

DRAFT

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held virtually (online) on **Wednesday 3rd February 2021** at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Nick Warren (Chair)
Cllr Mark Branson (Vice Chair)
Cllr Chris Daly
Cllr Kirsty Trude
Cllr Anna Thompson
Cllr Jacky Owen
Cllr Jess Bailey (EDDC *[from 7:44pm]*)

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

Others present: 1 member of the public.

7:15pm Public Forum

There were no issues raised in the Open Forum.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were inferred from Cllr Wright. These apologies were accepted.

2 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No declarations were made.

3 Chairman's Remarks – Opening Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to the Council's 7th Lockdown meeting. He remembered Capt. Sir Tom Moore and what he did for the morale of the whole country during the lockdown. He offered thanks and condolences to his family.

With the DALC advice that face-to-face meetings must resume by law after 7th May 2021 he was concerned that this was too soon. He hoped that the Government would reconsider and extend the deadline as online meetings were working.

He wanted to remind parishioners of Alert volunteers if they needed help during this lockdown, eg for a lift to get their vaccinations. Full details are on the Parish website and Buzz or contact any Cllr or the clerk.

It is nice to see signs of spring but the winter not over yet. Everyone should use DCC's Report a Problem page for highways issues. All should be on the lookout for dodgy people, as reported on the Facebook Buzz today, as well as the many scams that are active at the moment. Very recently there have been reports of dog fouling. Please could all owners remember to remove waste into bins; waste can be put in all the litter bins in the Parish.

Finally, a big thank-you to all the Parish litter pickers. It is a shame that it's needed but your efforts are much appreciated.

DRAFT

4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – 6th January 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true record by the Council and signed on their behalf by the Chairman (prop. Cllr Trude, sec. Cllr Thompson). **Clerk to action**

5 Matters Arising

5.1 Completed – The following actions from the previous meeting have been completed.

- 5.1.1 Para 4 The Minutes of December's meeting were signed.
- 5.1.2 Para 5.1 The feedback on the Clyst Valley Regional Park has been submitted.
- 5.1.3 Para 7.5 The Treasurer of the Youth Club has been written to about transferring the funds.
- 5.1.4 Para 8.2 StreetScene have been contacted and will be issuing an invoice for the 2020/21 grounds maintenance (£777.58 + VAT).
- 5.1.5 Para 9.1 The Litter Log has been published on the website and the community thanked using Buzz.
- 5.1.6 Para 13.1 Replies to the ALERT survey have been summarised and circulated.
- 5.1.7 Para 14.2 DCC had been contacted, the area above Bramble Mead inspected by contractors and repairs carried out.
- 5.1.8 Para 15.1 Feedback had been submitted to Broadclyst Parish Council about their Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.1.9 Para 16 The 2022 Queen's Jubilee and 2023 Village Hall Centenary have been included in April's agenda.
- 5.1.10 Para 17.3 The comments about the Barton Barns development (20/2786/PDQ) have been forwarded.
- 5.1.11 Para 18.2 The Precept of £10,258 had been requested and a positioning paper written.
- 5.1.12 Para 19.3 The payments listed have all been made.
- 5.1.13 Para 20 The Clerk had contacted DALC to arrange for CiLCA training when next available.

Council had no queries about the completed items.

Discharged

5.1.1 Clerk will review the agenda as published and try to keep it to one page (two at most).

Clerk to action

5.2 Ongoing – The following actions are ongoing -

- 5.2.1 Para 5.2 Chair Vacancy - **Clerk** to arrange signature on Declaration of Acceptance – this will take place after the Lockdown has been lifted subject to self-isolation.

Council noted that item 5.2.1 has been completed since the agenda was published and is now discharged.

Discharged

- 5.2.2 Para 5.3 **Clerk** to chase Jurassic Fibre about connecting residents around Harp Lane (Cllr Bailey offered to assist) – still chasing JF for a response one way or another.

- 5.2.3 Para 7.1.2 **Cllr Bailey** to chase up the new lease on the Parish Council's behalf – no response received to date from Estates at EDDC.

Since the agenda was published EDDC has contacted the clerk and are drawing up a new lease.

