

North Cockerington Parish
Minutes from the meeting on 7th May 2025
Alvingham Community Hall

Parish Chair - Toby Barnes, Treasurer - Adrian Orpwood,
& Secretary - Fiona Barnes welcomed 12 attendees.

No apologies received.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20/11/24 were circulated and adopted.

Update/Progress report:

1) Litter Picking.

Adrian has ordered some litter pickers, these will be available to anyone who wants to use them.

2) Defibrillator.

This is located on the front of the primary school.

Everyone present agreed training in its use would be helpful. Nikitta Statham has the details of who to contact at EMAS to arrange this and will forward them to Toby after the meeting.

3) Village Website

Toby explained this is still a work in progress, he is hoping to put the minutes and future meeting information on there, but anyone wishing for paper copies or reminders of meetings please let him know. Phil Tetlow suggested putting the website details on the village notice board for people who may not know of its existence, Fiona Barnes will organise this.

4) Summer BBQ.

It was agreed that whilst many would like to attend such an event, we are restricted by legal issues over organising it. It was suggested that individuals might decide to organise something personally and invite villagers.

5) Surface water issues.

Toby stated that surface water issues were brought to his attention earlier in the year by other residents of Meadow Lane. He carried out a walk around taking videos and photographs, but the water quickly drained away, unlike other parts of the county. There was discussion about who to contact regarding this problem in the future.

6) No to Pylons sign.

Discussion about the expense, where to put it, and whether they do any good concluded with the decision to not spend our (limited) funds on this, but for residents who are willing and able to put leaflets through letter boxes of the parish. These have been supplied by the group L.A.N.D. (Lincolnshire Against Needless Destruction, www.lincsland.co.uk) and were distributed at the end of the meeting.

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7) Parish Bank Charges

Adrian explained that now we have 2 people (himself and Toby) who bank with Santander, we can apply for a charitable account, saving us bank charges.

8) Potholes

The online site "Fix my street" was recommended as the best way to report potholes,.

9) Allotment charges.

These were raised to £10 last year, and will be reviewed annually in line with the tenancy agreement.

Matters Arising:

1) Adoption of minutes – See above

2) Progress Report – See above

3) Review of hedge maintenance in Church Walk.

It was agreed to increase from £25 to £50 the fee paid to Nick Short for keeping Church Walk Clear. In particular cutting the hedge cut back on the allotment side, and any obstructive foliage on the farmers field side.

4) Treasurers report

Adrian gave an account of the funds we have, expenses paid and precept received. It is intended to ask for an increase to the precept next year to help reflect rising costs. It has remained at the current level for several years. On 31/3/25 we had £1,130.83 in the account.

5) Provision of Email addresses.

It was agreed for a list of email addresses held by the chair to be made available next meeting for updating.

6) Volunteers.

It was discussed how we could become more involved/make improvements to the village within the scope of our funding. Toby suggested litter picking, cleaning the village signs, putting up flower displays as examples, but asked for any other ideas.

Discussion followed about how to get more people involved in coming to the meetings, as it is always the same faithful stalwarts!!

Suggestions included: - informing people in person, putting up notices and posting on social media.

Discussion about why people might choose not to come followed.

Sue Tetlow stated she has thought about putting a bench on the gravel area in front of her kitchen wall, beside the phone box library, for use by everyone. Adrian reminded us that this has to be a council approved and installed bench wherever located in the village if intended for public use.

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Sue further suggested a plant share area and asked if anyone had any shelves. Fiona Barnes said she might have.

In view of recent thefts in the area, Arthur Fox enquired if it was possible to have a gate put on the entrance to the field next to him, to help prevent people gaining access to the rear of his property. It was suggested he approach the field owner.

Vanessa Cook asked if anyone has neighbourhood watch signs on their property, in light of the recent burglaries in the village. It was noted that we are not part of a neighbourhood watch scheme and Vanessa kindly offered to look into this and report back.

The idea of a neighbourhood Whatsapp group was discussed, so all members could stay up to date with village matters. This would mean issues such as thefts or intruders could be flagged up quickly. It could also be used for other matters such as offers of help or requests. This could perhaps be incorporated into a broader neighbourhood watch scheme?

The meeting concluded at 19.50pm.