

Nether Alderley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 1.30pm at The Village Hall Church Lane Nether Alderley

In the Chair Cllr. Lesley Gleave .

Parish Councillors present: Sue Joseph, Melanie Connor, Rachel Horsefield, and Mandy Kirk..

Also present: David Naylor Parish Council Clerk.

Members of the Public: None

1. **To receive apologies for absence.** Cllrs. Geoff Linnel, Susan Clarke and Angela Farrell ; Cheshire East Councillor for the Chelford Ward which includes Nether Alderley - Anthony Harrison.
2. **To receive Declarations of Interests**
 - To declare disclosable pecuniary interests (Councillors with disclosable pecuniary interest(s) must leave the room for the relevant items). There were None.
 - The Clerk asked all members to review their declarations of interest forms and if necessary update them and send a copy to him. He would forward them to Cheshire East's monitoring Officer.
 - To declare interests conflicting with the Nolan principles/non-pecuniary interests. There were none.
 - To allow Councillors to consider amendments required to their Declaration of Pecuniary Interest forms. There were None.
3. **To consider and approve Applications for Dispensations.** There were none.
4. **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings** held on the 25th March 2025 as a true and accurate record. The Minutes were approved:
Proposed: Cllr. Gleave **Seconded:** Cllr. Joseph
5. **Public Presentation**

To adjourn the meeting to receive representations from members of the Nether Alderley Parish. No members of the public were present and the meeting was not adjourned.
6. **Induction Session for New Members.** The session would take place at 5pm before the Council meeting on 13 May 2025. The Council meeting would take place at 6.30pm on that day.
7. **The Village Hall**
 - **Feedback from the opening events held over the weekend of 28th, 29th and 30th March.** The Friday 28th event went very well and people were interested in looking over the Hall. The Saturday and Sunday sessions were quite busy. David Fairbotham (Caretaker) had taken some pictures and he would be asked for them. Upstairs needs a large meeting table or perhaps two drop leaf tables. Cllr. Joseph suggested perhaps two arm armchairs. The drop leaf table that was in the room previously may be ok when polished up. Cllr Kirk had a contact for photos to promote the premises. If the room was to be used for Council meetings the table(s) needed to seat nine. The Instagram account was in the name of Norman the previous chairman and a new account should be set up. A Hall booking system needed to be procured, the current Outlook Calendar account was very limited. The new booking system could be hung off the current website using a "plug in" but the website site was not easy to update. The Clerk would ask Aubergine to demo their Parish Council website.

- **Outstanding issues – AV equipment.** The Clerk promised to resolve this with Keith Farrell and David Fairbotham and have the key parts of the equipment in place by the next meeting.
- **Need to consider blinds on the Hall exit doors for “blackout” purposes.** The existing blinds supplier would be asked to provide a suitable solution.
- **Bookings to date and in the bookings diary.** This was going quite well and David Fairbotham has supplied a list including, the National Trust, The Flower Club, Dog Training, The Art Group, Weddings and Children’s Parties.
- **Other Matters.** Cllr Linnell wanted more clarity regarding the concessions given to the Church regarding their free use. This use is based on their use over many years and is enshrined in a legal agreement with them. When they use the toilets, church users are chaperoned by a member of the PCC. The key code is not shared with the individual users.

8. Broadband Supply Provider. Sky had been appointed to supply the Parish Council with Broadband following quotes presented to the January Meeting. Openreach had confirmed access to the adjacent full-fibre community scheme completed in 2021.

The Clerk met Openreach at the Hall on the 12th February. However it was apparent that there was still work for them to do before SKY could install the router. This work constituted three poles to support the fibre optic cable from the node on the pole at the entrance to Church Lane. One at the entrance to the Church Car Park, one on the corner of Ladies Lane in the Paddock and a further one in the paddock near the Village Hall.

The poles in the paddock will be adjacent the fence. The cable would then be strung from the poles and then into the Village Hall at first floor level connecting to the router situated either in the storeroom or in the first floor of the old school house. The cable would then be extended and exit the Hall at an appropriate point to serve the Church. The only alternative to this would be another cable stretching from the last pole serving the Hall across to the frontage of the Hall to the Church. This would be unsightly. Note that the Hall’s capacity would not be shared and the Church would only be sharing the means of access.

