

ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 11 May 2026

Present: Annie Jessup (AJ), Alan Austin (AA), Jeff Hayward (JH), Mal Ward (MW), Joanne Butler (JB), Bob Loughlin (BL), Chris Green (CG)

In attendance: Sue McCormack (SM) Clerk, James Mallinder (JM) District Councillor, David Brien (DB) Bawdsey estate manager, Alex Mann (AM), PC Jacqueline Abbot (JA), Vanessa Austin (VA) Fete organiser, Robin Gilbert (RG) Speedwatch, Tony Osmanski (TO) Peninsula Practice Patient Participation Group

Members of public were present.

1. Chairman's welcome

2. Local Farmers

a) David Brien, Bawdsey estate

Estate manager for Bawdsey estate, and representing the Adeane family. He gave an overview of the estate and explained how farming is changing and how diversification (festival, looking at redundant buildings for tourism/holiday lets, weddings) and sustainability (woodland management, hedging) are increasingly important.

In response to the sand on the roads, David explained that the Bawdsey estate is growing more winter crops and planting more hedges to reduce the amount of the light soil that is blown off the fields onto the roads.

David confirmed that the land on Ramsholt Road had been submitted to the East Suffolk 'call for sites' with the intention of selling for development. He offered to work with the parish council if this goes ahead.

b) Alex Mann, Mann Farms

Alex told us how the Mann family are 4th generation farmers growing intensive vegetables and cereals. He described the large area of land lost to the sea each year.

He explained how the farm vehicles are getting larger, and will continue to do so, and that driving onto the verges contributed in the soil on the roads.

Alex confirmed the land on Hollesley Road had been put forward in response to the East Suffolk 'call for sites' after considering other sites and deciding this was the most suitable.

Alex agreed to meet JH independently regarding the issue of tractors on the verges on Hollesley Road.

3. District Councillor's report

District Cllr. James Mallinder began by apologising for not winning the county council election and said that he wants to work with the elected councillor.

He gave an overview of many of the issues he feels are important to people living on the peninsula and is working to improve including the rising costs of heating oil, hare coursing, debris on the roads, the traffic pinch point at the Wilford roundabout, Melton crossing and said he would advocate for any village wishing to have a 20mph speed limit.

Whilst discussing the community budget, he said that the county councillor will have a similar pot and, stated he will contribute to the Christmas lunch from his budget.

James spoke of the rapid changes to council infrastructure and resulting potential stagnation over the next 2 years with the move to unitary councils and the election of an East Anglia Mayor.

4. Local Police report

PC Jacqueline Abbot presented the police report for the area (attached). She described the area as being low crime.

On the subject of piglets on the road she asked for these to be reported on line each time it occurred so the community police team could speak to the

farmers about potential liability if damage or injury was caused following a road user hitting a pig.

She also advised people to report online incidents of speeding, the use of motorbikes and, hare coursing. Photographs of the vehicles used to transport the bikes are helpful.

PC Abbot retires on 11 July and was thanked for her service.

5. Speed Watch

RG spoke on behalf of the village Speed watch group, this is made up of 6 volunteers. They have the support of Suffolk Constabulary who lend a speed gun. They go out approximately once or twice a month. The details of anyone found speeding is forwarded to the local police who send a letter.

More volunteers are required.

Discussion was held on the areas where speeding is worse and the effectiveness and cost of a static sign.

PC Abbot said that the police can loan an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) camera if asked to do so.

6. Fete Organisers

VA gave an update on this year's fete taking place on 11th July 1-5pm. Many of the same village stalls as last year will be present but there will be no produce tent. Many of the private stallholders are returning although there are some gaps. 1st, 2nd and 4th prizes for the raffle have been purchased and the temporary event notice applied for.

The Coastguard will be asked to attend.

7. Peninsula Practice Patient Participation Group

TO provided an overview of the PPG including the scope (7,500 patients extending up to Aldeburgh and Leiston) and the role. PPGs are mandatory. They gain feedback from patients, represent patient's views, liaise with community groups, evaluate services, increase communication, support health promotion, support flu and vaccine clinics and more.

They are looking for more volunteers who can help out in many different ways e.g. to help out at events and communications or, receive information.

8. Youth Club Report

JB spoke on behalf of Just42 Youth club which runs in the village hall on a Tuesday evening 6.30-8.30pm. They welcome children from Year 6. Numbers are increasing as the evenings are getting lighter with approximately 6 or 7 regular children attending over the winter. At this time of year they spend most evenings on the rec. There are lots of crafts, card games, dancing and once a month cooking takes place. Donations for planters would be welcomed. MW has been to teach the drums and Judy Foulger gave instruction on making cardboard boxes. JB thanked APC for providing bread and milk.

9. Bowls club

JH told the meeting about the Bowls club. The club is in the top 3 of both the beginners and the Woodbridge league. There are 23 members of all ages. New members are welcome and there is no joining fee for the first year for Alderton and Bawdsey residents. Members do not have to play in league matches. There is a 'roll up' on a Monday evening. The club has around £3000 in its account but needs an irrigation system and a new kitchen. An application to the parish community grant is pending.

10. Thirsty Thursday

Diana Loughlin described how TT takes place at the village hall on a Thursday morning from 10-11.30. There are about 15 regular members who enjoy homemade cakes, sausage rolls, teas and coffees and a chat. Donations are taken and when this goes above £300 a lunch is arranged that Judith (Alderton Stores) caters for. It's a friendly place where people are looked out for. Plans are underway for a trip to the panto at Christmas and the annual Christmas lunch that JM has offered to contribute to. There are also 4 brunches a year that raise money for charity. The next one is 13th June and the chosen charity is EACH (East Anglian Children Hospice).

11. Chairmans Report

AJ described the changes to the parish council with Nick Rose leaving and JH stepping down as Chair. AA and CG have joined as councillors leaving one vacancy. Criteria to become a councillor are age 18 or over, lived in the parish, or within a 3 mile radius, for at least 12 months. Joy resigned as parish clerk. She was replaced by Amelia, then Vanessa, and now SM has taken on the role.

The parish council is responsible for the village hall, pavilion and the recreation ground. The village hall is the place of refuge in case of emergencies. The profits from the fete go into a community fund that is available to fund things that are not generally provided by the parish council e.g. contribution toward the pump track day.

AJ shared her concern that people in the village need to know what is going to be discussed and will use the notice board at the entrance to Mill Hoo to publicise agenda, minutes and events. The Hub will also be used for advertising local events and information but unfortunately notices are regularly and inexplicably being removed.

The parish council is having discussions, but has made no decisions on, topics including caravans on the rec at weekends, taking over the management of the grass either side of the entrance to Mill Hoo from East Suffolk Services Ltd., simplifying the booking of the village hall, and considering the continued need for the glass recycling bins.

The parish council has no authority over highways or speeding.

Planning application meetings are often held at short notice to fit in with deadlines and don't often fit scheduled meeting timetable.

The clerk will post information on the Wilford Peninsula Facebook page, in the Hub and on the notice board as required. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Alderton website (aldertonsuffolk-pc.gov.uk)

Next meeting 6pm on June 29th in the Village Hall.

Prepared by: Sue McCormack Dated 4 June 2026

Approved by: Annie Jessup – Chair Date