

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held in the Foxwell Room at Aylesbeare Village Hall on **Wednesday 14th January 2026** at 7:15pm.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Cllr Jacky Owen
Cllr Debbie Banks

IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public, Jim Roberts (Clerk & RFO)
County & District Cllr Jess Bailey *[from 7:40pm]*

1 Chair’s remarks

Cllr Thompson opened the meeting welcoming all attendees and gave the following report:

Happy New Year. Thanks to everyone for coming tonight.
We were lucky in this part of Devon that, compared to areas like Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands, we saw minimal damage from Storm Goretti.
We have, of course, seen the usual flooding on our lanes and inevitable damage caused by running water, including potholes. We are reminded that owners of land adjacent to roads have responsibility for maintenance - thanks to local farmers and landowners for trying to keep ditches clear and roads passable.
You will have hopefully seen this excellent infographic on the Buzz and in Topics, and this will be pinned to our website too.
The PC is very grateful to Steve McGilchrist who has volunteered to be our new road warden. He’ll be looking for additional help so please feel free to join in with his efforts to improve our village.
Please feel free to use the grit bins, but do use the online form on the DCC website if they need topping up. We have recognised a need for an additional bin on Village Way and are making arrangements for this to be installed in due course.
Finally, the Parish Council would like to express their condolences to the family and friends of Neil Lindup who has died after a long illness. He will be missed by so many.

C&D/Cllr Jess Bailey offered funding to help purchase a grit bin if the Parish Council had to pay for it. Council noted that when the roads were icy Aylesbeare can be effectively cut off due to the gradients leading out from the centre of the village.

2 Apologies

Cllr Banks & Cllr Owen could not attend as they are working. Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons given.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Open Public Forum

The first speaker was pleased that two potholes on Marwood Road had been repaired. He sought reassurances that the roads used by the Ford Oaks Solar Park drivers would be resurfaced once the work was completed. Council advised that the FOSP team had inspected the roads beforehand and assured the public they would reinspect afterwards and make good any damage. It was pointed out that a corner has been removed in Westcott Lane at the end of the footpath. Council understands this was in the infrastructure plan.

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The first speaker raised the issue of the lack of visible white lines at Madge’s Cross which caused issues as some drivers know the rights of way and others do not. All residents are encouraged to report white lines, and other Highways matters, on Devon County Council’s **Report A Problem webpage**. We know that the more reports that are made about an issue of concern the better the response.

[One member of the public left at 7:57]

Steve McGilchrist, Road Warden, attended and Council **RESOLVED** that he should interact with Devon CC Highways with the full authority of the Parish Council. Should he encounter any problems or need any materials he should contact the clerk who will sort out the issues accordingly. Council are very grateful to Steve for volunteering to help and apologised that the role hadn’t been clarified sooner.

A speaker echoed the Chair’s sad news about Neil Lindup passing away, reminding the meeting of his full involvement in village activities including running the table tennis and very active with the fete as well as being a Friend of St Mary’s. He will be greatly missed.

A speaker raised the issue of broadband resilience as Cuckoo Fibre has a tenuous chain of parent companies and wonder how resilient they are as a provider. They were aware of Connect Devon & Somerset who help rural broadband connections. Council advised that CDS could not get involved if there is private provision of internet services.

The next speaker supported the installation of the grit bin that she had planned to raise.

The next speaker discussed FOSP. She corrected the earlier minutes that indicated no parts of Aylesbeare Parish were being used for the project identifying the two fields that are part of the scheme. Council thanked her for this correction. The speaker was concerned that two non-designated heritage assets had already been affected. The Boundary Stone had disappeared from Bonkers Corner and now work was taking place near an Excavation Pit. Council asked that this is reported to EDDC Enforcement and the speaker kindly offered to help with maps and photographs. Council sought clarification on the Church’s request for further details of the FOSP community donation. The clerk will draft a form of words for a three-way agreement between the Council, Church and Village Hall.

5 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on [3rd December 2025](#) and the Chair duly signed them. *[One member of the public left at 8:26pm]*

6 Report of the District & County Councillor

County & District Cllr Jess Bailey reported the following:



There is a possibility of upgrading bus stops. Council identified the stop that is used on the A3052 at the junction with the B3184 near the end of Withen Lane. This is a popular place for residents to use for the Sidmouth bus and has no shelter at present. Buses cannot stop at the end of Harp Lane on the A3052 for safety reasons. There is nowhere to site a shelter near the Nightjar for the one bus each way that currently serves the village.