An issue has arisen whereby the cost of the poles and cable to the Village Hall along Church Lane is supposed to be cost free to the user and absorbed by the end provider, in our case SKY. However, when the Clerk contacted SKY for an update they said that they were unable to proceed because of this cost which would be uneconomic given the two year contract and the potential for the parish council to move to another supplier. After some resistance SKY confirmed that the cost to them from Openreach would be £2,900 and refused the offer for the Parish Council to fund the £2,900 on the grounds that they did not work in this way!!

The Clerk has now engaged BT to do this work and had made sure that they know that the associated pole costs would be covered by the Parish Council circa £2,900 if necessary. This was to prevent them cancelling the contract when this cost was announced as happened with SKY. The Clerk has included this sum in the 2025/26 budget. (see Agenda Item 9 below).

There seems to be no other alternative – a leased line would cost circa £1000 per annum. It may be possible to have a contribution from the Church, although a PCC member at the recent opening event said that in his view their contribution was allowing the three poles to be on their land.

I am also conscious that the absence of a broadband connection in the short term will disappoint potential customers and also prevent Cllr. Linnell from dialing in. With regard to the latter we could consider using Alderley Park again until we have connectivity.

It was **RESOLVED** to fund the cost of the poles and cable subject to it being £3000 or a figure very close to this. When the actual figure was known the Clerk would consult with members.

Proposed: Cllr. Gleave **Seconded:** Cllr. Kirk

9. Budget Outturn 2024/25 and Budget for 2025/25. Enclosure 1 in the Agenda Documents Pack. The Clerk went through the budget line by line to confirm or delete the revenue budget lines and earmarked reserves. The Budget was approved.

Proposed: Cllr. Gleave **Seconded:** Cllr. Joseph

- 10. Internal & External Audits of the Council's 2024/25 Accounts. Enclosure 2 in the Agenda Documents Pack.** J D Henry is our internal auditor and at this time of year information has to be sent to him by "We Transfer". This information is documented in his Audit Checklist which is in the above Enclosure 2.

The Clerk has confirmed that the requested information will be sent to him on Monday 14th April. He may then request further information The internal auditor and will then produce his report.

The next step is the external audit by PKF Littlejohn. **Enclosure 3 in the Agenda Documents Pack.** This can only take place after the internal audit report is available because it is included in their requested documents. A link to the documents requested is in the letter contained in Enclosure 3. Their deadline for submission is 1st July. I would aim to do this as soon as possible but it cannot be before the first week in June because it needs to have evidence of website and noticeboard notifications allowing members of the public to view and have copies of our accounts. The date for this is 3rd June – 14th July. I will ensure that I will be available to help my replacement leading up to the submission and any questions following it. I also attached in Enclosure 3 a copy of the Annual Governance and Audit Review (AGAR) Annual Return which is a submission document to both sets of auditors. As you see from this annual return there are very significant difference in payments and receipts in 2024/25 compared with 2023/24, due of course to the Hall renovation.

11. Finance Schedule (Appendix A)

11.1 **To note receipt of income, as listed in schedule (A1)**

11.2 **To approve items for payments as listed in schedule (A2)**

11.3 **To approve direct debit/standing order as listed in schedule (A3)**

11.4 **To consider and approve the Clerk's expenses as listed in schedule (A4)**

- 12. The Marketing Group** – All the public Hall launch events went off successfully. When Hall pictures had been collected there are a lot of a websites they could be displayed on including Cheshire East and wedding planners and of course Instagram. The latter would be live by the next meeting.

- 13. Flooding of Welsh Row:** Update on progress following a meeting with the National Trust see March 2025 Minutes - Minute 15.

- 14. Bollington Lane Danger to Pedestrians – Deep Water Ditches .** The Clerk is arranging for notices to be provided and will meet on site with Geoff Beeby.

- 15. St Mary's Church Website.** Update on the corrections needed on the site, regarding booking the Village Hall and the need for updated photographs.

- 16. Members had been asked to adopt specific roles and action and lead on specific items.** Confirmation of those roles were included in the March 2025 Minutes and any additional adoptions will be noted.

