

ACE, The community of Aylsham

How will those taking part help design, implement & evaluate the project?

The screening will be followed by discussion. A variety of feedback tools will be used to evaluate the evenings.

How many will be involved, and how they will contribute to the Project.

See above?

Is Town Council staff involvement required?

At a minor level

If so, what will this entail?

Room will need setting up

What are the publicity requirements and who will lead on this?

Comms will lead on this. Suggestion of asking Book Hive to publicise in the bookshop and to perhaps publicise relevant books at the event. Also to invite the U3A Art Group to put on an art exhibition to accompany/enhance one or more of the screenings.

How will progress on the project be reported back to ACE?

Evaluation at each screening and reported back to ACE in terms of an evaluation report.

How will the success of the project be evaluated?

Feedback forms on response to event and potential sign up to the sub groups

WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BEGIN & END?

Estimate if unsure:

July 2025

Month & Year:

END: May 2026

Month & Year:

Procedure for ACE Projects

In the first instance, members are required to complete this Project Form, giving an outline of what the project involves and an approximate cost. This will be considered by ACE, and if it is supported, it will receive approval 'in principle', and will be able to progress to the next stage.

Members are then required to provide more details of the project, including plans, maps, drawings and work programmes.

The full proposal will be considered at an ACE Meeting and if necessary the following Town Council Meeting. If the project gains full approval, it will be managed by the relevant sub-group with regular reports to ACE.

Please complete this form and send to the Town Clerk (townclerk@aylsham-tc.gov.uk) at least one week prior to the ACE meeting at which it will be considered.

Submitted by.....Anna Magyar, Yvonne Stewart Grizelda Tyler.....

Date.....May 12th 2025



AYLSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ACE PROJECT PROPOSAL



Approved in Principle:

Full Approval:

PROJECT TITLE: Gardening Matters in Aylsham

ACE SUB-GROUP(S) INVOLVED: Nature and Biodiversity

LEADER OF PROJECT: Dr Yvonne Stewart

OUTLINE of the PROJECT

Please write a brief description of the project, including full details of how the project will be delivered and any working partnerships involved.

Rationale:

- Gardens are important, as there are over 10 million acres of gardens in Britain, which is larger than all of Britain's nature reserves combined;
- Soil health is important as soils store more carbon than the atmosphere, and all the world's plants and forests combined;
- Aylsham has a strong gardening community that we want to capitalise on, and share their expertise in promoting in soil healthy gardening.

Outline:

The purpose of this project is to encourage soil enhancing gardening across the town, focussing on restoring soil health and planting soil friendly plants.

- i) Work with existing gardening groups in Aylsham to build on existing expertise and good practice;
- ii) To promote gardening 'conversations' about soil health across gardening groups and the wider community.
- iii) Engage the wider community in developing gardens that enhance soil health,

through talks, articles on the ACE social media and in Just Aylsham, ACE Film Screenings (see separate project), joint initiatives for Aylsham gardeners (e.g. making hedge corridors through gardens across the town), promoting vegetable growing, soil friendly plant sales, ACE gardening information included in the 'New Homes' packs etc,

- iv) Engage the wider community in 'The Best Wildlife Garden in Aylsham' competition, holding a prize giving each year

Timescale: April 2025 to October 2027

External Funding (please specify): none

Approximate funding required from ACE/Town Council: £400

Aylsham Wild Garden Prizes x 2 (2026,2027) £200; Publicity materials for events £200

ABOUT the PROJECT

What is the need for this Project?

- Over the years, the loss of hedgerows and margins on farmland and reliance on pesticides and herbicides has reduced biodiversity across our countryside and towns
- Extra building in Aylsham further increases pressure on the natural world in our town

Who will benefit?

The people of Aylsham

How will those taking part help design, implement & evaluate the project?

- Initially working with existing gardening groups in Aylsham: Potentially - Inspired Gardeners, Aylsham in Bloom, Rotary, U3A Gardening Group, Allotment Groups, and anyone else that would like to be involved.
- The new NWT Network for Biodiversity including the Felbreck Trust and Cromer Green Spaces Group, which already have successful gardening projects
- Link with the National Trust, who have already expressed an interest in working with us on this project under their 'Restore Nature' strategy.

How many will be involved, and how they will contribute to the Project.

See groups above

Is Town Council staff involvement required?

Comms group for promotion. Aylsham Welcome Packs for new home owners.

If so, what will this entail?

Advertising events, what the groups' activities are etc, competition details, information on gardening groups in Aylsham.

What are the publicity requirements and who will lead on this?

Ace Facebook, ACE Instagram, Just Aylsham, Gardening Groups' social media, Aylsham Town Council.

How will progress on the project be reported back to ACE?

At Ace Meetings and on ACE social media platforms

How will the success of the project be evaluated?

Feedback from Gardening Groups, feedback from Aylsham residents, Outcomes of Wild Gardening Competitions

WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BEGIN & END?