Council resolved that the Lease will be signed by the Chair & Vice Chair.

Clerk to action

- 5.2.4 Para 14.1.2 Using DCC's Report a Problem page will be promoted in Topics when next it can be published (**Clerk**).

- 5.2.5 Para 18.1 **Clerk & Cllr Bailey** to ask EDDC if the field below the playing field could be used for car parking – still awaiting response from EDDC.

5.2.6 Para 19 The updated Standing Orders and arrangements for electronic banking will be dealt with at the AGM (**Clerk**).

6 Reports of County and District Councillors.

6.1 Devon County Council Council had received and noted Cllr Wright's email report (attached at Appendix A).

[Cllr Jess Bailey joined the meeting at 19:44]

7 Playing Field, Play Area Lease and s106 Funding

7.1 Matters Arising - 7.2 Cllr Trude to progress with EDDC the selection of Outdoor Gym Equipment, Outdoor Table Tennis Table or Climbing Web.

7.3 Cllr Trude to liaise with EDDC re. consultation at local schools on new play equipment after RoSPA inspection is completed.

7.2.1 Cllr Trude updated the Council with the factors that affected the selection of sports (as opposed to play) equipment. Since the last meeting it had become clear that EDDC could not authorise the spend unless the 10-metre rule (between adult gym equipment and the play park) was met. Gym equipment would add an extra 3 months into the consultation period which meant there would be no order by Easter and no installation in time for the summer school holidays. Cllr Thompson proposed that the gym equipment was rejected as it would not fit into the space available given the 10m constraint. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr Trude will advise EDDC and ensure that the school consultation for play equipment goes ahead. **Cllr Trude to action**

7.2.2 The Council discussed the fencing around the play area. If this needed to be renewed Council discussed if it would have to form part of the tender or be a separate issue. Cllr Daly pointed out that it could be the landowner's responsibility rather than the Council's (as leaseholder). Cllr Bailey doubted that the fence could be renewed or repaired with s106 money. The Council will wait for the RoSPA report and take it from there.

6.2 East Devon District Council Cllr Bailey advised that she had been removed from the cabinet of the District Council. This political decision meant that she would have even more time for ward matters.

6.2.1 Cllr Bailey noted that Jurassic Fibre had now highlighted certain properties they would not be connecting to their network. She would be writing to Connect Devon & Somerset who were rolling out a programme to connect anyone with less than 30mbps connection. Please could the Parish Council identify any properties not connected as Aylesbeare risked being delisted from the tenders CDS were putting out as JF served a lot of the Parish. **Clerk to action**

6.2.2 Cllr Bailey had not heard anything further about The Oaks planning application (20/2506/CPE). She advised that it would probably take some time as legal advice may well be sought by the planners.

6.2.3 Cllr Bailey advised that EDDC have said they would not authorise replacement of the fence around the recreation ground and the policy was now to only put in concrete post and wire fences. The Council advised that the where the fencing was broken was an issue with livestock of a tenant. Cllr Bailey said she would go back to EDDC as this made the situation significantly different.

6.2.4 Cllr Bailey advised that the tarmac at the entrance to Scotchmead asked for was possible. Ian Williams is the contractor used by EDDC.

6.2.5 Cllr Bailey was pleased that EDDC had made contact with the Parish about renewing the Recreation area lease and that the Parish were promoting the impending Census on their website.

6.2.6 Cllr Branson asked Cllr Bailey to inspect the corner of Withen Lane and Village Way nr Minchin Lane if she was visiting the Parish. The land on the corner was being washed down Village Way and filling/blocking the drain. A second drain and kerbstones were needed as well as a deterrent to parking on the grass (used by drivers from the new build properties in Village Way as they had no parking). Cllr Bailey promised to have a look as the small piece of land might belong to EDDC, but she did advise that it was probably a DCC issue.

6.2.7 Cllr Bailey also promised to pass on the details of the councillor in West Hill parish who had dealt with the wildflower planting. Cllrs Trude and Warren hoped that some parts of Aylesbeare Parish could be rewilded by local children.

