

# AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm at the Cedar Centre

### 1. ATTENDANCE

a. **Present:** Anne Perkins (Chairman), Joan Pickett (Vice Chairman), Martin Stalley, Richard Moon, Megan Ellershaw, Anne Raven, Michelle Dickens – Clerk and two members of the public.

b. **Apologies:** Sean Langston-Jones.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting in April 2024 to be signed as a true record.

a. The Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. To receive and note the Chairman's Annual Report.

a. See Chairman's report below.

Chairman's report for 2024/2025 –

Welcome to this meeting I will keep this as brief as possible whilst ensuring that I take this opportunity to celebrate and note what has happened for APC this year. As last year when I look back, I am reminded of all we have been involved in and continue to work at

Firstly, must thank my fellow councillors for all their hard and often unseen work ranging from preparation of documents to share, attendance and representation at meeting, like joint meetings with Castor, visiting Sibson airfield, Climate Action, PECT, John Clare, Nene Park Trust, Good neighbours, Integrated neighbourhood board panel, Parish Liaison groups and more. Much good work continues behind the scenes by councillors including general maintenance, communication, delivering leaflets and many other hidden tasks – thank you

We welcome Anne Raven as a new Councillor and she has already taken on responsibility for the defibrillator and more will come!

This period has been one of change We have said goodbye to Jenny Rice our clerk and responsible Financial Officer for 15 years and thank her for all she has done for APC and wish her well

We welcome Michelle Dickens our new clerk who is busy getting used to us. She has joined us at a really busy time of year as well as a lot of issues to deal with including routine business

As you all know there have been two major planning issues this year, we hosted a record number of villagers to our meeting who wished to share their thoughts on one planning request and we are working with Castor Parish Council to inform and then respond to the Peterborough Local Plan. We will work with CPC to plan the next meeting

In July the villages celebrated the 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Kyneburgha's Church and we had a stand at the Anglo-Saxon fete – wearing sackcloth tunics and offering Saxon oat biscuits as well as more modern sweets for children and

chatting to villagers about their thoughts and ideas. We also moved into the twenty first century by inviting folk to respond to our digital questionnaire There were 27 responses to the Parish Land Questionnaire the same number as last time although some different people which is obviously good. Priorities were protecting wildlife and diversity as well as reducing and mitigating the impact of climate change, much the same priorities as last time although concern for climate change has increased. Knowledge of parish land had increased, all respondents were aware of the recreation ground although fewer were aware of the 16-acre field and New Close. Clearly, we need to consider increasing awareness We have a PLMG who meet with outside bodies and report back to the full council as well as considering and advising on projects and development. We meet with CPC approximately 4 times a year and consider and work together on shared issues to develop and strengthen the long-standing theme of two villages and one community. A joint litter pick was held in March and we plan to get more involved with this and encourage others in the village to join in as well. We wish to encourage a pride in our village community.

*Michelle Dickens*

Michelle Dickens

Clerk to Ailsworth Parish Council

9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Signed as a true record: Chair: ..... Dated: .....**