

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held at Aylesbeare Village Hall on **Wednesday 10th January 2023** at 7:15pm.

PRESENT Cllr Nick Warren (Chair)
Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Debbie Banks
Cllr Jacky Owen
Cllr Anna Thompson

ABSENT Cllr Tracie Cooke

IN ATTENDANCE: County & District Cllr Jess Bailey, Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

Others present: 2 members of the public

1 Chair's remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following comments:

The Council wish all parishioners a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Thank you goes to Aylesbeare Parish Church for organising a Window Wonderland during the run up to Christmas and there certainly was some very inventive displays. Well done to all in help raise funds to help maintain the fabric of the building.

Quick reminder that Aylesbeare has a community help group called ALERT – the Aylesbeare Local Emergency Response Team to help, if required, as we head into colder times.

The Post box sage continues, as the Post Office has completed their CAT scan and have forwarded to the power companies etc. to get their permission. Simon Jupp MP is now chasing them to respond. It feels like the Post Office does not want to reinstate this box as it will be nearly a year since it was removed!

Have continued reporting blocked drains etc. on Devon County Councils website and encourage others to do so.

Moving on a bit I should make you aware that an application has been submitted to develop the proposed Daisymount service station including a McDonalds.

Just recently, Exmouth has experienced some problems with their sewage system and hope EDDC can ensure when making their proposals for the new town take this into account and ensure Southwest Water provide adequate treatment facilities. I am pleased to report that SWW have confirmed that they will provide additional storm storage for Aylesbeare's sewage treatment works, planned for March 2024.

2 Open Public Forum

The first speaker asked for more details of the post box still not re-installed at the Blind Lane/Village Way junction. The Chairman has complained to the Post Office but there is no local contact working for Royal Mail that we can speak to. The Chairman is regularly in touch with our MP who can at least gets a reply from the Royal Mail. The speaker said it is a very useful box for the elderly people who live in that part of the village and cannot make it to the other boxes in the village.

A second speaker asked if the Parish Council is consulted about the changes to the gas works at the top of Village Way. The work took 18 months and has caused:

- Lights that shine into their property (bedrooms) that are bright enough to read by. The individual has pursued this, been promised that they would be lowered. Despite this nothing has happened.
- Increasing HGV movements that damage verges and ditches which then are repaired by Highways at a cost to local Council Tax payers.
- The owners – Welsh Water – are not even aware that they have a pumping station and haven't returned calls.

Health & Safety at the site is not being adhered to with fork-lifts being used on the Highway and no signage in place.

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Chairman
Initials

C & D/Cllr Bailey suggested that the EDDC Ecologist could pursue the light pollution issue and she will write to Welsh Water to establish what the plans are for the next phase of work. The Chairman called forward item 6.1.

6.1 23/2572/FUL Livermore Farm Reinstatement of Window

Council had previously supported this application.

The speaker says that the window has not been in place for at least 35 years. The Parish Council had been consulted about a previous application that was retrospective. The Planner that visited the resident (a neighbour) visited and acknowledged the intrusiveness of the window. The original application was conditional on the window not being installed. The latest application is to justify the non-compliant window which looks straight into the speaker's property compromising their privacy.

Council **RESOLVED** to make the following comments:

Despite having previously offered support for this proposal, in the light of additional information received, including condition no.2 of application 21/2251/VAR requiring the blocking up of the window, Aylesbeare Parish Council would now like to withdraw support and strongly object.

Aylesbeare Parish Council is very concerned about the intrusion into the privacy of the property that this window overlooks which was not clear to the Council as no suitable drawing was included in the application.

3 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interests

Cllr Cooke could not attend as she is recovering from an operation. Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reason given. No interests were declared.

4 Minutes

Council accepted the clerk's apology that he had entirely overlooked writing up the minutes of December and they would be presented for signature in January.

5 Report of the County and District Councillor

DCC has introduced a new scheme for highways work to be undertaken by Town and Parish Councils at the local Council's costs.

C & D/Cllr Bailey has objected to the Great Halls planning application.

The Government has changed the 5-year land supply to a 4-year land supply. EDDC Planning Committee has calculated that there is a good land supply, but the local MP will be lobbied about the Housing Targets. She has pressed to EDDC to resist speculative development and to learn from other Districts and cities.

SWW are attending February's EDDC Scrutiny Committee and D/Cllr Bailey encourages the Parish Council to come and ask questions of SWW.

When asked she had not received anything official about the linking between EDDC & Torbay District Council. She indicated she would oppose this amalgamation.

6 Planning & Consultations

6.1 23/2572/FUL Livermore Farm Reinstatement of Window

Dealt with in item 1.

6.2 23/2382/FUL Great Houndbeare Farm Mobile home and stable for chickens & ducks
Council **RESOLVED** to make no comments on this application.

6.3 23/2571/FUL Mattocks Changes to garden building
Council **RESOLVED** to ratify their decision to support this application.

