AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Aylesbeare Parish Council held in The Foxwell Room, The Village Hall, Aylesbeare on **Wednesday 9th September 2026** at 7:15pm.

PRESENT	**ABSENT**
Cllr Anna Thompson	Cllr Debbie Banks
Cllr Mark Branson (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Nick Warren
Cllr Sam Slade	

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public,
County & District Cllr Jess Bailey *[from 7:43pm]*
Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

1 Chair Welcome

Cllr Anna Thompson opened the meeting with a welcome to all attending and gave the following report:

After a very hot summer, where many despaired about their poor gardens, allotments and farms, we can now already see signs of autumn approaching. The hosepipe ban continues which is particularly unpopular with those affected by the many water leaks and supply issues in the village.

Many of us joined in with the informal solar eclipse watching event up at Madges Cross, with friends, neighbours and cows all enjoying the moment.

We've seen a number of wonderful local events held this summer in our lovely newly refurbished village hall, including the fete and the Flower and Produce show, which we hope everyone enjoyed.

On the 16th of July the Government announced that 14 areas will be subject to Local Government Reorganisation, including Devon. We have discussed this previously and I'm sure many have made their views known on the subject. In the past week it has been announced that this is to be paused, apart from in Surrey, and this item is on our agenda.

Another of our agenda items relates to Ford Oaks solar park where we will be updating council on the application for community funds from the project. We have supplied contact details for the church and village hall and await further news.

We have a request from the Royal British Legion in West Hill for contributors to their new Centenary Banner. They are seeking 6" square fabric panels from local people or groups.

As always, we welcome agenda items from members of the public. This helps us to allow sufficient time for each item. If you are here to discuss a planning application, I'll ask you to remain until that item at which point you'll be invited to speak and answer any questions the council may have. You don't need to stay for the whole meeting unless you would like to.

This evening we welcome our newest Councillor, Sam Slade, who will be formally co-opted tonight. We still have a vacancy for a further councillor and welcome willing volunteers. Please feel free to have an informal chat with any of us.

2 Apologies

Apologies have been received from Cllr Banks who is on a pre-booked holiday and Cllr Warren who is unwell. Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons given.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations this month.

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Chair Initials

4 Co-option of Councillor

Cllr Slade signed his declaration of office.

5 Open Public Forum

A speaker raised the following issues:
Many thanks to our Road Warden and his wife who did such a great job clearing the brambles around the bridge.
She hoped that the telephone kiosk will be repainted and repaired soon. The owner has promised to do this and bought spare glass. Cllr Branson will gently encourage the owner and offer help.
Topics did not have any July minutes and the Chair has asked the clerk to publish the minutes quicker.

6 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2026 as a true and correct record and the Chair duly signed them.

7 Report of the District & County Councillor

D & C/Cllr Jess Bailey reported the following:
She has no insight on the pausing of Local Government Reorganisation and she had hoped that the whole project would be abandoned, rather than resumed at a later date.
D & C/Cllr Jess Bailey called a special meeting of the DCC Health & Scrutiny Committee about the closure of the North Devon maternity unit and the impacts on Exeter Maternity Unit which has had to absorb the workload. The problem was the departure of 2 consultants, although the fragility of the service was known by the North Devon Hospital team. She will hold another meeting in Bideford to ensure lessons are learned. Two further meetings are needed to cover Adult Social Care and Unpaid Carers.
D & C/Cllr Jess Bailey has chased the fly-tipping issue in Blind Lane but had no response.

8 Parish Matters

8.1 Local Government Reorganisation

Devon LGR has been paused with no clear details of when the plans will be resumed. District Council elections will happen next May but the term to be served is, at this stage, unclear.

8.2 Closure of The Nightjar

Cllr Branson reported that the website where the Nightjar is being advertised is showing as 'Lease under offer'. This is promising and Council hopes it might reopen soon.

8.3 Highways incl. Village Way parking

The van causing the obstruction to the sightlines at the Withen Lane/Village Way junction has moved about 15 yards from the problem area.

8.4 Brooklea Query

Cllr Branson met the owners and they are keen to tidy the vegetation. This is an excellent example of residents contributing to the improved appearance of the village

8.5 Village Hall drain cover

The clerk is dealing with this and D & C/Cllr Jess Bailey offered to help if required.

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Chair Initials

8.6 Parking in Scotchmead (incl car park surface, abandoned vehicles, caravan)
D & C/Cllr Jess Bailey will pursue the car park surface as the Council wants to encourage the Scotchmead residents to use the car park. There are issues of no line-marking, poor/no lighting in the access path and abandoned/unused vehicles.

8.7 Visibility Cuts
The visibility splays have now been cut.

8.8 SWW Improved Water Treatment Works
Cllr Branson reported that work is taking place at the treatment works, but there is no information on what the activity actually is.

8.9 Ford Oaks Solar Park
Council has been advised that the traffic movements will be fewer as the project proceeds. Council noted that Quarter Mile Lane is now in very poor condition and the Chair will write to ask when this damage will be addressed.

8.10 Blind Lane Flytipping
D & C/Cllr Jess Bailey will chase this matter with DCC.

8.11 Oakmead 'No Parking' sign
A 'No Parking' sign has appeared trying to reserve part of the highway for an individual property. Council reminds residents cannot claim a parking space on the public highway.

9 Planning

9.1 Planning Decisions

9.1.1 No notifications this month

9.2 Planning Applications

9.2.1 26/1783/FUL Tamarind, Oak Road EX5 2DD Proposed domestic garage
Council **RESOLVED** to support this application.

10 Finance

10.1 Current balances
Council **NOTED** the current balance of **£ 50,101.53** (£44,300.82 + £5,073.78 + £726.93 at 01 Sept 2026)

10.2 Payments
Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

10.2.1 Vision ICT Website and email hosting			**£ 206.80**
10.2.2 J P Roberts - clerk pay for July & August	£	598.79	
Reimbursements: VH Cuckoo Fibre	£	40.00	
Pension (July & Aug)	£	170.58	**£ 809.37**
10.2.3 HMRC - clerk's PAYE for July & August			**£ 146.40**

11 Next Meetings

Wednesday 7th October
Wednesday 4th November 2026
Wednesday 2nd December 2026 - SS turkey

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting closed at 8:28pm

Signed …… Date ……
Cllr A C Thompson, Chair