Estimate if unsure:

START:

Month & Year: May 2025

END:

Month & Year: October 2027

Procedure for ACE Projects

In the first instance, members are required to complete this Project Form, giving an outline of what the project involves and an approximate cost. This will be considered by ACE, and if it is supported, it will receive approval 'in principle', and will be able to progress to the next stage.

Members are then required to provide more details of the project, including plans, maps, drawings and work programmes.

The full proposal will be considered at an ACE Meeting and if necessary the following Town Council Meeting. If the project gains full approval, it will be managed by the relevant sub-group with regular reports to ACE.

Please complete this form and send to the Town Clerk (townclerk@aylsham-tc.gov.uk) at least one week prior to the ACE meeting at which it will be considered.

Submitted by Dr Yvonne Stewart.....

Date 12th May 2025

Meeting of Aylsham climate Emergency

Item 6 - To receive report from meeting with Highways Engineer on 30th April

Report Author: Faye LeBon

A meeting was held on 30th April to discuss the Town's highways aspirations.

In attendance were:

Steve Riley (Norfolk County Council)

Richard Pearson (Norfolk County Council)

Sue Catchpole (Broadland District Council)

David Harry (Resident)

Kay Montandon (Aylsham Town Council)

Faye LeBon (Aylsham Town Council)

Below is a summary of the discussions

Cawston Road

H-Bars – An order has been put in for this work to be completed, along with relining.

Bus Cages – Locations of bus stops to be agreed and then the cages can be actioned.

Burgh Road

The need for evidence about improved safety on this road was emphasised, as there is little data that suggests that the road is unsafe.

Cllr Riley offered to utilise some of his Ward Members allowance to facilitate Norfolk County Council's safety team to do a safety survey of Burgh Road. This survey will include traffic usage, pedestrian usage and the mounting of pavements by vehicles. The safety team can then provide options for solutions.

Richard Pearson will review the s106 agreement and given an opinion on the traffic calming of Burgh Road as part of the new development.

Kay will send Richard the survey commissioned on behalf of the Town council with regards to the zebra crossing.

We also discussed the erosion of the verge outside 51-57 Burgh Road. Richard suggested kerbing and a trod could form part of the Parish Partnership scheme for 26/27.

Penfold Street

The Town Council should continue with its engagement with the fire service and Sanders to ensure a fire engine and bus respectively would be able to navigate the proposed system.

After this has been received, liaise with Richard to arrange a site visit with Julian Fonseka (Norfolk County Council safety team). Feasibility can be looked at after feedback from Julian.

Market Square

We discussed a better pedestrian realm in this area. Richard will seek informal opinion from the Norfolk County Council design team. Norfolk County Council also has an arboricultural team which can advise on tree types which reduce the risk of damaging the highway as the root system grows.

However a heritage assessment would likely be required as this will change the street scene of this historic area

Transport Hub

Richard looked at the initial designs and did not share the concerns of a prospective consultant that the entrance to the hub could be too close to the entrance to the site, as long as the entrance to the hub did not have a sharp entrance.

Other Matters

Richard raised that Norfolk County Council had funded a 20mph wig-wag sign in front of Marsham school, which was now no longer required. With no objections from Steve about its relocation into Aylsham, Kay will speak to the local schools to see if they would benefit.

ACE TRANSPORT GROUP

Meeting Notes April 28 2025

Present Kay Montandon, Patrick Prekopp, Sue Catchpole, Catherine Fletcher, David Harry, Richard Laxon, Faye LeBon

Apologies Gordon Clarke, Lindsay Little

1. Kay reminded those present of the Open Meeting with Richard Pearson (Highways Engineer) and Steve Riley on Wednesday April 30.
2. Mention of Kate Mckenzie and WAVE (Walking and Volunteering in the Environment); we should be supportive of her Project which fits in with Gordon's work in terms of mapping green spaces etc.
3. Patrick introduced the meeting to, The Market Towns Project Group (the brainchild of local Entrepreneur and Businessman, Tim Bristow). In summary, this Group aims to achieve economic growth by improving Town Amenities and supporting traders. Possibly radical? The Town Council is aware. Possible conflicts?
4. Transport Strategy...Despite good progress, Kay reiterated the need to continue work on costings and prioritisation...we must be able to demonstrate that things are moving.
5. Bus transport remains high on the agenda. We need to support the need for a community bus(es) and explore funding possibilities. Mention that residents who had, in the past, access to a service on Henry Page Road are no longer served. Kay will contact Sanders who have recently restructured their routes.
6. Catherine raised safety concerns for pedestrians on Millgate and Sir Williams Lane not necessarily all related to speed of traffic. Kay observed that Public Safety should perhaps be incorporated within The Neighbourhood Plan,
7. David reported that CSW plans are progressing and that the CSW Team will be represented at the Community Fayre.

Next Meeting June 30

DH. 1 May 2025