C & D/Cllr Bailey has reported the Scotchmead car park surface and abandoned cars that have been left for

many months, if not years.

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Concerns have been raised with C & D/Cllr Bailey about swallow boxes in the Barton Farm development which she is following up with EDDC planning team.

Local Government Reorganisation is affecting the local elections are due in May 2027. Those elected will be in office until April 2028 as the new and old structure overlap for a year. The Government had scrapped the scheme to provide funds to assist Neighbourhood Planning. She has urged EDDC to create a grant scheme locally for this important issue.

C&D/Cllr Bailey invited applications for her DCC Locality Budget but needs bids at February's meeting. *[One member of the public left 8:41]*

7 Parish Matters

7.1 Highways

7.1.1 Marwood Road flooding

The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had visited during recent rainfall but considered the water on the road as normal for such weather. Cllr Warren will try and get further evidence to clarify the issues the Council considers need addressing.

7.1.2 Scotchmead water leaks

Council thanked C & D/Cllr Bailey who offered to contact Highways about the results of the tests of the water.

7.1.3 Road Markings at The Chestnuts

Cllr Warren has reported the road markings and made the case to protect the vulnerable infrastructure on the verge.

Council **RESOLVED** to spend up to £40 on markers to help traffic avoid the covers to the cabling.

7.1.4 Village Way Pothole

The pothole has been repaired at the entrance to Scotchmead but has partially covered the hydrant. The clerk will check with the Fire Service if this is an issue and if the hydrant is still in use.



7.2 Parking in Scotchmead (incl car park surface and abandoned vehicles)

Council thanked C & D/Cllr Bailey for raising the car park issues with DCC and EDDC. Council asked the clerk to report the red

Fiesta to the Neighbourhood Police Team as there has been suspicious activity.

7.3 Telephone Kiosk

Council asked the clerk to write to owners about refurbishing the kiosk. He will enquire whether they have any spares and if they would be prepared to provide electricity to help the refurb.

7.4 Community Infrastructure Levy Receipts – Play Area Assessment & Topics

Council **RESOLVED** that the residual monies of £290.00 from the Topics account that were made payable to the Parish Council via a cheque from Fiona Incoll will be included with the CIL receipts to spend on village improvements. Council asked the clerk to reply to Mrs Incoll with a formal letter of thanks.

- Council summarised the plans for the Rec as follows:
- The fencing around the Play Area needs attention and repairs, or could be renewed
- Council identified the area for the dog field
- The bin will need relocating if the dog area can be created.

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- The surfaces around the older Play equipment needs repair.

7.5 Road Warden

See discussions under item 4.

7.6 Drainage and Landowners' Responsibilities

Council asked the clerk to see if Topics will print the guidance for landowners again (see appendix A)

7.7 Loss of BT Landlines

Council understands that BT will upgrade the lines from the telephone exchange. This means the date that the landlines will cease is unclear.

7.8 SWW Improved Water Treatment Works

Cllr Warren uses the figures from the rain gauge at the airport and it now appears that as soon as it rains the new tank overflows. Council suspects that it must have surface water draining into it. It also seems to be the first facility to overflow in the area. Cllr Warren will draft a letter to SWW which the clerk will send, via the MP if necessary.

7.9 Future of the Village Hall

Council **NOTED** the correspondence but can't get involved in the running of the Village Hall as it has been set up as an entirely separate operation. The resident will be advised to approach the VHMC with her concerns.

Council **NOTED** the new project for the VH and hopes it goes well.

8 Planning

8.1 Decisions

8.1.1 22/2259/PDQ Shutebridge Meadows, Marwood Road New Dwellings

PRIOR APPROVAL GRANTED

Council **NOTED** this decision with disappointment.

8.2 Applications

No applications this month.

8.3 Consultation & Events

8.3.1 EDDC Rolling Community Hub

Council **NOTED** this project but expects it to be successful in the larger villages and towns.

9 Ford Oaks Solar Park – including Church Funding

Fully discussed in item 4 above.

10 Finance

10.1 Current balances

Council **NOTED** the current balance of **£ 26,181.51** (Current account £20,422.57. Other accts £5,036.00 + £722.94)

10.2 Budget and Precept for 2025-26

10.2.1 Budget Review for Quarter 3 2025-26

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget review for Quarter tr 3 2025-26 (see appendix B).

