

## AYLESBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

You are summoned to attend the Aylesbeare Parish Meeting and the Annual Aylesbeare Parish Council Meeting to be held at the Village Hall EX5 2BS on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 at 7:15pm**. The business to be transacted is set out in the agenda below.

*Jim Roberts*

J P Roberts, Clerk to the Council

### AGENDA

- 1 Chair Welcome**
- 2 Apologies** To consider any apologies for absence.
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Open Public Forum** 15 minutes for members of the public to raise any issue of concern
- 5 Minutes** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on [2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025](#)
- 6 Report of the District & County Councillor**
- 7 Parish Matters**
  - 7.1 Water Leak/Pothole Scotchmead**

#### **Email from a resident**

I have begun to notice the rapid expansion of a pothole at the junction of Scotchmead and Village way. This appears to be as a result of water damage possibly from a leak. This will only get worse and come the winter will be a real problem with ice on the road.

I reported the issue to southwest water and they say it's not their responsibility as the water is coming from a well????

I wondered if the parish council knew anything about the issue?

#### **7.2 Parking in Scotchmead**

#### **Email from a resident**

The parking on the pavement in Scotchmead is getting beyond a joke. Last evening I was unable to use the pavement to get to the post box as cars were parked on the pavement close to hedges and there was no room to pass. When I did get to the post box after walking in the road I was unable to post my letter as a large white van and another car were parked on the pavement blocking access to the post box. People with a buggy or a wheelchair are unable to use the pavement and a partially sighted person could have a nasty accident if they walked into a car.

I have spoken to DCC a number of times and they said an Enforcement Officer would visit but this has never happened.

While it is not technically illegal Rule 444 of the Highway Code states you must not park on a pavement.

Do these people not realise that they can be sued if somebody hurts themselves on their vehicles?.

They are also blocking the turning point and blocking access to Footpath 14. Delivery vehicles are getting stuck trying to turn.

Are the Parish Council able to put pressure on DCC to remedy the situation?. There is no need for this when there is a car park, but they are too lazy to use it.

#### **7.3 Telephone Kiosk**

#### **7.4 Community Infrastructure Levy Receipts**

The Parish Council now holds [£5,137.45](#) in CIL receipts

## **7.5 Restoration River Otter**

### **Email from the MP's office**

**#ReviveTheRiverOtter:** Local people urged to take action in new campaign to restore “sick” watercourse

A Devon MP has joined forces with a community activist group, in a powerful new campaign to restore the health of an ailing local river, currently rated ‘poor’ by the Environment Agency. The middle and lower reaches of the River Otter are now so contaminated with **\*\*[sewage related pollutants](#)**, that it is classed in the bottom 20 per cent of rivers in England for water quality.

Figures from local environmental groups suggest that the River Otter has the highest phosphate levels of any major watercourse in Devon and Cornwall.

Local people are being urged to join the campaign, which is spearheaded by the [Otter Valley Association](#) (OVA), and aims to persuade [South West Water](#) to adequately invest in local sewage infrastructure, to allow the river to flourish once again.

The campaign is strongly backed by [Richard Foord, MP for Honiton & Sidmouth](#), who met with OVA representatives in May to observe water quality testing on the river. Mr Foord then called a meeting with [South West Water](#), which took place last month and was attended by the OVA, representatives from the [Environment Agency](#), and the [River Otter Fisheries Association](#), whose members are also concerned about the river’s pollution levels.

## **7.6 Parish Scheme of Allowances**

### **Email from EDDC**

At the recent full Council meeting and following recommendations from the East Devon District Council Parish Remuneration Panel it was agreed that a parish/town basic allowance should be available to all parish chairs and members and to approve that the HMRC travel rates for parish/town members should continue to be aligned to those of East Devon District Council staff and councillors, this was an update to the scheme previously agreed in 2009/2010.

It is for individual parish/town councils to determine if an allowance is to be paid and details of the scheme of allowances agreed at full Council is attached, together with a link to the Panel’s report to full Council [Final version Report of the East Devon Parish Remuneration Panel June 2025.pdf](#)

. In accordance with the 2003 Regulations for Local Authority Allowances should a parish/town wish to pay an allowance they should have regard to the recommendations of the parish remuneration panel. Parish/town Councils are required to publicise their allowances in a notice or notices conspicuous in their area. These notices must remain in place of at least 14 days. In addition, you are required to make a record of the allowance that have been paid available for inspection at reasonable notice.

## **7.7 Exeter Unitary Council Plans**

### **From Exeter City Council’s website**

Exeter’s interim submission was unanimously approved by councillors at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 20 March. [Exeter’s interim submission document is available to download](#).

