



Minutes of the **Aylsham Climate Emergency** Group Meeting held on 7th April 2025.



Present:

Grizelda Tyler (Chairman)
Leslie Cannon
Adam Curtis
Anna Magyar
Reannon Tapp

Sue Bayliss
Sue Catchpole
Bryce Davies
Kay Montandon
Heather Walters

Sarah Bell
Philip Comer
Kate MacKenzie
Yvonne Stuart

Also Present: Faye LeBon (Town Clerk)

1. TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cheryl Bould, Patrick Prekopp, Jenny Haycocks and Shelley Hudson

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2025 were **agreed** as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None raised.

5. PROJECT WORK

Presentation of new Projects for consideration.

Nature – Yvonne discussed two ongoing projects. These were the verge rewilding on Henry Page Road. A programme of maintenance had been put in place, which the Town Council's grounds officer had been very supportive about.

The second project was the tree planting project for the boundary of the old station yard. The Town Council's grounds officer has cleared the scrub and placed notices in the area so that members of the public are aware of the project.

A further project being considered is that of 'gardens matter'. The Cromer Green Spaces group has been helpful with this project. It is hoped to bring together Aylsham in Bloom and U3A along with ACE to work together to promote the importance of gardens and soil health. The intention of the project is to be similar to Open Gardens but for wilding.

Kay raised that the standards and ideas brought forwards could be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.

The verges are to be left to grow longer before cutting. The Clerk is to try to locate the explanation boards.

Anna had circulated the feedback from the Six Inches of Soil film which had been shown in conjunction with Aylsham Picture House.

Waste – Heather reported that the blister pack recycling scheme was going strongly. Members of the public are now encouraged to take their blister packs directly to Boots. The high school is working with Terracycle, but regrettably the recycling scheme for toothbrushes and pens has ceased due to Philips and Rymans respectively withdrawing from the scheme.

Sistema is now working with the school to recycle lunchboxes and drinks bottles.

Comms – Reannon reported that there was five new followers on the Instagram account, and ACE had been tagged on the page of Six Inches of Soil. There was a real buzz as a result of the Six Inches of Soil film and all were agreed that this was an excellent community event. It is hoped that more people would join ACE as a result.

Adam was a panel member at the Six Inches of Soil event and offered to continue in this role for future events.

An appeal was made for someone to assist with the facebook page.

The video montage is in progress.

Sarah offered to write articles for Just Aylsham.

Discussions occurred about noticeboards specifically for ACE. It was noted that one couldn't be placed at Woodgate because the management company would not permit it. A noticeboard had been previously agreed by the Town Council to place on the Town Hall. The Clerk is to follow up with this project, and check whether permission would be required to attach it to a listed building.

Transport – Kay reported that work continues on the Transport Hub project to alleviate traffic coming into the town.

Energy – Grizelda reported that several training sessions have been run with the thermal imaging camera, but only three people have taken up the loan of the equipment. Consideration could be given as to whether Energy and Transport could join. This would make the group bigger and could cover projects such as electric charging stations.

6. GROUP UPDATES

To receive updates from all groups. To include the results of internal group reviews, and purpose of ACE

Yvonne raised that ACE had been going for several years and suggested that an update may be advisable. The aims and objectives should be reviewed. There was a need to ensure that the group is not working in silos and to be aware of what other groups are doing which may complement the work of ACE.

Kay suggested that ACE could take a leadership role for the town.

There was support for events similar to that of Six Inches of Soil, which was well attended. Reannon suggested working in partnership with Eves Hill, with themes such as learning to buy local, waste food and seasonal food.

Adam raised the importance of influencing behaviour through motivation, and doing positive things.

Adam will see if he can assist the group to get funding for the hedge planting at the old station, particularly if the event is community led.

Yvonne is trying to get together a calendar of events where local people can join in. Events such as identifying plants on the verges and at the old station yard, and the raking of the grass verges will be included.

It was suggested that plants could also be incorporated at the food events, along with information about what the plants do. Reannon suggested that Eves Hill may be able to provide flowers to take away.

Heather advised that Eves Hill would allow the ACE group to piggy back off their events. It was **agreed** that a joint venture between ACE and Eves Hill would be beneficial. Heather will take this forwards.

Kay suggested that there may be other areas which are in the ownership of the Town Council which may be suitable for tree planting, hedging or wild flowers. This can be run through council when a project is put together.

Discussions occurred as to how to engage and empower young people. Ideas discussed included:

- After school activities for older children.
- Engaging in Activities Week at the school.
- Making space available for children to cook and take home what they eat.
- Engaging with the Eagles nurture group.
- Bryce volunteers with the Papillon Project, which works with schools with gardens to promote sustainable living and environmental awareness.

7. CIL PROJECTS

There were no further updates on this subject. Kay encouraged any projects that required capital spending to be submitted to the council.

Grizelda raised the subject of community land trusts, whereby a parcel of land is purchased and the trustees work in conjunction with a Housing Association. Under these schemes, Passivhaus design can be insisted upon, therefore helping to alleviate fuel poverty.

Community Heating Systems were also discussed, due to their popularity in Europe. Adam advised that these projects tend to work well on a larger scale. He also noted that community solar works well, as does chicken waste as a fuel.

Discussions occurred as to a project for reducing light pollution to support nocturnal creatures as well as saving energy.

Kate will send Reannon the dark skies flow chart.

The Clerk will circulate the project proposal form.

8. EVENTS

- To consider and decide actions regarding any events planned.** It was reported that Yvonne and Grizelda had attended the Carbon Literacy training course. It was noted that the next Saturday that the Town Hall is available is 1st November, although the Drill Hall may be available on an alternative date. Options for films were considered but it was **agreed** to create an event which replicated 'speed dating' but for environmental matters. A question is discussed, and then attendees move onto a different table for a different question. This will help with communication, networking and reduce the concern of working in silos.
- To consider expression of interest for Aylsham Tent at Aylsham Show, 25th August 2025.** Kay advised that she had seen the invoice for the new marquee. Heather and Bryce advised that they would be happy to man the stall.
- To receive report on success of 'Six Inches of Soil' and consider use for profit made from event.** All were agreed that this was a very successful event, with £621 made from ticket sales and 120 people engaged with on the evening. Slow Food kindly provided the food and drink for the evening. Ideas for use of the profit were taken from the feedback forms and included:

- i. Tree planting
- ii. Giving away plants
- iii. Access to food
- iv. Starting a group for young people

Concerns were raised that future events may not have the level of sponsorship that Six Inches of Soil had, so a reserve would be needed for future events. It was **agreed** that the money would be ringfenced for future ACE events in case sponsorship was not forthcoming.

9. TOWN WASTE

Sue Catchpole advised that she had sought funding from Broadland Council for dual recycling / litter bins for the open spaces in Aylsham, but no funds were presently available.

The Clerk advised that the Veolia sustainability fund would be opening soon.

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

No matters raised.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As the next scheduled meeting fell on a bank holiday, it was agreed to defer the next meeting until Monday 12th May, commencing at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.48pm.