

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held in the Foxwell Room at Aylesbeare Village Hall on **Wednesday 11th February** at 7:15pm.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Cllr Jacky Owen
Cllr Debbie Banks
Cllr Tracie Cooke

IN ATTENDANCE: County & District Cllr Jess Bailey [*from 7:46pm*]
Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

1 Chair Welcome

Cllr Thompson opened the meeting with the following report:

Welcome and thank you to Villa Verde, at the Night Jar for hosting our meeting this evening as the Village Hall is undergoing renovations.

We continue to suffer from the relentless rainfall along with the rest of the South West, with more flooding to our lanes and inevitable damage caused including potholes. At least we are not suffering the access issues we see in Ottery St Mary and Otterton. Again, we must request that owners of land adjacent to roads remember their responsibilities for maintenance - thanks to local farmers etc for trying to keep ditches and grips clear and roads passable.

Steve McGilchrist has now been formally appointed as our new road warden, and has made a tremendous start today by clearing the slippery leaf debris near Scotchmead on Village Way. Steve will have no responsibility for potholes, so please keep reporting them to Devon CC. Having established that the leak by Scotchmead was caused by a defective SWW main, which has apparently been mended, although the effectiveness of this remains to be seen, the pothole has been repaired- for now.

Sadly, the same cannot be said for the access road to the Scotchmead car park and we continue to press EDDC and police to take action against antisocial behaviour, poor parking and maintenance issues.

As daffodils and snowdrops begin to appear along our verges, we hope that spring brings us some drier weather and some opportunity for the authorities to take action to improve our roads.

2 Apologies

Cllrs Banks, Cooke Owen sent apologies and Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons given.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Open Public Forum

No members of the public present.

5 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on [14th January 2026](#) and the Chair duly signed them.

6 Report of the District & County Councillor

County & District Cllr Jess Bailely reported the following:
The appeal regarding the planning refusal for Cherrytrees, Village Way does now include the EDDC report online.

..... Chair Initials

The mobile home on Aylesbeare Hill has appealed against the Enforcement Notice and the outcome is awaited.

C&D Cllr Bailey encouraged everyone to fill in the consultation for the public libraries and join the protest (at 4pm Friday 13th Feb) . She highlighted the plans to close Ottery St Mary's library on a Friday (their busiest day) as one example of the significant impact the current plans have on the future of libraries.

Council **RESOLVED** to object to DCC's plans to reduce Ottery St Mary library opening hours because this excellent resource, which is Aylesbeare & Perkins Village nearest library, is well-used all week.

The local roads have been damaged significantly with the storms and constant rain. Particularly difficult was the need to shut Tipton road while Four Elms Hill is still in the middle of big drainage works.

SEND funding has been released but this will go on clearing the deficit that SEND provision has caused.

Chair raised Scotchmead as she had reported the anti-social behaviour, car park surface and vehicles to police and had a most unsatisfactory response suggesting the 'Local Council' was the best contact. The clerk write to the PCSO and copy in C & D Cllr Jess Bailey.

7 Parish Matters

7.1 Highways

Marwood Road flooding

There is a lot of rainwater run-off from the fields that needs to run into the stream near Rill Cottage. There is also the watercourse at Shutebridge where field water runs under the road to access this stream.

Scotchmead water leaks

SWW have visited, dug up the road, found no leak and refilled the hole. However water still leaks from the bank at the same rate.

These two issues will need to be pursued once the significant rainfall stops. DCC will only investigate flooding issues if the standing water is still significant 24 hours after the rain has stopped.

Road Markings at The Chestnuts

Due to cost the Council will try one boundary marker to identify the vulnerable utilities access point.

Village Way

The clerk will chase up the new Grit Bins

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

Council was pleased to note that the red car has now gone but the issues are still ongoing and Council will pursue them.

7.3 Drainage in Village Way

The occupiers of 21 Village Way & 3 Randlehayes will be contacted about clearing the culvert between their properties to allow for maximum drainage.

7.4 Community Infrastructure Levy Receipts – Play Area

The clerk is pursuing quotes for the ideas the Council is pursuing.

7.5 Road Warden

Council **RESOLVED** to sign the agreement forwarded by DCC.

7.6 Telephone Kiosk

Cllr Branson has confirmed that the owner has a couple of useful spare parts and is enthusiastic about the repaint and happy for volunteers to get involved.

7.7 Loss of BT Landlines

This item can be removed from the agenda. [C& D Cllr Bailey left the meeting at 8:25pm]

..... Chair Initials

7.8 SWW Improved Water Treatment Works

Cllr Warren continues to collect the data as we build up a year's worth of information.

7.9 Unlawful Development on Aylesbeare Hill

Dealt with above (see County & District Cllr report)

7.10 Registering the Rec & Play Area Leases

Cllr Warren advised that this is a fairly straightforward matter that the clerk agreed to attempt.

8 Planning

8.1 Decisions

8.1.1 25/0456/FUL Land at Barton Farm Change of use appeal **APPEAL DISMISSED**

8.2 Applications

8.2.1 25/2625/LBC Crossways Cottage Replacement rear veranda
Council **RESOLVED** to support this application.

8.2.2 25/1941/DOC Land behind Halls Loft Discharge of Cond. 4 Constr. Mgmt Plan
Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment

8.3 Consultation & Events

8.3.1 South East Devon Wildlife Visitor Survey

Council encourages all residents to contribute to this survey.

9 Ford Oaks Solar Park

No complaints this month. Quarter Mile Lane is in a state but that's inevitable with the lorry movements and they have promised to restore. The clerk will draw up the form of words for the three parties to the Community Fund.

10 Finance

10.1 Current balances

Current £23,331.98 Other accts £5,044.57 + £722.75 **£ 29,099.30**

10.2 Payments

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

10.2.1 J P Roberts - clerk pay, (January)	£ 305.47	
Reimbursements: Pension payment for (January)	£ 85.27	
VH Internet Cuckoo Fibre (January)	£ 17.50	
Defib Pads – Medisol #8000205855	£ 70.79	£ 479.03
10.2.2 HMRC Clerk's PAYE Income Tax for January		£ 73.20

11 Next Meeting & Venue (Village Hall Temp Closure)

Wednesday 4th March 2026 at the Nightjar

Signed

Cllr M R Branson, Vice-Chairman

Date