10.2.2 Budget and Precept for 2026-27

Council considered the budget line-by-line to minimise the increase in precept for next year. All costs are subject to inflationary pressures and the Council needed to be aware that the Local Government Reorganisation is expected to transfer responsibilities & costs to Parish Councils. There will also be increased website costs now that the Council is obliged to provide Cllr email addresses and have a gov.uk web address. Council **RESOLVED** to set the precept for 2025-26 at £18,140 (see appendix C) This is a 4.5% increase over 2025-26. This means each average (Band D) household will pay an extra £2.84 in the coming year.

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10.3 Payments

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

10.3.1 J P Roberts - clerk pay, (December)	£ 356.53	
Reimbursements: Pension payment for (December)	£ 85.27	
VH Internet Cuckoo Fibre (December)	£ 17.50	£ 459.40
10.3.2 HMRC Clerk's PAYE Income Tax for December		£ 83.80

11 Next Meeting & Venue (Village Hall Temp Closure)

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th February 2026. Council intends to hold the meeting in the Nightjar as the VH will be closed for refurbishment.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:40pm

Signed Date

Cllr A Thompson, Chair

Appendix A



Appendix B 2025-26 Quarter 3 Budget Review

Aylesbeare Parish Council Budget 2025-26 - Quarter 3 Review									
Detail	2019 -20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26		FYF
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	YTD	
Staff Costs	£ 3,068	£ 4,492	£ 4,164	£ 4,915	£ 5,147	£ 4,064	£ 6,300	£ 4,323	£ 7,000
Village Hall Telephone/Internet	£ 651	£ 355	£ 802	£ 53	£ 210	£ 158	£ 230	£ 158	£ 210
Donations	£ 300	£ 1,000	£ 802	£ 1,368	£ 993	£ 1,400	£ 1,500	£ 475	£ 1,500
Subs	£ 136	£ 183	£ 183	£ 188	£ 270	£ 281	£ 320	£ 250	£ 320
Playing Field	£ 154	£ 361	£ 156	£ 1,270	£ 46,900	£ 177	£ 1,500	£ 45	£ 1,500
Insurance	£ 375	£ 1,336	£ 1,356	£ 413	£ 437	£ 827	£ 1,000	£ 934	£ 934
Training Courses	£ 165	£ 261	£ 108	£ 90	£ 72	£ -	£ 250	£ -	£ 250
Cllr & Clerk Expenses	£ 545	£ 126	£ 79	£ 29	£ 64	£ 22	£ 100	£ -	£ 100
Stationery & Postage	£ 50	£ 50	£ 50	£ -	£ 645	£ 216	£ 320	£ -	£ 150
Rents	£ 178	£ 178	£ 898	£ 256	£ 645	£ 216	£ 320	£ 231	£ 1,000
Website & Email Hosting	£ 1,359	£ 933	£ 933	£ 3,203	£ 36	£ 4,699	£ 4,500	£ 1,485	£ 4,500
Grounds Maintenance	£ -	£ 216	£ 120	£ 63	£ 71	£ 70	£ 85	£ 586	£ 586
Audit	£ -	£ 663	£ 7	£ -	£ 144	£ 7	£ 95	£ -	£ 195
Defib	£ -	£ 237	£ 7	£ 7	£ 300	£ -	£ 300	£ -	£ 300
Software Subs	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Elections	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total	£ 6,982	£ 10,663	£ 7,924	£ 11,855	£ 54,989	£ 11,921	£ 16,680	£ 8,486	£ 18,575
Income									
Precept						£ 14,350.00	£ 16,986.00	£ 16,986.00	£ 16,986.00
Interest						£ 79.00	£ 100.00	£ 49.00	£ 75.00
CIL						£ -	£ -	£ 10,274.00	£ 10,274.00
Other						£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total						£ 15,429.00	£ 17,086.00	£ 27,309.00	£ 27,335.00
Reserves									Forecast 31Mar26
Recreation Fund & Youth Club	£ 694	£ 3,489	£ 3,489	£ 3,489	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945
CIL	£ 568	£ 1,830	£ 1,916	£ 1,917	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 10,274	£ 10,274
Defib funds	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 400	£ 400	£ 400	£ 500	£ 500
Elections	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 300	£ 300	£ 300	£ 600	£ 600
Rec Ground maintenance	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
Ringfenced reserves	£ 2,394	£ 6,450	£ 6,536	£ 6,538	£ 1,345	£ 2,645	£ 2,645	£ 14,319	£ 14,319
Bank Balance	1st Apr 25	£ 10,029						Forecast 01 Apr 2026	£ 18,789
General reserves			£ 7,660	£ 8,242	£ 6,752	£ 7,384			£ 4,470

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Appendix C Budget and Precept for 2026-7

