

Minutes of the Aylsham Climate Emergency Group Meeting held on 1st December 2025

Present:

Grizelda Tyler (Chairman)
Bryce Davies
Kate Mackenzie
Heather Walters

Sue Catchpole
Catherine Fletcher
Kay Montandon

Adam Curtis
Lousie Harlow
Yvonne Stewart

Also Present: Faye LeBon (Town Clerk) and Biddy Fisher (Felbeck Trust)

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Lilie Ferrari and Corinne Houlden

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None received.

3. To Agree the Minutes of the 3rd November 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 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 Update on Hedge Planting at the Old Station Yard

Adam reported that the application to the Tree Council for funding at the Old Station Yard had been successful, with a total of £3,963 grant funding and additional £602 in planting aids to be allocated between the Town Council and Corpusty Council for their respective projects as detailed in the application.

The tree guards to be used are made of vegetable plastic, and so will biodegrade naturally.

It was agreed to make the planting a community event, with consideration being given to either holding the event in term time so that the school can participate, or in the half term holidays to encourage families to attend.

Aylsham Town Council will own the planting event for the purposes of risk assessments and insurance.

Adam, Yvonne and Andy will get together to agree the logistics of the event.

6. To Agree Application(s) to Broadland District Council's Future Fund for Nature (deadline extension to 5th December) and other Green Infrastructure Funding.

Kate reported that the community shed has agreed to make bird, bat and hedgehog boxes for the nature trail project. Bug boxes can also be arranged to complement the

sites.

Costs of some guided tours have also been included in the proposal, along with bulb planting of native species, and some extra trees and hedges.

It was agreed to replace three semi mature trees on St Michaels which had been vandalised, as part of the project.

The Clerk will arrange for a map of Aylsham to be sent to Kate, so that the trail can be marked up. The Clerk will also enquire of Broadland District Council to see if they can assist with the design of a leaflet.

Kate will complete the timeline and milestones and establish whether the church is part of the Eco-Church project.

Ongoing problems with dog fouling in the Paupers' Graveyard were discussed. The Town Council is to temporarily lock the area, with access being available through the Town Council, to break the routine of those using the area to allow their dogs to foul.

7. To Receive Updated Fund Raising Code of Practice

It was reported that the Fund Raising Regulator brought about a new Code of Practice on 1st November 2025. This covers some aspects of raising money for events. New collection boxes used during the mangling sessions would be required as they need to be sealed. The Clerk is to arrange this.

8. Planned Events

a) To Agree Actions in regards to the Cost Saving Event in January 2026

This event is to be held on Saturday 31st January between 10am and 2pm. £300 has been granted from Broadland District Council's Winter Pressures fund to go towards this event. A further £300 has been applied for from Broadland District Council's 'Get it Started' fund. Current partners to the event include:

- Community Action Norfolk to do energy saving sessions
- Slow Food to show how to cook two different types of stew
- Country Markets will do a free soup for lunch
- There will be a sustainable food representative from Broadland District Council
- The community shed to talk about upcycling
- Reepham Fixery to talk about electronics
- Stitchers and Knitters to talk about recycling wool

It is hoped to get further partners to attend to talk about, amongst other matters, bike renovation and solar panels.

Volunteers are needed for the event, as is more publicity. A name is also required for the event – any suggestions should be fed back to Kay.

The Clerk will send out the 'save the date' information to ACE members.

b) Publicising Green success stories from local businesses

The Town Council and ACE has agreed to a joint project to promote good news stories from local business regarding how they have taken action to support the environment and what else they have planned. Kay will produce the letters for businesses in due course.

c) To Agree Future Films

Climate Scam has been booked for 6th February. Ticket prices and what is to be included are to be determined. An appeal was made for volunteers to help clean up after the event.

The Clerk will check which films have been paid for.

For 2026/2027, it is hoped to screen:

15th May – Norfolk Wildlife Trust is arranging a film, and the effect of the sea on Happisburgh, a film by Joseph Harrington

11th September – Power Station

13th November – Plastic Ocean

It is also hoped to screen ‘Don’t Look Up’ to appeal to a different demographic.