8 Grass Cutting & Lengthsman

8.1 Matters Arising – 8.1.1 Clarification of the Service Level Agreement with EDDC (especially the Village Hall grass cutting)

8.1.2 - Cllr Trude to seek advice from an experienced contractor regarding the quote from EDDC and the proposed work.

8.2 Cllr Trude reported that she has drafted a costing on hourly rate. If the Council does tender some companies may quote on size of area covered. She had added some additional tasks - eg washing road signs, sweeping up leaves – and she had stipulated the disposal of waste as well. Cllr Trude will circulate her draft for the rest of the Council to comment and add as necessary.

Cllr Trude to action

8.3 Other issues of tidiness in the village were considered for inclusion as necessary. The Council noted that the litter bins were cleared at no cost to the Parish by EDDC and the Chairman warned that using them for domestic waste by residents was not allowed and considered as fly tipping. Dog bins were discussed and the costs of approx. £150 each to buy and £200/year for collections were noted. The Council were concerned that immediately outside the village there is far too much dog fouling that owners do not feel they have to pick up, because it is ‘in the countryside’.

The Council expressed a preference for someone local to take on the tender for grounds maintenance. They would need to have the necessary equipment and insurance, but it was agreed that someone with local Parish pride would be preferable.

9 Speedwatch

9.1 Matters Arising – Cllrs Trude & Warren to seek advice re. Speedwatch vs Fixed Speed Cameras

Cllr Trude had contacted Devon & Cornwall Police but the whole issue of Speedwatch is under review pending a redesign and little progress is expected soon. The Police do know that we have a group of volunteers ready and waiting to help.

9.2 Cllr Trude hoped to enhance speed awareness in the meantime to keep the community engaged. After some discussion Council resolved to buy some 30mph stickers for wheelie bins in the appropriate parts of the Parish (if residents were willing).

Clerk to action

The Council will also consider encouraging policeman scarecrows once the lockdown has lifted.

Cllr Bailey advised that the moveable speed warning signs in West Hill had been effective and

provided useful traffic data. She would report back on the costs.

Cllr Bailey to action

10 Parish Council Website

10.1 Matters Arising - Cllr Trude to seek quotes for a GDPR & Accessibility Regulations compliant website.

10.2 Cllr Trude advised that the Council will need to decide between a complete redesign or a lift of website content, tidy up and tweak. The latter would be cheaper. Both the companies she had contacted had advised that Accessibility compliance would be built in. It will require the Council deciding what should we keep, what should be discarded and anything to add. A discussion took place about the content and the Accessibility Regs. Cllr Thompson was concerned that the chosen supplier fully understood the difference between the regulations for private and public websites.

Cllr Trude will go back to the suppliers to confirm their complete understanding of the Accessibility Regs and also consider the Society of Local Council Clerks option provided by Cllr Thompson.

Cllr Trude to action

11 ALERT Emergency Planning

11.1 Cllr Thompson reported to the Council about the special meeting (held Wednesday 27th January) which aimed to redraft the existing 10-year-old plan. Cllr Thompson had reduced the plan from 28 pages to 18 and Cllr Trude is reformatting the plan further.

Aylesbeare's Emergency Plan covers all sorts of emergencies where the Parish has to rely on its own resources until the emergency services, EDDC & DCC can get to us. It will show how we will liaise with these other agencies in the event of an emergency; it doesn't replace EDDC's emergency plan.

Cllr Thompson confirmed that all contacts and telephone numbers had been updated. The survey analysis would be completed for the next Council meeting and the plan could then be submitted to EDDC. Cllr Bailey advised that Dave Whelan is relevant officer at EDDC.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Thompson and Trude for their efforts and looked forward to the completed plan. Cllr Thompson thanked the attendees at the special meeting which had been productive and enjoyable.

Cllrs Thompson and Trude to action

11.2 The Council discussed if any Emergency Powers should be delegated to the Clerk, Chairman or Vice-Chairman in preparation for future difficulties.

Clerk to draw up something for the next meeting.

Clerk to action

12 Flooding

12.1 The flooding in Footpath 16 had been the subject of a useful site visit by the PROW officer at DCC. She had forwarded the Council's concerns to the Flood Mitigation team. The Environment Agency had also been contacted about the underground culvert. There were ongoing issues with the speed of water scouring out the bed of the stream and where the stream crosses Withen Lane. Council would wait to see what DCC and the EA reported back.

