

Alburgh Parish Council 2025-26

This has been a busy and productive year for the Parish Council, with several improvements delivered for the benefit of the whole community. The installation of the village gateway sign has given Alburgh a stronger sense of identity and arrival, while the new fence around the pond has addressed a long standing safety concern in a practical and attractive way. The hugely popular Party in the Park, organised jointly with the Village Hall Committee, brought residents together for a memorable community celebration, and work on a new pétanque area is well underway with completion expected within the next few months. The new 50-50 quarterly lottery draw has started positively with three well supported draws so far.

Looking ahead, the Council has also been working hard to ensure the long-term safety and wellbeing of the village. A full tree survey has been completed, giving us a clear picture of the condition of trees within the park area, and a thorough survey of the play equipment has been carried out with planned improvements already in the pipeline. Alongside this, work is underway to improve the safety of the site perimeter, ensuring that our open spaces remain enjoyable and secure for everyone. We are also investigating speed awareness signs. The Council is also pleased to announce the return of community movie nights from June, bringing another much loved village event back to the calendar. The Council looks forward to delivering on these plans in the year ahead.

The Role of a Parish Councillor

Alburgh parish council plays a vital role in representing the interest of the community it serves. The council works as a team, and each councillor is a valued team member. A Parish councillor effectively represents the parish. They champion and will campaign for improvements in the quality of life of those living in, working in, or visiting Alburgh. A Parish Councillor is supported by training and development to help them to fulfil the requirements of their role. Whether elected or co-opted they stand as a Councillor for the term of office which is 4 years, although they can resign at any time. A Parish Councillor must comply with the statutory

requirements of a councillor. This means that they must complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office before starting as a Councillor and they must agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. A Parish Councillor must attend all meetings, otherwise should give their apologies and the reasons for their absence to the Parish Clerk. A Parish Councillor will contribute to an effective meeting by briefing themselves ahead of the meeting – reading their agenda, minutes and supporting information. They will participate at a meeting giving their ideas and knowledge to help in the decision-making process. Specialised knowledge, or skills are greatly valued. A Parish Councillor cannot make decisions on their own. A Parish Councillor will contribute to the formation of the Council's policies and plans by actively involving themselves in meetings.

Here are a few Parish Councillor activities:

- The Parish Council is a consultee for planning applications and the planning policies which guide the decisions made by the planning authorities. A Parish Council will pass back its views on planning applications to the South Norfolk Council.
- A Parish Council responds to consultations which could change the quality of life of their constituents for example the recent Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution.
- A Parish Council sets its own budget and agrees a precept to help meet its financial requirements. A budget will be based on agreed needs and actions. e.g. Insurance, tree surveys, Village website, refurbishing the play area, ongoing maintenance and upkeep costs such as grass cutting.
- A Parish Council may become involved with projects and activities such as Litter Picks, Speeding, Highways.
- A Parish Council will have contact with key stakeholders in their community, for example the police, local employers and service providers such as Highways.

Although we have no current vacancies, if this role interests you, then it would be good to hear from you! Please contact the Parish Clerk. Dave Richardson Clerk@alburgh-pc.gov.uk