Yvonne emphasised the need to make everyone who has attended a film screening leave knowing they can do something to make a difference.

d) To Agree Actions for other Planned Events

Grizelda has written to Just Aylsham enquiring if ACE can have a regular panel.

9. 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

At the last meeting it was suggested that there was no requirement for any money to be precepted to ACE in the 26/27 financial year, subject to unspent money in this financial year being transferred to earmarked reserves at year end. Presently, this would stand at:

Existing Reserve	£909.00
Revenue Budget Balance	£4763.60
Events Balance	£643.82
Blister Pack Donations	£654.90
Balance	£6971.32

Now that Andy has negotiated a more favourable deal for transporting the packs, it was *agreed* that the expenditure for blister packs can come from the ACE donations in 2026/27 rather than the recycling credits.

Adam encouraged further reapplications to the Tree Council for tree planting projects. Queries were raised as to whether budget would be required for publicity for the cost saving event and whether there should be a competition for children, with a prize. It was also queried as to whether the transport group would require a budget.

c) To receive updated on the Veolia Sustainability Fund grant

It was reported that the group had been successful in obtaining a grant for £725 to utilise an allotment for growing food for the community fridge. The Clerk will work with Heather and Bryce to fund the project.

d) To Receive Group Updates

Nature and Biodiversity

Updates had been provided on the proposed films

Waste

Heather reported that a project is being drawn up to work with MyGroup, as opposed to Terracycle, to support the recycling of toothbrushes within dentists, and pens within schools. Collection boxes range from £70 to £120 depending on size, although there is a 20kg weight limit on collections.

The group is also working with Broadland District Council to create a central point for recycling collections.

A larger presence at the food and craft market would also be useful. Discussions occurred about the possibility of an ACE gazebo or teardrop flags. Display boards would also be useful for the food and craft market, or indeed for any ACE event. Grizelda will speak to Creative Lincs.

Transport and Energy

The transport group have put together several options for traffic and buses in the town centre. These are to be discussed with Norfolk County Council to establish feasibility prior to consulting further.

There have been several enquiries to borrow the thermal imaging camera from outside of Aylsham and the surrounding villages. These enquiries will be redirected.

10. Items for Future Agendas

Publicity and volunteers for 6th February

Gazebo, flags and display boards.

11. To Agree the Date of the Next Meeting as Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7pm

This was *agreed*.

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

Signed _____

Date _____

Item 5 - To Welcome Helen Sibley from Broadland District Council to Discuss Further Green Infrastructure Funding

Helen Sibley has kindly offered to attend the meeting to discuss opportunities for funding for green infrastructure projects.

Item 6 - Existing Projects

a) To Receive Update on and Agree Further Actions on Broadland District Council's Future Fund for Nature (Nature Walk Project)

Kate has been successful in securing £5,000 from Broadland District Council towards this project. Could members agree what is required to take this project forwards.

b) Tree Planting at Old Station Yard

Adam Curtis has been successful in obtaining funds for tree planting at the Old Station Yard. As per the terms of the grant, the school has been involved in planting some of the whips. Could members please agree on further planting, and consider making the opportunity available to the wider community to increase the volunteering database for ACE.

c) Expenditure of Veolia Grant for Allotment

£725 has been received from Veolia for the allotment to supply fresh produce for the community fridge. Heather and Bryce to liaise with the clerk to agree expenditure items.

d) Receive Report on Live Well for Less Event

Event to take place on 31st January – verbal report to be received at the meeting.

e) Climate Scam Film

Event to take place on 6th February. Verbal update to be received. Can members agree on any final requirements for the event.

f) Carbon Reduction and Local Businesses

Cllr Sue Catchpole kindly requested if Broadland District Council could create a survey for Aylsham for local businesses and their contribution to carbon reduction. The response from Broadland District Council was:

The recent Solar survey to businesses which had significant exposure across Norfolk and Suffolk returned a disappointingly low number of respondents; most of whom cited cost as the main barrier to adoption. This went across both districts [South Norfolk and Broadland] and was further distributed across the county by stakeholders and only 38 responses in total were received. This doesn't give us much demonstrable evidence as I'm sure you'll agree. Also, we are unable to survey Aylsham in isolation as our newsletter is district wide and the main function of the survey I was describing, was to inform future Business Builder plans and in particular, specific intelligence around the NCTC businesses.

