



The Chair of the Alwoodley Parish Council Held the Annual Parish Meeting on
23rd June 2025 from 7pm - 8pm at the Alwoodley Community Association, 60 The Avenue,
Leeds LS17 7NT

PRESENT: Councillor White, Councillor Pritchard, Councillor Wright, Councillor Ian Dickinson,
Councillor Richard Hainsworth

In Attendance: Parish Ranger Mark Illingworth, Ward Councillor Neil Buckley, Ward Councillor
Lyn Buckley, Officer Paul Tunnard and Officer Sarah Shaw (PCSOs), Roger Gilbert (Friends of
Adel Woods), Barbara Wakefield (Alwoodley Walkabout), Jennifer Roberts, the Clerk.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Kevin Back, Councillor Dan Jordan, Councillor Peter Buckland,
Councillor Hiba Khurshid, Councillor Louise Jennings, Councillor David Towns

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- **Chair's Welcome:** The Chair of the Parish Council opens the meeting and welcomes attendees.

2. Reports:

- **Parish Council Report:**

- **Report from The Chair:**

- Challenging year. Losing clerk end of last year, resolving issues.
- Launched new website
- Hired a new Clerk, after a few months without one.
- The Council approved an updated grants policy – Larger grants to enable more flexibility now available but more accountability. (see <https://www.alwoodleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/grants/>)
- Changed the role of Lengthsman to one of Ranger. The addition includes supporting the implementation of the biodiversity policy.

- **Environmental projects.** -Update from Councillors Wright, Environmental Working Party

- [Biodiversity policy](#) adopted. Will be delivered partly by awarding grants to other bodies. Erected a display map on Goodrick lane by the reservoir.
- In conjunction with Leeds City Council, improved the footpath between Old Leos and across Stairfoot Lane and up to King Lane. Classified as a bridleway. We've had lots of positive comments about that

- **Report from Parish Ranger, Mark Illingworth.** Took over as ranger, after Mike finished in October. It's been very busy. Clearing branches from street, cleaning parish council stones, flower beds. As part of the change between lengthsman and ranger, big one around the village green is Himalayan balsam. Joined up with Friends of Adel Woods. If we keep that clear this year, next year we can do another area. Nothing in this area that eats this stuff, so there's no other option but hand pulling it .
 - Maintenance – painting little library, phone box
 - New notice board on Goodrick lane.
 - Repaired notice board at bottom shops where top sign had come off.
 - Path clearing.
 - Keep requests coming in.
 - Village green. Litter pick every morning. Heaving – well used – credit to the parish council, but causes a lot of litter.
 - Alwoodley exchange phone box has broken wood at the bottom (elector comment)
 - What's the status of playground?
 - Answer: Refurbishing surface, LCC (Vicky Nunn). There are some pieces on the gym, and as equipment will be updated. Mark did a condition report and .
 - Comment from elector: During snowy weather, could the parish council employ farmers with snow plows to clear smaller roads that LCC can't cover? Chair made a note. Another comment that farmers used to come and clear.
- **Local Group Reports:**

Representatives from local community groups are invited to present activities, achievements and concerns from the past year.

 - **Paul & Sarah from PCSO –**
 - We've had the pleasure of doing bike marking at several schools as part of the Alwoodley Walk to School Week.
 - Shared issues around Eccup reservoir – Eccup lane, drug dealing. Police measures in place and it's improving.
 - Alwoodley Green is lovely and well used. Will take an exhibition van, mini-uniforms, bike marking to do outreach with community.
 - Moor Allerton Centre- A lot of shop lifting going in. Retail getting a lot of abuse. Making contact with security and being available to them.. Being responsive.
 - Burglaries during summer. Advice to make sure to lock doors when out in the garden.
 - Questions from Electors and comments from Officers:
 - How can we encourage youth to go play football on the grass not on the street as it could cause damage?
 - Response: Try casual chatting, developing relationship. You can report it online to West Yorkshire Police. Later in the meeting Officer Tunnard suggested that the Parish Council could fund new football goals or similar to attract youth to that area rather than the street if the cause was that there's a lack of play provision in that area.

