

DRAFT

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held at Aylesbeare Village Hall on **Wednesday 2nd February 2022** at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Nick Warren (Chair)
Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Anna Thompson
Cllr Kirsty Trude
Cllr Jess Bailey

ABSENT

Cllr Jacky Owen
Cllr Tracie Cooke
Cllr Jess Bailey (EDDC & DCC)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

Others present:

2 members of the public

Open Public Forum

A member of the public recalled that Jurassic Fibre had hoped to have residents ‘connected by Christmas’ when they presented their plans last year. Whilst she had received a visit there had been no contact since. The clerk will chase this up as he had had correspondence with the managers on this matter.

Clerk to action

Another member of the public asked about the progress on the Nightjar sign pointing their customers to the car park and away from the Withen Lane/Village Way junction and the light above the Blind Lane junction. She also reported that she had an old postcard showing the layout of Crossways Cottage before the extra turn-off was put in. This added weight to support the planning application that the land in question had been used as their garden for decades. She also reported that Homer Farm were concerned about the Ford Oaks Solar Project as it would significantly affect them. The Council advised the public of what they knew on these various matters.

The Chairman started the meeting at 7:35pm.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Owen & Cooke who have tested positive for Covid and Cllr Bailey who is isolating. The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons offered.

2 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No declarations were made.

3 Chairman’s Remarks – Opening Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and hoped that all were safe and following the Covid guidelines. He noted that the weather had been mild but all should be prepared for the winter weather that would inevitably come. ALERT is still active and available to help.

He and the clerk had attended a meeting about the Ford Oaks Solar Development at the farm where the changes are proposed. DCC were represented by the Highways Officer and a PROW Specialist. They had discussed the possibility of Withybed Lane being a safe green route and the work to expand the copse may help.

The Chairman felt the Council should erect a sign advising drivers not to follow Satnavs down Blind Lane as vehicles were getting stuck. DCC don’t put in such signs.

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Chairman
Initials

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There is concern about the ditches in Marwood Lane and meeting has been organised with Cllr Bailey and the Highways Officer to address the flooding at Rill Cottages. Cllr Bailey is still chasing Perkin's Village bridge.

The Chairman had attended a Zoom meeting concerning the B3180. The DCC Highways Manager wasn't helpful and suggestions were thwarted by 'policy' considerations. DCC will look at the road surface and the 'Bermuda triangle' but they want to avoid new risks. There was disagreement between DCC who believe very few vehicles are speeding versus WHPC whose Speedwatch events had identifies the vast majority of vehicles were exceeding the 30mph limit.

The Chairman had observed the presentations by developers re EDDC New Local Plan but no real conclusions were reached. How to support 900 homes per year with infrastructure was not covered. No proposals were made for our Aylesbeare Parish.

[The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to comment.]

The member of the public reminded the Council that these Local Plan events were not a decision making meeting, only for information. She warned that the Hill Barton (Axbayes) to Marlborough new road was proposed with land for development released as the road is built. She considered the daftest idea is Park and Ride from a Greendale visit.

[The Chairman resumed Standing Orders.]

4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings – 12th January 2022

The minutes were accepted as a true record by the Council and the Chairman was unanimously authorised to sign on their behalf.

5 Matters Arising

5.1 Bus in Withen Lane – Negotiations are in hand with VHMC about the cost of parking but there is an urgent need to move it from its regular parking spot. **Clerk to action**

5.2 Ford Oaks Solar Development – The Council noted the latest plan provided by the Low Carbon Alliance.

5.3 Jubilee & VH Centenary celebration preparations – There had been further detail of the national plans provided by Buckingham Palace. 24 children registered in the village so far. Cllr Trude will post again on Facebook (twice) to ensure no-one is missed. The schedule of our activities needs to be formalised and another meeting will be arranged. **Cllr Trude to action**

5.4 Footpath Warden - No volunteers so far, this will be advertised in Topics. The Running Group is really popular and is there a possibility of a walking group. **Clerk to action**

6 Reports of County and District Councillor.

No report this month

7 Play Area

7.1 Play Area Inspection Urget action had been identified and the Council **RESOLVED** to remove the wooden items that had been condemned. The Chairman will post signs on the equipment warning that they should not be used, the clerk will promote this on the Buzz and Cllr Trude will organise a working group to physically remove the items.

Chairman, clerk & Cllr Trude to action

The refurbishment project will be sent EDDC and the clerk will check the funding to consider asking Cllr Bailey to contricute from hery budget. **Clerk to action**

..... Chairman Initials

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7.2 Contractor – No bill for grass cutting in 2021-22 had yet been received from StreetScene. They would be contacted about the new contract for 2022/23 and invited to tender.

Clerk to action

7.3 Lease Renewal - The Council would ask locally if there is a solicitor willing to look at the lease as a favour to the Parish. The clerk will ask in Topics.

Clerk to action

8 Noticeboards

The Chairman has sprayed all the hinges but the noticeboards are all aging. A local carpenter will be approached for his professional opinion. The Council considered that the Church Close noticeboard could be removed.

Clerk to action

9 Consultations

9.1 - EDDC Local Plan Council will keep engaging with the community as the Plan is drafted. The Cllrs were keen to join a proposed meeting of local Parishes that was being organised by Bishop's Clyst.

9.2 - EDDC Code of Conduct Council had no comment to make on this matter.

10 Finance

10.1 - The Council noted the current balances as follows:

Current Account £11,057.74 less uncashed chqs (£ 773.89) =	£ 10,283.85
Reserve Account	£ 4,848.24
Recreation Fund Account	£ 694.57
Total	£ 15,826.66

10.2 - Council **RESOLVED** to make the following payments

10.2.1 - To Play Inspection Company for Annual Inspection (invoice no 52202)	£ 156.00
10.2.2 – To J P Roberts (clerk) for pay (December) £ 221.75 + expenses (£15.30)	£ 237.68
10.2.3 - To DCC Pension Fund (clerk's pension for December)	£ 69.22
10.2.4 - To HMRC (clerk's PAYE Income Tax for December)	£ 49.20

11 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 2nd March 2022. Items for the agenda to the clerk by Tuesday 25th February please.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:35pm.thanking the Cllrs for all their hard work.

Signed
Cllr N. R. Warren, Chairman

Date