

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held at Aylesbeare Village Hall on **Wednesday 5th February 2025** at 7:15pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Anna Thompson (Chair)
Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Tracie Cooke
Cllr Jacky Owen
Cllr Nick Warren

ABSENT

Cllr Debbie Banks

IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the public, C & D Cllr Jess Bailey
Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

1 Chair's remarks

Cllr Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following report:
Good to see there are plenty of signs of spring emerging around the parish after a particularly dismal January.

We would like to support and encourage any community efforts to tidy up the parish once spring arrives. Unfortunately our funds do not stretch to paying a contractor to the litter picking, leaf sweeping and verge trimming that we would all like, so it is down to individuals to keep the area around their homes tidy if they are able to do so. This includes farmers and other landowners who have responsibilities for trimming hedges and keeping culverts and drains clear.

Speedwatch will be starting soon, and volunteers have already begun their training prior to any equipment being issued.

Notice boards - Cllr Warren is meeting our contractor to arrange a detailed quote for the installation of the notice boards, re-siting of the bench, and other works to the play park. Thanks to Nick for this, and also for storing the boards which have now been delivered. Thanks again to Cllr Jess for her very generous donation.

The Nightjar – no further info received. The PC hopes that the sale of the pub is progressing smoothly and would welcome an update from the owners.

The Aylesbeare sewage plant continues to cause concern and is an item on tonight's agenda.

We are grateful to members of the public who report concerns about potential breaches of planning regulations and would encourage you to continue to do so.

The Chair reminded everyone that anyone is welcome to attend the Council meetings and suggestions and questions are welcome.

Cllr Thompson said that the Council has received a message from one Parishioner criticising the 14% increase in the precept agreed in the last meeting. She reminded the meeting that the Council has a responsibility to ensure that it has sufficient financial reserves to meet its legal obligations. The budget has to cover wages, elections, Neighbourhood Plan costs, maintenance and upgrades of the noticeboards, rec ground, website, defibrillator & playground (including annual inspections), grounds maintenance across the Parish, subscriptions, insurance, training courses and donations to local causes. Council recognises that the increase is above the rate of inflation but they had managed to limit the increase to 72p per month for the average (Band D) household.

2 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Banks could not attend as she was overseas. Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons given.

..... Chair Initials

3 Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda

None

4 Open Public Forum

The speaker made the following points:

They had met the planning inspector in Blind Lane some 3 weeks ago and she asked about the likely timescale for the decision on the planning appeal. C & D/Cllr Bailey advised that there are no laid down timetables for this stage of planning and she had known the Inspector take months.

The brook repairs to the gabions are being paid for by a resident and the trees have been cut back.

The speaker welcomed the interest in tidying the village and looks forward to seeing activity. She clarified the subsidy on the noticeboards which was £1000 from D & C Jess Bailey (thank you Jess)..

The speaker had heard that the Nightjar has been sold.

The speaker was pleased that the District Council elections were going ahead.

5 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve minutes of 20th January 2025.

6 Report of the County and District Councillor

C & D/Cllr Bailey reported the following:

EDDC Local Plan is going to consultation for six weeks starting next week. The proposed indicative boundary for building now includes Aylesbeare.

The EDDC Local Plan has a 2.97 year land supply which, if further sites cannot be found, will make it easier for developers to get planning permission on other sites. The land supply requirement will need to be increased from 4 to 6 years as the new Government has amended the rules. D & C Cllr Bailey is keen to hear the planning inspector's response to East Devon's situation.

D & C Cllr Bailey has raised issues with the Enforcement Officer at EDDC, Council advised that a new entrance had been created on Oak Rd. An Enforcement Notice is shortly to be issued for a mobile home. Council advised that there is a chalet that they were pursuing for clarification of the planning status and possible enforcement. This building has a drainpipe that discharges onto the road risking ice overnight.

It has now been confirmed that the EDDC elections will take place despite the Local Government Devolution.

DCC are currently setting the 2025-26 budget and the Government has cut the money allocated compared to last year.

7 Planning Application & Consultations

7.1 [24/0091/FUL](#) Hannaford, Withen Lane Demolition and replacement of extension
Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application.

7.2 **East Devon Local Plan** Invitation to webinars
Council **NOTED** the webinars but Cllrs are unable to attend.

7.3 **Clyst St Mary & Sowton (Bishops Clyst) Neighbourhood Plan**
Council **NOTED** the plan and congratulated the Parish on their work. Council had no comments to make at this time.

7.4 Local Government Devolution

Council had discussed this in full during C & D Cllr Bailey's report (para 6 above).

8 Village Matters

8.1 The Nightjar

No definite news at this time.

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Chair
Initials

8.2 Speedwatch

Cllr Owen advised that there were 5 volunteers so far. Three more volunteers would be very useful as then two groups of 4 could be created. An officer will visit the proposed sites this week from the Constabulary to confirm that they are safe. Sessions are only permitted in daylight hours and will last about 2 hours. Cllr Owen will use the Buzz to recruit volunteers. The signs will cost approximately £300 and the clerk will apply to D & C Cllr Bailey’s locality budget (thank you, Jess).

8.3 Aylesbeare Sewage Plant

Council clarified that there has been a sewage overflow for 67 hours in January in Aylesbeare. Council asked the clerk to seek clarification from SWW that the new attenuation tank has been installed and is working. It it’s not working then when will it be used.

8.4 Enforcement Queries

See item 6 above.

8.5 Noticeboards and Rec Work

As discussed in the Chair’s report a quote for this work is being obtained tomorrow.

8.6 Annual Parish Meeting

Council hopes that all the village groups will come along to a combined meeting on the May date. The start will be at 7pm. Cllrs volunteered to bring light refreshments.

9 Finance

9.1 Current balances

Council **NOTED** the current balance of **£ 13,166.66** (£7,462.73, £4,988.87 & £714.76)

9.2 Pension Discretions Policy

Council **RESOLVED** to exercise discretions at no cost to the Council. Cllr Cooke will advise on the completion of the template.

9.3 Payments To consider the following payments:

9.3.1 J P Roberts - clerk pay for January	£ 296.91		
Reimbursement for VH Internet Jurassic Fibre (Jan)	£ 17.50		
Reimbursement for pension payment (Jan)	£ 95.96	£	410.37
9.3.2 HMRC - clerk’s PAYE for January		£	71.20

10 Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th March 2025

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:23pm thanking everyone for all their hard work.

Signed Date
Cllr A Thompson, Chair