- 17. Progress in adopting .gov.uk suffixes to our emails and our website URL.** The quote from Axon was quite expensive. The Clerk has asked for a reduced cost quote which provides the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair with AXON supported 365 business licences and Sharepoint. The other members would have unsupported 365 licences. This will significantly reduce the setup cost but more importantly the recurring support cost. Documents should be able to be shared by the users with Sharepoint to the remaining councillors

- 18. The Clerk's Retirement Vacancy.** The proposed Closing date will be on **Monday 28th April.** **Enclosure 4 in the Agenda Pack.** ChALC will help with this by adding an item to their weekly

bulletin going out on Monday 7th April. They will also advertise it on their website on Friday 4th April. It will also be on our website and Facebook on Friday 4th April. Attached is the job specification previously circulated but now more streamlined. The Clerk will delay his departure as necessary until a new Clerk is in post and been introduced into the role.

- 19. Planning Applications** Cheshire East Council (CEC) has launched a new On- Line Planning System (click on this [link](#) to access it. CEC is avoiding emailing the weekly planning list because they can now be searched via the above link and planning consultations can also be posted against each application.

Application No.	25/1246/VOC
Proposal	Variation of Condition Proposal: Variation of condition 2 on approval 21/5418M : Alterations proposed to enhance the dwelling, its function and appearance, to suit the preferences and requirements of the client's family.
Location	Shed 7, Sandleheath Farm Bollington Lane, Nether Alderley, Cheshire East,
Response Deadline	30-04-2025
NAPC Response	No objection

Application No.	25/1176/PRIOR-1A
Proposal	Prior Approval: Larger householder extension Proposal: Prior approval for single storey rear extension extending 7.35m beyond the original rear wall, maximum height of 3.5m and eaves height of 3.1m. Installation of chimney flue.
Location	Wyche Farm Soss Moss, Nether Alderley, Macclesfield, Cheshire East, SK10 4TU
Response Deadline	17-04-2025
NAPC Response	No objection

- 20. To consider any other Planning matters including decisions on Planning Applications:**

None to date:

The Clerk will check just before the meeting for any in New or decided applications and display them at the meeting.

- 21. Cheshire & Warrington Devolution Consultation: ONLINE Presentation 7th April at 6pm. Cllr. Gleave is attending and will report to the meeting.**

The [consultation](#) is about a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas of Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Warrington Borough Council. The MHCLG Team will give a short presentation to outline the scope of the proposal, which will then be followed by Q&A's for participants. The MHCLG is keen to obtain views from interested parties on the effect of establishing a Mayoral Combined Authority in the area, and the consultation is seeking responses to 7 questions. N.B. The consultation closes on Sunday 13th April 2025 at 23.59

It was felt that this was a done deal because of the current financial state of the three councils

which could as a combined authority generate opportunities to make savings and also have a more strategic outlook to deliver targets such as housing.

The Government was providing 30 years funding for the initiative.

Cllr Gleave asked individual councillors to put in a response

See also [the move to make the former Macclesfield Borough a Unitary Authority](#)

Cllr Gleave encouraged individual councillors to

22. **Report from Cllr. Anthony Harrison** Cheshire East Chelford Ward Councillor which includes Nether Alderley. Cllr Harrison was not present.
23. **Items Raised at the Last Meeting**
 - The clearing of overgrown footpaths continues to be a problem.
24. **Councillor items for the March Meeting:**
25. **Date of the Next Meetings which includes the Parish Meeting, Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting**

Tuesday 13th May 2025

Note the New Time

6.30pm at the Village Hall

APPENDIX A

Nether Alderley Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 8th April 2025

Schedule of Receipts and Payments

A1. Receipt of Income -the last Meeting up to this meeting (8th April 2025)

Current Account:

VAT Reclaim Month of February 2025 £16,429.22 & March £7449.24

Precept First half of Precept £34,895.00

Skipton Building Society – Closure of the Account 1st April and transfer of Capital £2,854.40 plus £1,331.87 interest into our Current Account.

Reserve Account Interest 31st March £0.55

Unity Trust Bank Interest 31st March £3.44

Invoices sent and awaiting payment to NAPC

Invoice Ref 0001- 4/25 Sale of Garden Furniture £125.00 plus £25.00 VAT 1st April 2025.