After reviewing all the interim proposals submitted from Devon, the Minister provided feedback in a letter addressed to all Devon Councils dated 5 May 2025.

[A copy of that feedback is available to view](#).

At an Extraordinary meeting on 14 August councillors agreed the initial geography for a three unitary model for local government reorganisation in Devon.

On August 15 a six-week period of public engagement was launched.

The plans are now being developed further, taking into regard to the public engagement currently taking place.

Subject to approval from Council, the final proposal will be submitted by 28 November.

## **When this content has been updated**

Last updated 15 August 2025

### **From DALC**

We are mindful that Exeter City Council's bid includes expanding its' boundaries to include your parish or town council. In response, DALC's Chair, Liz Brookes-Hocking, has called a meeting to offer you and the other parishes impacted by the bid to meet with us virtually on the 18 September 2025, 10.00am-12 noon to discuss the specifics of this proposal and any thoughts or concerns you may have

## **8 Planning**

### **8.1 Decision**

**8.1.1 Appeal APP/3353886 (23/2422/FUL) Land behind Great Halls New dwelling APPEAL ALLOWED**

### **8.2 Application**

**8.2.1 [25/1545/FUL](#) Beautiport Farm, Marwood Rd Livestock building extension**

### **8.3 Appeal**

**8.3.1 [APP/3371346](#) Land And Buildings At Barton Farm Village Way Two dwellings (25/0456/FUL)**

### **8.4 Consultation**

**8.4.1 Devon Communities Resilience Forum** SWW event – 22<sup>nd</sup> September

We are pleased to bring you details about an upcoming Let's Talk Water event, hosted by South West Water:

## **✓ Working in your local area: Learnings from Community Groups**



**Monday 22nd September**



**12.30pm - 4.30pm**



**Roadford Lake, Broadwoodwider, PL16 0RL**

This will be an interactive 4hr session, including a networking lunch, presentations, workshops and a Q and A. There will be three workshops on the importance of community working, challenges of community working and ways to improve collaboration between community groups and organisations such as SWW, with insight from various community groups.

We hope you can join the session. More information and how to book is in the link below.

Best regards,

**Devon Community Resilience Forum**

## **9 Ford Oaks Solar Park**

### **Report of a meeting with the operating company - from the Chair**

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 Cllr Bailey, Cllr Warren and Cllr Thompson met with the Infinis (the company building the new solar farm) Community Relations Manager and their colleague. The principal contractor is Ethical Power. The contract will take place over 52 weeks.

They confirmed that the start was delayed by the large number of planning conditions which had to be fully complied with prior to commencement.

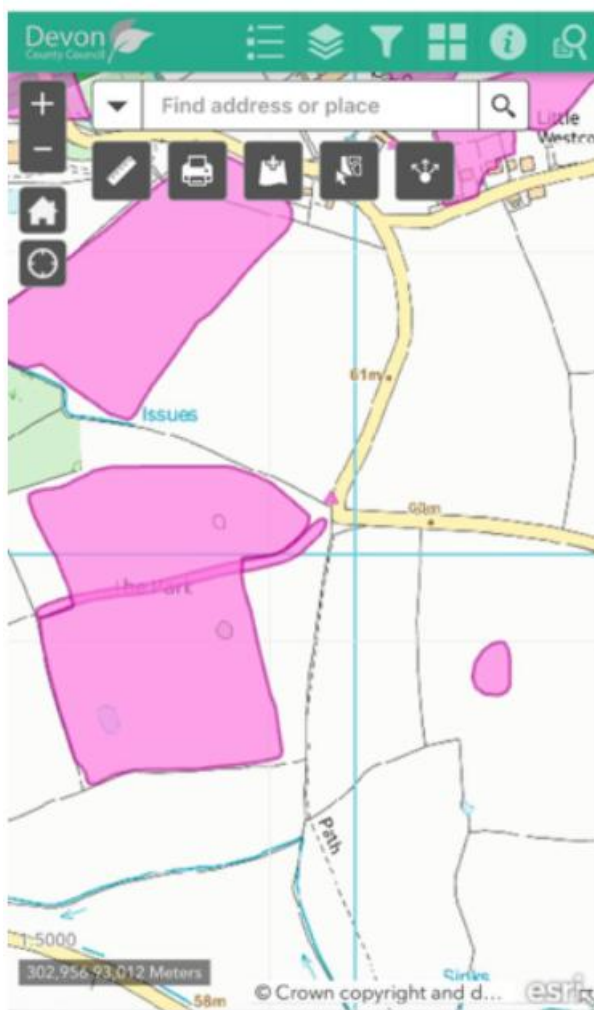
Evidently a road condition survey was completed (witnessed by Devon County Highways) some time ago, although they were unable to provide further information. Due to the time elapsed, a further condition survey will be carried out imminently.