12.2 The flooding at Rosamondford Farm had receded. Cllr Thompson thanked Cllr Daly for his prompt response that evening. The Fire Brigade had pumped out patio area but there was some flooding to the farmhouse. Thankfully the Barn conversion residences weren't affected.

The farm owner will need to have better drainage if this is not going to recur, probably a proper attenuation system. The Council were disappointed that they had pointed out this issue when planning permission was sought for new barns and the Planning Authority had dismissed our concerns and concluded a soakaway would be sufficient.

12.3 As discussed with Cllr Bailey under para 6.2.6 above the Council hope that the land on the corner between Withen Lane & Village Way to Minchin Lane needs kerbstones and a relocated drain to stop it disintegrating. The clerk will contact DCC.

Clerk to action

12.4 The Council resolved to obtain more sandbags and distribute throughout the Parish so if flooding occurs they'll be ready to hand. Cllr Daly warned against storing filled sandbags as they will rot quite quickly and be useless. **Clerk to action**

12.5 Cllr Bailey was concerned that the Parish Council felt that the Planners at EDDC weren't addressing the concerns that were raised via the Consultation process. She suggested we should raise those concerns with the Head of Planning (Ed Freeman) and invite him to send someone along to the next meeting. This session could also cover how the Neighbourhood Plan fits with the new Local Plan. **Clerk to action**

13 Neighbourhood Plan

13.1 Cllr Branson advised that there were 2 versions of Aylesbeare's Neighbourhood Plan which he would go through and see which was the best. **Cllr Branson to action**

13.2 Cllr Branson is concerned about the impact of the new local Plan for East Devon and wanted to be involved in the EDDC consultation focus groups and/or webinars that are being set up. The Chairman wanted to be involved as well. **Clerk to action**

14 Footpaths

14.1 The Council discussed the possibility of reinstating Withybed Lane as a Safe Route/Quiet Lane. It was noted that, despite being marked as a road on Ordnance Survey maps, Withybed Lane is definitively not a public right of way. All work will have to be with the permission of the landowner. The Chairman will send details of the precise location to Cllr Bailey who offered to undertake a Land Registry search to establish ownership. **Chairman & Cllr Bailey to action**

15 Telephone Kiosk

15.1 The Council discussed the state of the kiosk and any uses to which it could be put. Cllr Daly kindly offered to refurbish the kiosk and Cllr Trude offered to help. The door has got some damp in it which had expanded the wood and caused it to warp. This work will probably have to wait for warmer weather but should not be left for too long.

The Chairman will contact the owner of The Limes as all previous discussions had been with the previous owners who had subsequently moved. **Chairman to action**

Cllr Thompson hoped that the kiosk could be ready for a grand opening on the weekend of the Produce Sale.

16 Planning

16.1 EDDC A New Local Plan for East Devon – The Parish Council discussed comments to be submitted for the Issues and Options Report Consultation and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The deadline for both is noon on Mon 15th March 2021. All Councillors will look at the plan and prepare their individual comments by the end of February. The Council's final comments will be decided at the next meeting. **Clerk to action**

DRAFT

17 Finance

17.1 Council noted the current balances as follows

Current Account	£ 4646.65,	
less uncashed cheques (£951.90) & less authorised payment (£933.10) =		£ 2761.65
Reserve Account		£ 4847.76
Recreation Fund Account		£ 694.45
Total		£ 8303.86

17.1.1 The clerk advised that the current balances do not include the money from the Youth Club that had been transferred. The Chairman offered a vote of thanks to those involved in the transfer, especially Liz Branson, for their help and their quick and efficient work.

17.2 Council unanimously authorised the payments listed below (Cllr AT prop., Cllr KT sec.)

17.2.1 To J P Roberts (Clerk) for pay (£221.75) & expenses (nil)	£ 221.75
17.2.2 To DALC for Invoice no 2545 for Training Course	£ 18.00

8 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.30pm. This meeting would be held online. **Clerk to action**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:26pm, thanking Council for their hard work and bidding them to stay safe and have a pleasant evening.