Invoice Ref 0002- 4/25 Childrens Party £80.00 plus £16.00 VAT 5th & 6th April 2025.

A2. Invoices for payment

Ch.	Provider	Total Cost	Net of VAT	Service Provided	VAT	Power
1848	Flourish Pantry	£600.00	£600.00	Food for Hall Open Event 27 th March	£0.00	H
1849	Kirkwells Ltd	£693.60	£578.00	Extra Day of Planning Consultancy for the Neighbourhood Plan	£115.60	H
1850	HMRC	£440.35	£440.35	Tax and NI	£0.00	H
1851	David Naylor	£758.05	£756.22	Salary & Expenses	£1.83	H
1852	David Fairbotham	£108.75	£108.750	Village Hall Caretaking	£.0.00	H
1853	Currie & Brown	£353.56	£294.63	Hall Renovation Final Account	£58.93	E
1854	ChALC	£288.60	£288.60	Affiliation Fee 2025/26	£0.00	H
1855	J R Book Consulting Engineer	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	Balance of Fee up to Contact Completion (Hall Renovation Mechanical and Electrical) £3,360.00. Less £360.00 Pending end of Defects	£0.00	H

A3. Direct Debits/Standing Orders for approval

Provider	Total Cost	Net of VAT	Service Provided	VAT	Power
Current Account Bank Charges	£8.05	£8.05	Bank Charges 31 st March We have now exceeded the turnover limit for free banking.	£0,00	H
Crown Gas and Power Electricity	£73.78	£70.27	28/2/25 – 30/03/25	£3.51 @ 5%	H

A4. Approval of the Clerk's expenses/salary: Power H

Travel 92 Miles @ 45 pence per mile = £41.40

Phone Sim monthly £9.17 plus £1.83 VAT = £11.00

Village Hall Cleaner Payment £81.25

Post Office Stamps £13.20 No VAT = £16.50

Total £148.32 plus £1.83 VAT = £150.15

Plus, Salary - Contracted 65 hours @ 15.58 per hour £1,012.70 = £1,162.85 Gross

Less £404.80 Tax = £758.05

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Signed.....
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Parish Council Powers for Expenditure and Activity

Note that the Parish Council has adopted the Power of Competence

Audit

[Audit Regulations 1996]

I

Benches

Power to provide and maintain roadside seats and shelters [Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1]

K

Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and Crematoria

Power to acquire, provide and maintain [Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9 and 10]

A

Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials

Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s.1

B

Power to provide and maintain and Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries

Local Government Act 1972, s.214

Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (no 204) C1 Memorials (16 (1) (a) and 16 2 (b))

C

Bus Shelters

Power to provide and maintain shelters

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, s.4

Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1

D

Crime prevention

Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s31, Crime and Disorder Act 2000

Q

Community Centres

Power to provide and equip community buildings [Local Government Act 1972, s.133]

E

Power to provide buildings for clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

F

Power to provide a range of recreational facilities [Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1975 s19

G

General Administration/Running Costs

Subsidiary powers of local authorities – to facilitate, or conducive or incidental to, the discharge of functions LGA 1972 s111

H

Parish Hall – public meetings

K

1. LGA 1972 s 142 “ arrange for the delivery of lectures and addresses and the holding of discussions on such matters - provision of information etc relating to matters affecting local government
2. s133 ‘Power to provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies or contribute towards the expenses of providing such buildings’
3. LGA 1972 S111

Litter bins Provision of litter bins [Litter Act 1983, ss 5, 6]

L

Neighbourhood Plans [Localism Act 2011 Sch 9]

R

Research and collection of information

Power to carry out research [LGA 1972 S 141]

M

Parish Plans [LGA 1972 S 141]

J

Section 137

N

Local Government Act 1972. Power of Local Authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised. Power to do something that will benefit the community where there is no other specific power covering the action; Set at £8.12 per elector in 2019/20. Expenditure must be commensurate with the benefit

Websites Local Government Act 1972 s142

P

Life-saving appliances – Power to provide life-saving appliances (e.g. life belts, defibrillators) [Public Health Act 1936, s234]

S