Aylesbeare Parish Council Budget 2026-27											
Detail	2019 -20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26			2026-27	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	YTD	FYF	Budget	
Staff Costs	£ 3,068	£ 4,492	£ 4,164	£ 4,915	£ 5,147	£ 4,064	£ 6,300	£ 4,323	£ 7,000	£ 7,500	
Village Hall Telephone/Internet	£ 651	£ 355		£ 53	£ 210	£ 158	£ 230	£ 158	£ 210	£ 210	
Donations	£ 300	£ 1,000	£ 802	£ 1,368	£ 993	£ 1,400	£ 1,500	£ 475	£ 1,500	£ 1,750	
Subs	£ 136	£ 183	£ 183	£ 188	£ 270	£ 281	£ 320	£ 250	£ 320	£ 400	
Playing Field	£ 154	£ 361	£ 156	£ 1,270	£ 46,900	£ 177	£ 1,500	£ 45	£ 1,500	£ 1,700	
Insurance	£ 375	£ 1,336	£ 1,356	£ 413	£ 437	£ 827	£ 1,000	£ 934	£ 934	£ 1,250	
Training Courses	£ 165	£ 261	£ 108	£ 90	£ 72	£ -	£ 250	£ -	£ 250	£ 250	
Cllr & Clerk Expenses	£ 545	£ 126				£ -	£ 20	£ -	£ 20	£ 20	
Stationery & Postage		£ 272	£ 79	£ 29	£ 64	£ 22	£ 100	£ -	£ 100	£ 100	
Rents	£ 50	£ 50	£ 50	£ -			£ 150	£ -	£ 150	£ 150	
Website & Email Hosting	£ 178	£ 178	£ 898	£ 256	£ 645	£ 216	£ 320	£ 231	£ 1,000	£ 500	
Grounds Maintenance	£ 1,359	£ 933		£ 3,203	£ 36	£ 4,699	£ 4,500	£ 1,485	£ 4,500	£ 3,500	
Audit		£ 216	£ 120	£ 63	£ 71	£ 70	£ 85	£ 586	£ 586	£ 400	
Defib		£ 663		£ -		£ -	£ 95	£ -	£ 195	£ 100	
Software Subs	£ -	£ 237	£ 7	£ 7	£ 144	£ 7	£ 10	£ -	£ 10	£ 10	
Elections					£ 300		£ 300		£ 300	£ 300	
Total	£ 6,982	£ 10,663	£ 7,924	£ 11,855	£ 54,989	£ 11,921	£ 16,680	£ 8,486	£ 18,575	£ 18,140	
Income											
Precept						£ 14,350.00	£ 16,986.00	£ 16,986.00	£ 16,986.00		
Interest						£ 79.00	£ 100.00	£ 49.00	£ 75.00		
CIL						£ -	£ -	£ 10,274.00	£ 10,274.00		
Other						£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -		
Total						£ 15,429.00	£ 17,086.00	£ 27,309.00	£ 27,335.00		
Reserves											
Recreation Fund & Youth Club	£ 694	£ 3,489	£ 3,489	£ 3,489	£ -	£ -			£ -		
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945	£ 945			£ 945	£ 945	
CIL	£ 568	£ 1,830	£ 1,916	£ 1,917	£ -	£ -			£ 10,274	£ 10,274	
Defib funds	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 187	£ 400	£ 400			£ 500	£ 600	
Elections		£ -	£ -	£ -		£ 300			£ 600	£ 900	
Rec Ground maintenance		£ -	£ -	£ -		£ 1,000			£ 2,000	£ 3,000	
Ringfenced reserves	£ 2,394	£ 6,450	£ 6,536	£ 6,538	£ 1,345	£ 2,645			£ 14,319	£ 15,719	
Bank Balance	1st Apr 25	£ 10,029						Forecast 01 Apr 2026	£ 18,789		
General reserves			£ 7,660	£ 8,242	£ 6,752	£ 7,384			£ 4,470	£ 4,470	
Precept											
Total Precept	£ 7,400	£ 7,622	£ 10,258	£ 11,200	£ 12,068	£ 14,350			£ 16,896.00	£ 18,140	
Tax base households	271.0	269.0	265.0	265.0	261.0	263.0			267.0	274.3	
per Band D Household per year	£ 27.31	£ 28.33	£ 38.71	£ 42.26	£ 46.24	£ 54.56			£ 63.29	£ 66.13	
									Extra per Band D Household	£ 2.84	
									Increase over 2025-26	4.49%	
Precept decision - 2026-27	£18,140	= an extra	£ 2.84	per year which equals	£ 0.24	per month per band D household.					

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