Minutes of the Aylsham Climate Emergency Group Meeting held on 3rd November 2025

Present:

Grizelda Tyler (Chairman)	Sue Catchpole	Adam Curtis
Kate Mackenzie	Kay Montandon	Yvonne Stewart

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

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**
   Apologies were noted from Cheryl Bould, Bryce Davies, Jenny Haycocks and Heather Walters.

2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**
   None received.

3. **To Agree the Minutes of the 6th October 2025**
   The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 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**
   None raised

5. **To Receive Feedback on Brainstorming Session on 25th October**
   Grizelda reported that the meeting was very productive with 15-20 people in attendance. The following was discussed:
   - To retain the current website and keep it updated. An events column and a 'things to do' panel on the home page would be helpful. It was important to keep giving Pat Prekopp information to keep the website updated.
   - To remain part of the Town Council but to assess this annually.
   - To have an article in Just Aylsham on a regular basis. Groups should be on rota to ensure information is sent to Pat on a regular basis, although there should be flexibility in this rota should one group be in a position to have more information to publish.
   - A discussion was had about the name 'ACE'. There was no proposal to change it yet, but to keep it under review.
   - Awards could be considered to encourage people to help meet climate objectives.
   - Carbon footprint training should be considered.
   - A cost saving seminar, to include cost saving though energy efficiency methods is being proposed to the Town Council on Wednesday. This is linked to the Neighbourhood Plan and the design of houses.

- Letters to businesses should be considered to ask for positive stories of how they are trying to combat climate change and what they propose to do in the future. The good news stories should be promoted.
- Given the popularity of the films put on by ACE, Yvonne will put in a proposal for a further 4 films. Riverlands attracted 88 people. At the next film on 6th February there will be more promotional material for ACE, including leaflets on chairs.
- Sue stressed that it was important to make sure any Neighbourhood Plan policies carry through to the Unitary council when created. It was also noted that Broadland and South Norfolk council is consulting on its Design Code SPD. It would be useful if the Town Council could respond to this.
- Yvonne had circulated the RHS report on the 'State of Gardening 2025'.

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

Adam reported that he has submitted an application for trees in the Old Station Yard to the Network Rail Tree Planting Fund. This is a joint application with Corpusty to maximise the grant, with approximately 870 trees requested. Adam will press for a response to the grant application. If successful an appeal will be made for volunteers to plant the trees and make it into a community event. People can be encouraged to 'Bring Your Own Spade' and consideration should be given to asking if Rev. Cannon Julie Boyd is available to bless the hedge. It was noted that a register needs to be made of everyone attending so that there are sufficient trees for everyone to plant. Ideally the trees will be planted in January or February.

The Town Council grounds team will clear the fence.

It was noted that there are larger schemes in operation should Aylsham wish to team up with surrounding villages. Up to £40,000 can be applied for, with the District Council acting as the bank for these large projects.

7) To Agree Application(s) to Broadland District Council's Future Fund for Nature and other Green Infrastructure Funding.

The Clerk explained that whilst the maximum application under the grant scheme was £5,000, Aylsham would be permitted to apply for more as there is currently £10,900 in green infrastructure funding resulting from development in Aylsham.

Kate had drafted a proposal for an Aylsham Town Nature Walk, a circular walk starting at the market square and taking in the church yard, the community garden, Paupers' Graveyard, Marriott's Way, Henry Page Road verges. Jewels Lane and finishing back at the market square. Any existing longer walks can also be signposted. Information boards and QR codes would be required at each site so that the information at each site can be kept live. Leaflets would also be produced and seating was discussed.

Accessibility was emphasised as was the relevant Public Liability insurance.

The inclusion of a Miyawaki Forest was considered but it was felt that this could be included in a future application.

The Clerk will send details of the recycled plastic bench that was recently considered for the churchyard.

It was agreed that Kate would complete this application, with the Clerk signing it off as the Town Council holds the bank account.

8) To Receive Update on Tree Warden for Aylsham

Helen Bowman has recently attended a Nature and Biodiversity meeting and is keen to become more involved, particularly in relation to the copse.

9) To Agree Actions or Updates on Planned Events

Kay has created a proposal to take to the Town Council on Wednesday about a cost saving seminar to be held on a Saturday in the new year. This will include cost savings through energy efficiency.

After the success of the recent films, Yvonne will book in additional dates with the Town Council.

10) To Receive Group Updates

Nature and Biodiversity

Updates had already been provided on:

- The tree warden
- The Future for Nature bid
- Information about gardens
- Extra films

Waste

Grizelda and Kay helped with the mangling on Saturday at the Food and Craft market.

Transport and Energy

Kay reported that Norfolk County Council had provided indicative plans of improved bus facilities in the market place. The plans had not received support from the business community due to the loss of car parking spaces, therefore were not taken forward. Gordon Clarke and Time Briscoe had been working on alternatives, which would be put before Norfolk County Council to see which ones were feasible from a highways perspective. After this, a consultation would be held with the public.

Kay had spoken with the community shed about the condition of the planters in the town. It is anticipated that the community shed could replace the planters at a cost of £259 each.

11) 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.

The Clerk reported that, after receiving professional advice, changes would have to be made to the way tickets are accounted for as they attract a VAT liability.

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

Discussions occurred regarding moving any unspent funds in 25/26 to earmarked reserves, so as to be available for 2026/2027.

c) 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.

12) Items for Future Agendas

New films
Cost saving event

13) To Agree the Date of the Next Meeting as Monday 1st December 2025 at 7pm

This was ***agreed***.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.

Signed_____ Date_____