6.4 Peninsula Transport Draft Strategy
Council noted the Consultation incl webinar dates.

7 Aylesbeare Local Emergency Response Team

The Council is pleased to have a Local Response Team and a Resilience Plan

..... Chairman Initials

lodged as 'in progress' with the Local EDDC Team who will help develop the flooding element. Council could also access funding to put on a public meeting which EDDC will attend.

The call for volunteers and identification of vulnerable households needs to be redone it is now over 2 years old.

Cllr Thompson will dig out the original survey and lists. Council hopes that it could access funding to survey the village by mailshot. Hopefully a local group of volunteers could form a team to meet regularly and extend involvement beyond the Cllrs themselves.

8 Village Items

8.1 Royal Mail Letter Box

See Chair's report.

8.2 Sewage Works

See Chair's report.

[C & D/Cllr Bailey left the meeting at 8:44pm]

9 Budget 2024/25

Council discussed the budget line by line and were very concerned by the dwindling level of reserves. After considerable discussion and conscious of the responsibility to be financially viable the level of precept was finalised.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

9.1 Implement the 2023-24 National Joint Committees Pay Agreement in full.

9.2 Set a budget of £14,910 expenditure for 2024-25 (see appendix).

9.3 Set the precept at £14,350 for 2024-25.

10 Play Area Sign-Off & Invoice

The Chairman has replied to a Parishioner's email about the poor state of the new surfaces below and around the new Play Area equipment. Council is concerned about the surfaces, particularly their long-term resilience; but acknowledges that the weather has been diabolical since installation.

The clerk will contact the company (Kompan) and ask them to come and inspect the area and advise. The clerk will also access the funding from EDDC to pay the invoice.

11 Finance

11.1 Current balances

Council noted the current balance of £ 20,469.77 (Current acct £ 14,854.19 Other accts £ 4,911.87 + £ 703.71).

11.2 Payments

Council **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

11.2.1 J P Roberts - clerk pay, (Dec)	£ 264.86	
Reimbursement for Pension Fund payment (Dec)	£ 84.35	
Reimbursement for VH Internet Jurassic Fibre (Dec)	£ 17.50	
Reimbursement for postage stamps	£ 12.00	£ 378.71
11.2.2 HMRC (clerk's PAYE Income Tax for Dec)		£ 63.20

12 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th February 2024.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:32pm thanking the Cllrs for all their hard work.

Signed

Cllr N R Warren, Chair

Date

Appendix – Budget for 2024-25

Aylesbeare Parish Council Budget 2024-25

Detail	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual to Dec	Budget
Staff Costs	£ 3,068	£ 4,492	£ 4,164	£ 4,915	£ 3,659	£ 6,850
Village Hall Telephone/Internet	£ 651	£ 355	£ 53	£ 53	£ 158	£ 240
Donations	£ 300	£ 1,000	£ 802	£ 1,368	£ 993	£ 1,300
Subs	£ 136	£ 183	£ 183	£ 188	£ 270	£ 210
Playing Field	£ 154	£ 361	£ 156	£ 1,270	£ 237	£ 1,000
Insurance	£ 375	£ 1,336	£ 1,356	£ 413	£ 437	£ 550
Training Courses	£ 165	£ 261	£ 108	£ 90	£ 72	£ 250
Cllr & Clerk Expenses	£ 545	£ 126	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 20
Stationery & Postage	£ -	£ 272	£ 79	£ 29	£ 26	£ 100
Rents	£ 50	£ 50	£ 50	£ -	£ 150	£ 150
Website & Email Hosting	£ 178	£ 178	£ 898	£ 256	£ 645	£ 250
Grounds Maintenance	£ 1,359	£ 933	£ -	£ 3,203	£ 36	£ 3,500
Audit	£ -	£ 216	£ 120	£ 63	£ 71	£ 85
Defib	£ -	£ 663	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 95
Software Subs	£ -	£ 237	£ 7	£ 7	£ 144	£ 10
Elections	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 300	£ 300
Totals	£ 6,982	£ 10,663	£ 7,924	£ 11,855	£ 6,748	£ 14,910
Reserves						Forecast 31Mar24
Recreation Fund & Youth Club	£ 694	£ 3,489	£ 3,489	£ 3,489	£ 3,489	£ -
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945
CIL	£ 568	£ 1,830	£ 1,916	£ 1,917	£ 1,917	£ 1,917
Defib funds	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 282
Elections	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 300	£ 600
Rec Ground maintenance	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,000	£ 2,000
Ringfenced reserves	£ 2,394	£ 6,450	£ 6,536	£ -	£ 7,837	£ 5,744
General reserves						
		Bank Balance 1st Apr 23			£ 14,512	F/cast 01Apr24 £ 12,194
			£ 7,660	£ 8,242	£ 4,357	£ 3,797