

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held at Aylesbeare Village Hall on Tuesday 30 April 2019

PRESENT:

Cllr Peter Williams (Chairman)

Cllr Mark Branson

Cllr Nick Warren

Cllr Chris Daly

Clerk: Laura Smith

Others Present: Members of the public

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Peter Williams, opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Paul Carter

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17 April 2018 were confirmed to be correct.

3. Reports

Chair of the Parish Council

Good evening and welcome to the 2019 Aylesbeare Parish Meeting. Our council has seen a number of changes in the past 12 months. Sadly, Cllrs Helen Baugh, Jenni Merideth, Bill Pearson and Denise Dyer have, for a variety of personal reasons and other commitments, have now left the council. We have been joined by Cllrs Nick Warren and Chris Daly, both of whom have set about their respective responsibilities with considerable energy and interest. Cllr Mark Branson, together with myself, make up the 4 councillors currently serving the parish. We are quorate at 3, but need 6 councillors to function efficiently. Due to increasing work and other commitments that I have, I am not able to continue on the council after the forthcoming elections and will be standing down at the next council meeting. This means that new councillors are urgently needed to serve the parish. No special skills are needed beyond some time, interest and a desire to help in the day to day and longer term running of parish matters. Training and guidance are available to any interested candidates - please speak to Laura, our parish clerk if you feel you can help.

Neighbourhood Plan - Regrettably, this has stalled as various members of that group have not been able to meet and complete the remaining details. I hope this can be moved forward over the summer months to allow a submission later in the year.

WWI Commemorations - A very special thanks should go to Ann Turi for her outstanding research and display commemorating those from this parish who gave their lives in the Great War.

Summer Fete - Thank you to Tansi and team for their work in organising and running the fete last summer. I was not able to attend, but I was advised it was a great afternoon.

Website - The parish website is in the process of being updated to show current information. Peter Baugh has kindly agreed to carry out the updates. Please pass any information to the parish clerk in the first instance who will arrange with Peter for the necessary updates to be completed. Please do not contact Peter direct as these changes will not be implemented.

Aylesbeare Arts and Social Club - Despite Alan and Denise's best efforts, this group has not proved sustainable in the long term and with their planned relocation from the village, the group has now been disbanded. Residual funds have been transferred to the parish council and ring fenced for use in play and recreation equipment. Thank you to Alan and Denise for their work in setting up and running this group.

Roads - Regular communications have been made with Devon Highways and thank you to both District and County Councillors for their support in trying to move road repairs forward. Generally, most potholes are dealt with eventually and we have been given provisional dates of next year resurfacing Marwood Lane. One piece of good news is the planned works to improve drainage in the section of Marwood Lane beyond Roundbeare towards the airport. This has been a major hazard for some years and works are well overdue.

Litter Pick - In recent months, residents have joined together a part of the community litter pick and a great deal of rubbish has already been collected. Thank you to everyone who has joined in and helped keep the parish clean and tidy. In coming months, let's continue to spread the litter pick message and keep Aylesbeare looking spick and span. For issues of fly-tipping, please email the clerk who will let EDDC know. Their response team usually acts pretty quickly when given the details and clear location for the rubbish.

Lynn Parker - Our parish clerk for 20 years, Lynn Parker, officially stood down from the role at the end of last year, but has remained close by on the end of the telephone or email to assist in the transition to a new clerk. Lynn, your contribution to the 'management' of the parish and in-depth knowledge of who is who and what makes Aylesbeare tick has been invaluable to the smooth running of the parish affairs over so many years. We wish you well in your retirement from the council, but no doubt, you will remain very busy assisting John in running the business. On behalf of the council and residents of Aylesbeare, please accept this token of our appreciation for all that you have done for the parish of Aylesbeare.

District Councillor

Apologies from Cllr Paul Carter - no report.

County Councillor

Cllr Claire Wright gave her report which included the Ottery St Mary Health Care Forum group and the closure of the small hospitals. She was continuing the campaign to stop the closures but it looked like it was inevitable. She also reported about the roads and highways and urged the members of public to report potholes and road repairs. The problems with broadband in the village were ongoing with gigaclear and CDS not meeting their timeframes. The Chairman thanked Cllr Wright for her attendance and report.

Police Report

No Police Report

4. Parish Organisations

Reports were received from the following:

Sewing Group

The Sewing Group continues to meet fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons. We have 10 regular members and usually we have 6-8 people attend each session. This year, the majority of people have bought their own projects to work on. We have knitters, patchworkers, cushions covering and tapestry, plus several UFOs (unfinished objects) from long ago. It looks like we will be concentrating on patchwork and jewellery making to compete at the Garden Show in the next few months. New members are always welcome, just come along and join in. Usual cost is £2.00 per session.

