

AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held in The Nightjar, Village Way on **Wednesday 4th March** at 7:15pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Debbie Banks *[from 7:36pm]*
Cllr Tracie Cooke
Cllr Nick Warren
Cllr Jacky Owen

ABSENT

Cllr Anna Thompson (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public, Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

1 Chair Welcome

Cllr Branson opened the meeting welcoming all.

He congratulated Hospiscare on their very successful coffee morning where almost £500 was raised – well done to all concerned. He also reported that Neil Lindup's funeral was a sad day but well-attended and a good celebration of his life.

He had seen the village hall and the progress on the refurbishment is very impressive. The hall is due to be open around the 23rd April.

2 Apologies

Cllr Thompson could not attend as she is working away. Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reason given.

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Open Public Forum

The member of the public asked who installed the noticeboards and why there was no record of payment. The Clerk explained that he was still waiting for an invoice from the contractor whom he had reminded about the payment. The contractor is also returning to the village at some point to complete the list of odd jobs quoted for.

The speaker stated that the bus on Tuesday is due to be withdrawn at the end of the month. A resident has sought that confirmation from Stagecoach of the ongoing service. It is understood that the replacement service will be more frequent but the times are going to be confirmed. It will be service 52. The clerk is normally informed by email about all the service changes and was surprised that he hadn't received it yet.

The speaker asked if Topics could have the current minutes in each month. The clerk explained that there were only hours a week to do all the Council business and meetings often ended with urgent items to be acted on. This meant that minutes didn't get published by the Topics cut-off date.

Finally the issue of the sale of the Nightjar was raised and whether it would be advantageous to register the pub as a Community Asset. This will need careful consideration as the Council did not want to jeopardise any potential sale.

5 Minutes

To be signed off in March.

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Chair Initials

6 Report of the District & County Councillor

No report tonight due to diary clash.

7 Parish Matters

7.1 Highways incl. Marwood Road flooding

The main issue with Marwood Rd drainage is the farm access pipe is blocked where it goes under the road. This is at the first gate towards the airport where the pipe drains water into the field opposite to soakaway.

Scotchmead water leaks

The clerk will write to SWW to confirm that the tests they carried out showed this leak was potable water. If so, they will need to address the problem as the leaks continue.

7.2 Parking in Scotchmead (incl car park surface(EDDC), abandoned vehicles, caravan(DCC) and Anti-Social Behaviour (Police)

The clerk reported that the PCSO for our village had been in touch and promised to visit Scotchmead to tackle the ASB and take any action on vehicles that was within Police powers.

7.3 Drainage in Village Way

Clerk to contact the owners of the two properties concerned.

7.4 Community Infrastructure Levy Receipts – Play Area

Council will investigate mending the fence around the play area (only 4 sections need replacing) and replace the stiles with gates. The noticeboard contractor will be asked about these. Quotes will be sought for a dog exercise area.

7.5 The Nightjar sale & Registering as a Community Asset (CA)

Cllr Cooke gave details of the process as follows:

The first step is to get 21 registered voters to form a committee who can register an asset as a CA. This will put a moratorium on a sale to allow the community to make a bid. The owner can object as it can hold up the sale for 6 months. The Council will try to seek more information on the changes and try to find the owner’s intentions.

7.6 SWW Improved Water Treatment Works

Cllr Warren reported

February figures 327.2 hours of spillage and 5 inches of rain
This year so far 1416 hours of overflow and 10.9 inches of rain
Monitoring will continue.

8 Planning & Consultations

8.1 Decisions

[25/2625/LBC](#) **Crossways Cottage** Replacement rear veranda **APPROVED**

8.2 Applications None received

8.3 Consultation & Events

8.3.1 Local Government Reorganisation

There will now be local elections. The consultation is still open but Cllr Banks reminded the meeting that the final decision rests with central Government.

9 Ford Oaks Solar Park

9.1 Loss of the Extraction Pit

Clerk to write to Ford Oaks about the butterfly park and challenge the loss of the extraction pit.

9.2 All other matters

Cllr Branson walked the FOSP lanes to see if damage has occurred. Whilst Quarter Mile Lane is in reasonable condition with only a few noticeable changes, Westcott Lane is in a very poor state and damage is very visible. Council understands that the project will restore the road surfaces.

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Chair Initials

10 Finance

10.1 Current balances

Council **NOTED** the current balance of **£ 28,598.65**.

10.2 Payments

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

10.2.1 J P Roberts - clerk pay, (February)	£ 305.27	
Reimbursements: Pension payment for (February)	£ 99.03	
VH Internet Cuckoo Fibre (February)	£ 17.50	£ 421.80
Clerk advised that the price will rise to £20.50		
10.2.2 HMRC Clerk's PAYE Income Tax for February		£ 73.40

11 Next Meetings & Venue (Village Hall Temp Closure)

- Wednesday 1st April 2026
- Wednesday 6th May 2026 APM (invite FOSP & PCSO)
- Wednesday 3rd June 2026
- Wednesday 1st July 2026

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting closed at 8:24pm

Signed Date

Cllr M R Branson, Vice-Chairman