

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held at Aylesbeare Village Hall on **Wednesday 7th February 2024** at 7:15pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Nick Warren (Chair)
Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Debbie Banks
Cllr Tracie Cooke
Cllr Jacky Owen

ABSENT

Cllr Anna Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO) and County & District Councillor Jess Bailey (from item 5)

Others present:

4 members of the public

1 Chair's remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He made the following comments:

The Parish Council would like to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication Ann & Mary Turl have given in organising the distribution and delivery of our very own magazine, Topics, and the local articles on village life Ann has contributed. *[As a sign of this gratitude the Chairman presented the ladies with a bouquet each. They were grateful for this gesture and would enjoy the flowers very much.]*

We also extend a warm welcome to the new distributor – Joan Rowles – and thank her very much for taking on this voluntary role.

It's good to see the daffodils and other spring plants bursting through and the evenings getting lighter and continuing that good news theme the Post Box has finally been replaced at the corner of Blind Lane. It has been nearly 12 months since the problem has been first reported until the new box was fitted on 24th January 2024. Unfortunately there is a downside that the 1700 collection is now at 0900, or when the postman does his morning round. Please remember you can also give your letter to the postman at the door when he is on his round. Whilst we hope with the coming of the spring flowers the winter is behind us, we still have a little way to go and a reminder that Aylesbeare has a community help group called ALERT (Aylesbeare Local Emergency Response Team) ready and waiting to give assistance. Work has commenced on installing the new storm tanks at the Aylesbeare sewage treatment plant.

The Bank mandate for signing cheques has been updated with 2 more Cllrs now able to sign. In due course we hope to add the remaining councillors.

Feedback from the contractor about the safety surface under the climbing rope is to wait and see what it is like in the spring and possibly add soil under the matting. The bare patch will need to be turfed by the Parish Council.

2 Open Public Forum

The first speaker had witnessed the installation of the postbox which took 2 vans and three men to do the work. The collection time has been retarded from 5pm to 9am and they were disappointed that the George V box wasn't returned. The speaker was also disappointed that Council were charging for materials for the church window. Cllr Cooke explained that herself and Cllr Thompson had paid for the bulk of the costs.

The Chairman called forward item 8.2

The editor was disappointed to report that Topics had lost a big advertiser but pleased to report that 2 small advertisers had been recruited. Readers had responded to the research that they did want a physical magazine and enjoyed reading it. Always grateful for donations and grateful to the resident who had donated instead of sending Christmas Cards. DCC can't contribute as Topics

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Chairman
Initials

is not a charity. The editor invited Cllrs to submit any items to Topics that may help with any Parish Council projects. [2 members of the public left at 7:37pm]
The 2nd speaker encouraged the Council to renew the noticeboards as some of them are practically falling apart.

3 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interests

Cllr Thompson could not attend as she is working away. Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reason given. No interests were declared.

4 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of 6th December 2023 & 10th January 2024 as true and correct records. The Chairman duly signed them.

5 Report of the County and District Councillor

C & D/Cllr Bailey reported:ere is a highly contentious planning application for Potters at West Hill about which West Hill Parish Council will hold an Extraordinary Meeting on Thurs 22nd February to which all are welcome. C & D/Cllr Bailey was very disappointed with the proposal, especially with the reduction in retail space. She urged those who feel strongly to object to EDDC via the Planning pages on their website.

- The Oak Rd Planning Application has been withdrawn at the eleventh hour.
- Green Wedges – A highly contentious Strategic Planning Meeting is imminent dealing with the size and position of the green wedges especially the one between West Hill and Ottery St Mary. Reductions have been made to many of the agreed wedges and C & D/Cllr Bailey expects there will be some Parish Councils in attendance.
- DCC Budget Meeting will be held next week. Finances for the County are very stretched; eg the Revenue Support Grant ten years ago was £135m and is now £713,000. There used to be a 4-year settlement allowing Councils to plan. C & D/Cllr Bailey was pleased to report that her Locality Budget is to be increased slightly.

Council enquired about South West Water's meeting with EDDC. C & D/Cllr Bailey was very disappointed with the meeting as it was not attended by senior staff from SWWW and questions were left unanswered.

6 Planning & Consultations

6.1 [23/2743/FUL](#) Rosamondford Farm New agricultural building/workshop
Council **RESOLVED** to support this application.

6.2 [23/2382/FUL](#) Great Houndbeare Farm Mobile home and stable for chickens & ducks.
Council **RESOLVED** to make the following comment:

Aylesbeare Parish Council objects this application as there have been no material changes since the limitations placed on the development under application 10/0562/FUL. All the conditions imposed with that permission should remain.

6.3 [24/0044/FUL](#) Potters Country Store, West Hill Demolition, 9 dwellings & retail space.
Aylesbeare Parish Council objects to this development for the following reasons:

This is a useful retail amenity for our residents. The site is a useful venue for parents/carers to pick up from the school. Further Aylesbeare Parish Council is concerned that the planned retail space will be too small to be viable and there is no element of affordable housing in the plans.

The current use includes our nearest Post Office and is frequently used by Aylesbeare residents. If this was to cease trading significant extra journeys would need to be made to Ottery St Mary incurring additional costs and environmental impact.

6.4 Polling Station Review Deadline 9th February

Aylesbeare Parish Council is happy for the polling station to remain in the Village Hall, the obvious location.

..... Chairman Initials

7 Aylesbeare Local Emergency Response Team

Council asked the clerk to apply for the start-up funding.

8 Village Items

8.1 Charity Cricket Match on the Rec

Council **RESOLVED** to offer to adopt this event and ensure the necessary systems were in place to run it.

8.2 Topics

See item 2 for Editor's report.

8.3 SpeedWatch

Two Parishioners have enquired about this, Cllr Owen will revive this project.

9 St Mary's Churchyard

Council **RESOLVED** to donate £450 to the PCC for the upkeep of the churchyard. Cllrs were reminded that there is a meeting on 21st Feb at the Church to investigate fundraising for £400,000 that is needed to repair the fabric of the building.

10 Play Area

10.1 Poor Surface

Chairman reported that the contractor has commented that this should be reviewed in the spring after settling. Council recognises that new turf may need to be laid.

10.2 Signage

Council **RESOLVED** to buy 2 signs to honour their contractual obligation to EDDC under the funding agreement. The signs will say that children must be supervised at all times and note the support of EDDC with the provision of the new equipment & surfaces installed in December 2023.

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 (reducing the payment to the clerk (11.2.2) by the £16.32 which the Cllrs will fund themselves):

11.2.1 KOMPAN Limited Play area equipment invoice 251035		£ 46,708.60
11.2.2 J P Roberts - clerk pay, (Jan)	£ 457.79	
Reimbursement for Pension Fund payment (Jan)	£ 148.46	
Reimbursement for VH Internet Jurassic Fibre (Jan)	£ 17.50	
Reimbursement for Church window materials	£ 16.32	
Adjustment to reimbursements removing above	- £ 16.32	£ 623.75
11.2.3 HMRC (clerk's PAYE Income Tax for Jan)		£ 111.40

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:04pm thanking the Cllrs for all their hard work.

Signed

Cllr N R Warren, Chair

Date