Aylesbeare WI

Our programme continues to give us a wide range of subjects to hear about with many excellent speakers. These have ranged from exhibiting at Chelsea Flower Show, learning about the local Pebblebed Heaths, Herbs and Herbal medicines, Chinese Festivals, to hearing about a member's daughter talk of her life and career in the RAF. Members continue to attend various events organised by Devon Federation, including an evening at John Lewis which 1,000 WI Members from all over Devon attended a Church crawl day, plus the annual quiz and whist events. We had our 75th Birthday in June and celebrated with a delicious meal prepared by a member with catering experience with help from others. We were joined by members from the other WIs in our group and we all enjoyed our entertaining speaker telling us about her life running a rural Band Band raising sheep. We organised an educational craft course in March this year which was attended by all but 3 of our members. There were 2 craft sessions, one in the morning for half the members and one in the afternoon for the remainder and a break at lunchtime for all to come together for a light lunch prepared by our committee. A lovely day with some beautiful craft work created.

Most months we meet socially for teas or coffees in members' homes or in one case for a picnic in a member's garden. Several of us went to the Ballet in Sidmouth and one member hosted a mincemeat making session in her kitchen. Our Christmas lunch was held in a local pub restaurant and enjoyed by the many who came along. The Reading Group continues to meet monthly and is lively and well attended. As well as the DFWI quiz, we sent teams to quizzes held by Hospiscare in West Hill, Ottery St Mary and Rockbeare, where we succeeded in winning the first two and coming a close third in the last. We organised an ACWW Walk

of the World for anyone who wanted to attend with tea and cake at the end of the walk, raising £175.00 for the charity which helps women worldwide. We supported Aylesbeare Village this year by taking a table at the Christmas Fair selling savoury items, running the refreshment and cake stalls at the village fete and supplying refreshments and father Christmas at the village community carol singing. We try and publicise ourselves by putting around the village, advertising our meetings, sending an article to Topics each month and being included on the Aylesbeare Buzz. We are a busy, friendly, diverse group of women.

Aylesbeare Folk Dance Group –

Aylesbeare Folk Dance Group have had a very good year. Our numbers vary from 20 to 30 people, according to which other dance club we clash with that evening. We have only had to cancel once this season because of the snow. We would like to see more people from the village, so come along and join us for an evening of fun.

Aylesbeare Topics

Another year and another 12 copies of the Topics Magazine have been produced and distributed free of charge to all the households in the parish. Our financial position at the moment is healthy, we derive our income from revenue raised from advertising and donations from the Parish Council and Fete committee and sometimes the Flower Show. Our printers provide an excellent

service and their price has been stable for many years. Fiona Incol contributes the artwork and prepares and emails the draft copy to the printer, the distribution of the magazine is organised by Ann and Mary Turi and the team of volunteers who deliver the Topics to all the households in the parish. That concludes this year's report.

Village Hall Management Committee –

The Chairman was away on holiday and there was noofficial report but the Hall is used on a regular basis and Joanna Ash was doing a great job in keeping up with the bookings of the village hall. The solar panels were now fitted by kind donation of a parishioner. To keep the hall running, donations were heavily relied upon.

Community Fund –

The balance held in the Community Fund is £732.48.

55 Plus	=	£470.08
NH Watch		£46.76
Village Hall	=	£20.00
Fete		£195.64

The only money to go through the account this year was from the Fete - £1246.32, this was distributed to Topics (£200), Church (£500), Hall (£50), Toddlers (£50) and Art and Social (£50).

5. Teresa Evans - Great British Spring Clean

With the Parish Council's blessing, a few of us decided to participate in last month's Keep Britain Tidy Campaign to tidy up Aylesbeare and its surroundings.

However, due to Health and Safety and public liability constraints, we were unable to come together en masse for a village community litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean Campaign. However, it didn't stop several parishioners collecting rubbish strewn along the lanes and hedges of Aylesbeare. Plenty of cans, bottles and takeaway containers were brought back in carrier bags on numerous walks during the month. A car bumper was even retrieved from a hedge along Quarter Mile Lane!

A huge 'Thank You' to all who got involved. We filled a grand total of 38 carrier bags during the month-long promotion. Hopefully, it will encourage more to always take along a bag on strolls around our lovely village to carry on the good work. It seems as fast as we pick it up, more litter arrives mostly by inconsiderate motorists who throw it out of their vehicle windows whilst driving through the parish.

NB: East Devon District Council have proven very efficient in clearing any larger dumped items. Contact them on 01395 516551 or csc@eastdevon.gov.uk

6. Open Forum

A Question and Answer session followed the reports.

The Meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

REFRESHMENTS WERE SERVED.

Signed Date
Cllr N. R. Warren, Chairman