- How much do you mix up the patrolling routes? Noted that in the evenings in Heath Nursery Woods drug dealing – bottom of Grange Court. Response: Sometimes we have appointments and are called out to that area. Then we patrol around that area. At one time, Alwoodley had lots of PCSOs. Explained that they work from Stairfoot Lane over to Cranmers, Lingfields over to Slaid Hill. Very big area.
 - Is there anything police can do about bikes riding very fast down own Stairfoot Lane, bikes come down Stairfoot lane very fast where people walk, with very little visibility to see them coming. Very dangerous. Another elector suggested traffic slowing measures?
 - Is there anything we can do about people parking in unsuitable places Parking for cycle ramps, but parking for it is causing a bother.
 - Cllr Buckely – some time ago, we had some discussion about bike ramps. We decided to ignore it. We put bollards in because people were parking in the woods. Noted several areas that people became aware of since lockdown have become more popular, and that the population is increasing, and number of cars.
 - Cllr White. Suggests wearing cameras whilst on walking to help document and report.
- **Roger Gilbert, Friends of Adel Woods**
 - I've been running Friends of Adel woods for 16 years.
 - A lot of litter picking. At least 500 bags of rubbish. Tires, beer barrels. Keeping paths clear.
 - Looking after habitats. Last bit of heath land in Leeds is Adel moor. Every year we do bracken pulling. If we didn't do anything, Adel moor would just be woodland.
 - We have very nice orchids. Adel bog, orchids, another special environment.
 - We put up 40 nest boxes – we survey them every year and clear them out.
 - Educational events, with Steve Joul, incredibly knowledgeable naturalist. We usually have about 10-12 people turn up. Educational talks are very well attended.
 - Roger emphasised that it's not all about the work. FOAW is about social cohesion. If you know anyone who you think might be interested, please share info. <https://friendsofadelwoods.org/>
 - Walkabout – 40 regular members. Walk once every fortnight. Social cohesion is really important. We try to fit in a coffee. Or time them so we can have . We're affiliated to the ramblers. Walks are not very long – usually fairly local. Sometimes a little bit out.
- **Alwoodley 2030**
 - Ward Wide Walk to school Week done. All 7 Alwoodley primary schools (2 in the parish, all attended by parish families) participated. Hundreds of bikes fixed. 1/3 of children in the ward participated. 174 families (who usually use the car participated in the week and 85% of these said that they would opt for active travel as a result of the initiative. Parish council

provided some funding. Report to City Council and Parish Council forthcoming with details from external evaluator.

- Open Gardens Day – We had the first Open Gardens Day in which 19 people opened up their gardens. They were members of the 100 Nature Friendly Gardens Club. Parish Council provided some funding. Report forthcoming.
- Commissioned a Nature Corridors biodiversity survey and plan. Alwoodley 2030 is meeting with the ecologist to go over this and will share more, seek collaboration.

3. Parish Matters:

- **Discussion of Parish Issues:** This section allows for open discussion of local issues, concerns, and suggestions from residents.
 - Elector requested that Parish Councillors to introduce themselves. Which they then did.
 - Cllr Dickinson suggested that the Council have Stairfoot Lane issues raised here on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Dickinson advised to bring agenda item/proposal/ to the Clerk.
 - Cllr Lyn Buckley. Noted that the flower beds don't have flowers in them and wanted to be sure that payments weren't being made.
 - Elector inquired why there were no financial documents posted in 2024 and 2025.
 - Chair replied: We are recovering from several issues and having to recreate records, preparing for audit.
 - Elector asked: Are there projects in the pipeline?
 - Several outstanding invoices to pay.
 - New policies and strategy in development.
 - All will be posted and published on the website.
 - Elector requested Please let people know when banking issue is resolved.
 - Elector enquired: How was this meeting published? The meeting was published at short notice. Various suggestions from other electors, like having a speaker on a topic of interest to the. An invitation posted through mailslots. Bright posters.
 - Officer Paul Tunnard suggested that the Parish Council consult with children via schools to involve them in coming up with solving problems. (PCSO -) can we consult children? Can we ask children how bikes and nature can go together.
 - Elector: Note that we need to be aware of our boundaries when working with schools. Only two of them are within Parish Boundaries.
 - Elector noted that Parish Council is allowed to fund projects that are of benefit to people in the Parish, even if the activity/institution takes place outside of the Parish.
 - Cllr Prichard -

5. Closing Remarks:

- **Meeting Closure:** The Chair thanks attendees for their participation and closes the meeting.

Meeting ended at xxxx [I didn't mark time down]