



Minutes of the **Aylsham Climate Emergency** Group Meeting held on **2nd February 2026**



Present:

Grizelda Tyler (Chairman)
Adam Curtis
Louise Harlow
Kate Mackenzie
Heather Walters

Sue Catchpole
Bryce Davies
Jenny Haycocks
Kay Montandon

Kevin Cunnane
Catherine Fletcher
Corrine Houldon
Yvonne Stewart

Also Present: Faye LeBon (Town Clerk) and Helen Sibley (Broadland District Council).

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

None received.

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None received.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 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

The clerk confirmed that the latest film project proposal was on the Town Council agenda for 4th February.

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

Helen was welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that the Town Council/ACE had been successful in achieving a grant for £5,000 from the Future for Nature fund for the Nature Walk project. However, Aylsham could also receive further funding of £5,925 via Green Infrastructure S106 funding. This could be used to enhance the Nature Walk project or create a new Green Infrastructure project. It was noted that there had to be a project agreed by April 2026 to qualify for this funding. Ideas included:

- Expanding the Nature Walk project to include the Old Station Yard
- Link in to existing public rights of way eg: Bure Valley Railway, and add hedge planting.
- Improving derelict sites
- Pond creation (planning permission will be required)
- Planters for perennials or vegetables
- Homes for wild bees

- It was suggested to look at 'Greening Wymondham' and 'Our Nature Recovery' for more ideas. Rothbury park in Wymondham and a park in Queens Hills have put in rainwater harvesting systems.

Helen was thanked for her time and assistance.

6. Existing Projects.

a) To receive update on and agree further actions on Broadland District Council's Future Fund for Nature (Nature Walk Project)

This had already been discussed under item 5.

b) Tree Planting at the Old Station Yard

Adam reported that all the whips had now been planted. Assistance had been received from the Eagles at Aylsham High School. The trees selected had been 60% hawthorn and 40% other species. This combination, with blossom and berries, was better for biodiversity.

It was noted that it was difficult to plant up this area due to the areas of old concrete which remain.

There was a small amount of the grant left over. Adam and Andy will look to allocate this.

Yvonne has some photos to send to Just Aylsham, and the project will go on the Tree Council social media. Louise suggested showing some of the photos at the Climate Scam film on Friday. Yvonne is putting together a calendar to enable people to find out about events over the course of a year.

c) Expenditure of Veolia Grant

The clerk confirmed that the Town Council was in receipt of £725 for the allotment project. Bryce and Heather will confirm what is required.

d) Receive report on Live Well for Less event

Grizelda reported that this was very well attended and was successful in raising awareness of carbon reduction. It was agreed that this should go ahead on an annual basis.

The social media promotion on the build up for this event was commended.

e) Climate Scam Film

Climate Scam will be shown on 5th February at 7.15pm (doors at 6.45pm, helpers to be there at 6pm). After the film there will be a discussion, looking at all the positive things that people can do.

It was agreed to do more promotion over the next couple of days.

f) Carbon Reduction and Local Businesses

It was agreed to defer this item.

g) Family Learning Day

Grizelda reported that ACE had been invited to attend the next Family Learning Day at Aylsham High School. This event brings together families and local organisations for a day of fun and learning. It attracts good footfall so would be good promotion for ACE. Bryce, Heather and Louise offered to attend.

h) To agree actions for other planned events

The film planned for May is from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust

In March, the Nature and Biodiversity group will be sending out information about the garden project.

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

This was raised by ACE Waste as more space was required for mangling at the Food and Craft market. The clerk confirmed that there would be space to store a 3x3 pop up gazebo at the Town Hall. It was agreed that this would be a worthwhile project. Heather will complete the project proposal form detailing the type of gazebo required.

8. To Discuss the National Emergency Briefing and Agree Associated Actions

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

Jenny had circulated some information to the group. She introduced the project which started as a gathering at Westminster, attended by 9 specialists, 100 MPs and 1,000 people. The National Emergency Briefing has been made into a series of short films. Snippets from each of these films will be made into a 45 minute documentary/film. It is hoped that this film will be available for showing in mid/late April. The film can be quite hard hitting therefore, if ACE were to show this film, it would have to be shown in a way whereby people will receive it.

More MPs are needed to get involved in the project. And the BBC and ITV are being lobbied to show the film.

Jenny is speaking to faith groups about the project, and will then reach out to other sectors.

It was agreed to show this film in the Town Hall, when the film is available.

A government document was identified – ‘Global Biodiversity Loss, Ecosystem Collapse and National Security’ which has not received any publicity. This document identifies food loss as a matter of national security.

9. To Receive Group Updates, not elsewhere covered in the agenda

Transport

There was a lot of feedback at the Live Well for Less Event about traffic in the market place. There was a lot of discussion about buses in the market place, and a lot of support for greening of the market place.

It was noted that vegetation has a positive impact on cooling ‘grey areas’. Camden Town and Elephant & Castle have good examples of ‘greening the grey’. SUDs systems can be installed to help keep trees watered.

Comms

The ACE website, from a cost and design perspective was discussed. There was a desire to have an events page on the website and to keep this updated. The designer is to be asked to attend an ACE meeting. Members were unaware of the cost of the website. Grizelda will speak with Pat Prekopp to discuss further, and the clerk will speak to the designer about updating the accessibility statement.

10. Finance

a) To receive updated ACE budget

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

Revenue Budget	£4,663.60
ACE Events	£643.82
Other Income	£1,406.83

This would be moved to ACE earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year. General ACE earmarked reserves currently stand at £909.00.

11. Items for Future Agendas

Adam noted that the 'M' from the trees outside the school, the initials of which spelt out 'Aylsham' would be replaced with a Mountain Ash.

Adam advised that the leader of the Broadland Tree Network would be stepping down.

Yvonne advised that that person would still be overseeing the orchard and the copse.

Items for future agendas:

Outward communications – the website designer should be asked to attend the next meeting.

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

This was *agreed*.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

Signed _____

Date _____