We do however publicise case studies in the magazine and on social media about BB grant recipients, demonstrating the value of the Councils support and interventions. After Christmas we are already scheduled to work on one for Fat Radish, which will be useful as a good news story, albeit in South Norfolk, but I can ask that the team send you that when it's finished.

We will be continuing with case studies throughout the year, and I've just suggested to the team to include some BDC projects that will accord with your request amongst them. These real-world examples are perhaps better than survey questions and are easier for us to ensure the right message is conveyed.

Could members agree that publicising good new stories from the Broadland District could assist with the cause?

g) Family Learning Day

To consider participation in the 2026 event.

h) To Agree Actions for other Planned Events

Item 7. To Agree Purchase of ACE Gazebo for use at Events

Could members please agree on a gazebo for use at Events so that this can be considered by council. The facilities team have advised that a 3x3m pop up gazebo could be stored within the town hall.

Town Clerk

From:

Sent:

Subject:

21 January 2026 09:42

National Emergency Briefing (NEB) - Local, informed, compassionate response

Dear All.

I am emailing all of you today, 39 local contacts I have in environmental protection/system change, in Aylsham, on the North Norfolk coast and in Norwich to share the news of the National Emergency Briefing and the breaking news that is being released today. Perhaps you are already aware of this?

Below I have pasted the details from the '**National Emergency Briefing**' (NEB) that I received through 'Action Network'.

I am in a **national momentum building group** that is supporting the work of the NEB in a coordinated effort. **A film is currently being worked on** by those who brought about the NEB briefing and it is due to be released at the end of March I think. People/ citizens/ activists across the UK are working together to get the film shown in as many public venues as we can so we are all having conversations with and booking cinemas and village halls now.

We are also looking at ways to **enable people to receive the messages in the briefing** ... as the facts are quite hard hitting AND there are solutions in there too. Therefore people from the Climate Psychology Alliance and many other support groups are gathering and discussing how we can support the general public to be able to take in the messages of the briefing. Various communities across the UK are also inviting trusted representatives from their local communities to be present at the film showings so that 1) people believe what they hear 2) so that they can take steps together straight away to respond e.g. tree planting, retro-fitting houses, creative responses, holding people's assemblies, listening circles, ceremony etc.

I have asked that this item of the NEB is added to the Aylsham Climate Emergency group agenda at the next meeting on **Monday 2nd February 7pm**. This meeting will be held in Aylsham Town Hall so if you can make it along to that, that is one opportunity to gather to discuss next steps as a community. I wonder if any of you have other venues we could meet in, gathering as many folk as possible to plan local responses here in Norfolk?

The other news  **BREAKING**  today gives extra support for the briefing. Again it is hard hitting AND has shares steps we can take. There are some details about this here:

The UK Govt has quietly published - without announcement - the Joint Intelligence Committee/DEFRA report it suppressed last October. Story in the The Times today I hear. I have seen it in The Guardian and the Daily Express so far. Please read and share if you feel inspired to as it effectively makes the case for the National Emergency Briefing that was brought together by UK citizens on November 27, 2025, at Westminster Central Hall

“Global Biodiversity Loss, Ecosystem Collapse & National Security.”

(link below)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/696e0eae719d837d69afc7de/National_security_assessment - global_biodiversity_loss_ecosystemCollapse_and_national_security.pdf

Sharing with you in love and solidarity. Finding a way together to thrive. With love from Jen

P.S. I have sent this by blind copy to protect your contact details. Please let me know if you are happy for others to see your responses and your email addresses.



GALVANISING MOMENTUM

Thank you for helping make the National Emergency Briefing a success. Over 1,200 people heard top UK experts set out the escalating risks across all aspects of our lives - and how genuine emergency action could transform our country for the better. Now it's time to take this message nationwide.