Signed
Cllr N. R. Warren, Chairman

Date

Appendix A

Report from Cllr Claire Wright, DCC

Unpaid carers

I asked for a scrutiny review of unpaid carers at Devon County Council's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny meeting. I had chaired a spotlight review into the challenges facing unpaid carers which was published a year ago. We reviewed the recommendations at the meeting. Much progress has been made in terms of support provided, however, not in terms of the most important issues relating to pay of care workers, and financial support for unpaid carers. Nor has any communications with government ministers taken place, it was said, due to covid. Unfortunately, also due to covid-19. ONS stats state that unpaid carers will now be around 130,000 in Devon alone. An increase of 50 per cent nationally.

Only 12 per cent of those surveyed nationally said they received enough support from social care. Many have been forced to give up jobs or reduce their hours, leading to financial difficulty. An added challenge. I formally proposed that we undertake another short scrutiny review. This was overruled and instead I will be invited to the next Partnership Board meeting where carer representatives will have been asked to undertake a survey of their contacts.

Vaccination of Devon care home residents and staff at 95 per cent

We were informed at 26 January Devon County Council Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Meeting, that 95 per cent of Devon care home residents and staff have had their first jab. 12 care homes were not visited due to significant outbreaks. Uptake has been "high", but no further detail was offered.

Devon County Council's Cabinet was set to have talks with local MPs over adult social care funding cuts

Devon County Council's cabinet was set to initiate talks with local MPs, following my recommendation agreed at the November Adult Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, in order to press upon them the seriousness of the adult social care funding situation.

However, Andrew Leadbetter, the portfolio holder for Adult Care and Health confirmed at last week's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny meeting that he had not yet set up a meeting.

This is disappointing, especially given the seriousness and urgency of the situation.

Adult social care has been in a hugely precarious financial position, following what is now a decade of government funding cuts. As a result far fewer people are in receipt of personal care and unpaid carers are more stretched than ever before. The pandemic of course, has made a very hard situation even tougher.

The papers at the November scrutiny meeting quoted from a national survey of councils.

The key messages from the survey were:

- *Without significant financial intervention from the government, the lives of people who use social care and their family members will be seriously impacted in terms of their lives and wellbeing*

- *Only four per cent of respondents are fully confident that their budget will be sufficient to meet their statutory duties this year, down from 35 per cent in 2019/20*
- *The actual costs to local authorities and adult social care providers of the pandemic will far outstrip the Emergency Funding made available by the government to date*
- *The risk of already fragile care markets failing has significantly heightened as a result of the impacts of covid-19*

The papers also stated that Adult Care and Health was showing an overspend of £2.276m before management action and strategic savings.

I proposed that the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee recommend that the council write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care requesting an adequate social care settlement. This was seconded by Cllr Martin Shaw.

This recommendation was considered by Cabinet in December and it was resolved that the portfolioholder for Health and Social Care raise the issue with local MPs during a series of meetings - and write to the Secretary of State for Health if this was necessary.

It was emphasised by officers and the budget papers for the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny meeting on Tuesday 26 January stated:

“... significant unknown risks remain in respect of the cost of future pandemic response measures, ensuring the ongoing viability and sustainability of the independent care sector, and sufficiency of government Covid response funding.”

This is an incredibly important issue and one that I will continue to monitor and raise.

Here's the latest information and advice on support, including financial, available during the pandemic and lockdown... <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/support-for-people-and-families/>

My website and email is repeatedly under attack

Over the past few days, hackers have repeatedly attempted to break into my website which means my email is also repeatedly being suspended. Security was increased on Saturday.

But after the latest hacking attempt this morning my host has now installed a device which checks every computer's browser before either denying or allowing entry. I have now reported the matter to Devon and Cornwall's Police Cyber Crime Unit.

<https://claire-wright.org/who-is-still-trying-to-hack-into-my-website/>

Look after yourselves.

Kindest regards
Claire

Claire Wright, DCC - Otter Valley Ward. Tel: 07590 042627 Website: www.claire-wright.org