Items discussed:

1. The alleged removal of a historic marker stone adjacent to entrance 31. Anyone with further information on the description, location and relevant dates or images is asked to contact Infinis.

2. The attitude and behaviour of some of the lorry drivers. It was confirmed that the convoy system is not yet in place, but this will run on an ad-hoc basis rather than at set times. The convoys will be escorted and should follow the agreed one-way system. They have been told to avoid peak traffic times of 8-9am and 5-6pm. They were advised that this does not cover the peak traffic times and is not realistic. It does not cover school run times or commuting patterns.
3. They were also advised of the road use by horses and cyclists.
4. Infinis had noted a spike in complaints over the first couple of weeks but said these had reduced and that driver behaviour had improved. Some had had to be reminded of the approved routes. One has been red-carded and will no longer be allowed to make deliveries. Most haulage companies being used, e.g. for aggregate deliveries, are local. They agreed to speak to all suppliers and convoy vehicles re. speed, courtesy and passing other vehicles.
5. The provision of extra signage. A suggestion was made that the contact phone number could be added to the signage. Additional signage was requested at all of the junctions onto the B3180 advising no solar farm traffic, apart from the approved route to the site.

#### From Cllr Branson



Firstly: on the attached map the areas in pink are classified as 'ancient park' and wood lands, with one area specifically named as 'the park'. It seems that the farmer, Mr Ethridge has decided to fell the ancient trees and fill in the ponds on this protected land and this needs to be addressed. Secondly:

The solar farm are widening the lane to allow big lorries to the site, and where the pink triangle is in the middle of the map, there is an ancient stone which marks the boundary of the parish. Incidentally there is another on Quarter mile lane, and neither should be removed or damaged as they are protected ancient markers. Historically, this is where the expression 'beating away to the boundary' or 'beating the bounds' comes from. The Council and construction companies need to be advised of this before they start digging into the Devon banks and hedgerows.

#### From Cllr Warren

Can we enquire if the Highway Condition Survey has been completed and have a copy so we know what, if any damage occurs, we can monitor this and bring it to their attention.

## **Community Benefit Fund and Schools Liaison**

There is a £93,000 Community Benefit Fund – more [details here](#).

### **From the Chair**

A survey was previously carried out by Devon Together. Infinis has now appointed Grant Scape to manage the allocation and distribution of community funds. A sub-committee will be set up by Aylesbeare PC, comprising interested parties. Currently, it is likely that these will include the church, the parish council for enhancements to the play park, and the village hall. Grant Scape will contact Aylesbeare PC in due course. Total funding will be in the region of £93,000.

Other groups/projects may be considered for capital and revenue projects, but there are strict criteria for eligibility. The available funding will be split between Marsh Green/Rockbeare and Aylesbeare and will reflect the impact on these communities.

Infinis is also involved with Megawatt, who deliver STEM activities to schools, etc. They have approached West Hill School and Rockbeare School. It was suggested that they also approach the Kings School.

It was agreed that a pinned post will be added to the Aylesbeare Buzz Facebook page with contact details for any complaints. (AT to contact the Buzz)

It was agreed that an update should be sent for inclusion in Topics each month until the completion of the project.

## **10 Finance**

**10.1 Current balances** Current £13,490.46 Other accts £5,023.41 + £719.72      **£ 19,233.59**

**10.2 Quarterly Budget Review** 2025-26 First Quarter

**10.3 Payments** Council to consider the following payments:

**10.3.1 Vision ICT** Website and email invs 20478 & 20670      **£ 230.80**

**10.3.2 PKF Littlejohn LLP Ext Auditor** Professional Fees      **£ 474.00**

**10.3.3 J P Roberts** - clerk pay, (July & August)      £ 581.67

Reimbursements: Pension payment for (July & August) £ 191.92

VH Internet Cuckoo Fibre (July & August)      £ 35.00

Defib spare batteries and pads      £ 80.39      **£ 888.98**

**10.3.4 HMRC** Clerk's PAYE Income Tax for July & August      **£ 142.40**

**11 Next Meeting** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

This agenda, and additional background information, can be viewed on the Aylesbeare Parish Council website – [www.aylesbeareparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.aylesbeareparishcouncil.co.uk)