WHAT WE'RE CALLING ON THE UK GOVERNMENT TO DO

- 1. Stage a televised emergency briefing** to the nation as the first step in a public engagement drive to cut through disinformation.
- 2. Launch a national emergency response** to climate and nature breakdown with the same leadership and determination as shown in WW2 and during the financial crisis.
- 3. Lead stronger global action.** By acting decisively at home, the UK can build the credibility needed to help lead the coordinated global action the world is calling for.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please can you help take the message heard at the briefing to every politician and to the nation.

1. Sign the [open letter](#) to Keir Starmer and the major national broadcasters calling for televised emergency briefing to the nation.

2. Ask your MP to watch the expert briefings and let you know (face to face, if possible) what action they plan to take. You can contact your MP here: <https://www.writetothem.com/>. Please share this link to our [YouTube channel](#) where your MP can watch Professor Mike Berners-Lee's introduction and all nine expert talks.

3. Follow, like, share and comment on our social media accounts to help increase the reach of the vital message delivered by our experts. [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [TikTok](#) | [BlueSky](#) | [Twitter](#)

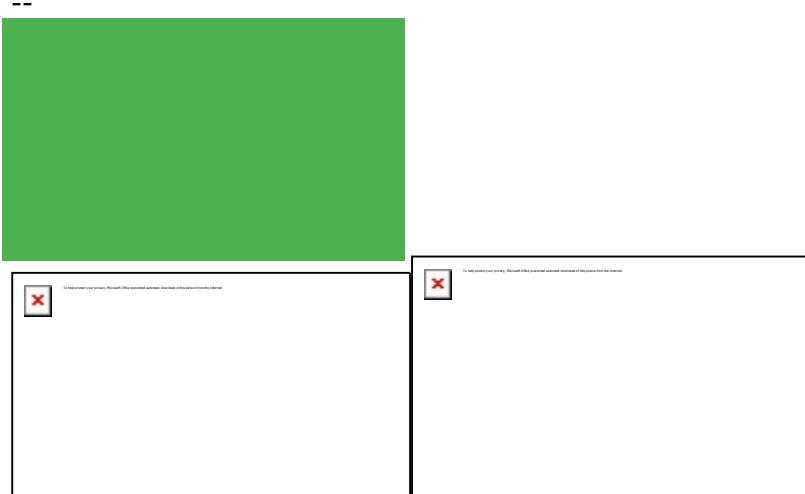
4. Register your interest [here](#) in getting involved in screening our documentary now in production, bringing pressure to bear on your MP to take action. We will be working with distribution partners to co-ordinate screenings around the country, avoiding overlap to maximise impact.

Creating a positive societal tipping point is an ambitious goal, but that's what's now needed - and we believe it's achievable with your help.

Thank you for standing up for science,

Simon, Nick and the rest of the NEB team

I feel inspired to connect with you to see how we might like to respond and support people at this time in our communities to meet the news and challenges in such a way that we may take discerned action together and thrive.



ACE FINANCIAL REPORT (to 29th January 2026)

Revenue Budget (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026)

Budget Allocated	£5,000.00
Expenditure	
Expenses 6" of Soil	£130.91
Expenses 6" of Soil	£21.61
Aylsham Show	£33.88
Notice Board	£50.00
Printing for Live Well for Less	£100.00
BALANCE	£4,663.60

Earmarked Reserves (ACE Events)

Income (6" of Soil)	£621.00
Expenditure (Cornwall Climate Care)	-£50.00
Expenditure (Hungry for Change)	-£98.29
Proposed Expenditure (Films Nov 25 and Feb 26)	-£100.00
Income cash (Riverlands) £245 gross	£204.17
Income card (Riverlands) £82 gross	£68.33
Card Charges (film screening)	-£1.39
BALANCE	£643.82

Other Expenditure

Blister Packs (taken from Bottle Bank credits 25/26)	£884.22
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Other Income

Blister Pack Donations (April)	£84.06
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Blister Pack Donations (May)	£108.80
Blister Pack Donations (June)	£102.77
Blister Packs Donations (Aug)	£136.05
Blister Pack Donations (Sept)	£92.99
Blister Pack Donations (Oct)	£71.73
Blister Pack Donations (Nov)	£58.50
Blister Pack Donations (Dec)	£26.93
Veolia Grant (agenda item)	£725.00
	£1,406.83

General Earmarked Reserves for ACE £909.00