

MINUTES OF THE AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.30PM

in the Cedar Centre, Castor

Present were Councillors: Dr M Ellershaw, Mrs A Perkins (Chairman), Mrs J Pickett (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Raven and Mr M Stalley. Clerk Mrs J Rice

Members of the public present: 1. Mr J Hodder for Neighbourhood Plan/JCAP

24/136	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive and record apologies sent to the Clerk. Apologies were received from Cllr Moon and Cllr Langston Jones, plus Ward Cllr Boyce.	
24/137	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	<p>To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to update their register if necessary. (Members should disclose any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business).</p> <p>Chairman to remind Councillors about one of the seven Nolan principles of public life, to be present in all that they do – selflessness, objectivity, leadership, integrity, accountability, openness and honesty.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded Councillors about all of the principles. There were no declarations of interest made.</p>	
24/138	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	<p>Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting and a maximum of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda, limited to 3 mins per person.</p> <p>There were no members of the public present. It was agreed to move items 143.1 and 143.2 to this point of the meeting.</p>	
24/139	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (previously circulated) and matters arising	
	139.1	<p>To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th January 2025, Chairman to sign, previously circulated.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.</p>
24/140	PARISH MAINTENANCE ISSUES	
	140.1	<p>To note maintenance issues and resolve appropriate action/expenditure. Village sign, (with CPC?) update on tree, defib rescue kit and new guide, telephone box repaint, information board C/F, tree and hedge-works. It was agreed to get work done on the village sign with Castor Parish Council, the diseased tree has been removed and the new tree is to be planted. Also, that the rescue kit will be chased up as paid for but not delivered, the telephone kiosk painting will be put forward as work for Community Service workers scheme. The extra hedge and minor tree epicormic growth work will be arranged (agreed up to £250 max.) and village information board work is deferred until next financial year. It was further agreed to chase up the scheduled cutting of the hedge along Peterborough Road. It was noted that a message had been put on Facebook about keeping chicken in due to bird flu regulations. Action Clerk</p>
	140.4	<p>To note new signs for dog fouling issue and arrange to erect. The new signs will be put up in the recreation ground and along Peterborough Road and expenditure on poles for £16 was agreed. Action Cllrs Stalley and Perkins</p>
24/141	PLANNING; TO NOTE LATEST APPLICATIONS AND RESOLVE RESPONSES TO NEW ONES	
	The following was agreed/noted.	
	141.1	<p>24/01440/FUL change of use of land to cemetery including building, maintenance building, car parking and soft landscaping at land to south of Old Peterborough Road, Sutton. Deadline 13/12/24, extended. Response sent, awaiting decision.</p>
	141.2	<p>25/00124/CTR tree works various branch removal at 15 Helpston Road, deadline 21/2/25. It was agreed to support this application as necessary works. Action Clerk</p>
	141.3	<p>To receive any applications between issuing agenda and date of meeting and decide if can agree re- sponse. There were none.</p>

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

24/142	REPORT FROM THE WARD COUNCILLOR NEIL BOYCE, if available. Cllr Boyce sent his apologies. It was noted that a litter pick had been discussed and Castor PC will be asked about dates to combine efforts. Also, the litter picker who does a lot along the A47 had appreciation for their ongoing efforts noted. Action Cllr Perkins	
24/143	PARISH LIAISON/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/JOINT MEETINGS/JCAP	
	143.1	To receive and agree notes of the Joint Parish Liaison Group meeting, previously circulated. The notes were received, noted and agreed as correct.
	143.2	To note update on Neighbourhood Plan review for Ailsworth PC, with Castor PC, awaiting feedback from Peterborough City Council/CPC meeting. D Shaw email refers. Mr Hodder explained the files needing sending to PCC for the ANP review. It was noted that the Local Plan consultation schedule has been delayed. Action Clerk
	143.3	To hear feedback from other recent meetings attended and agree any actions, including Castor Parish Council and Integrated Neighbourhood Partnership (INP). Cllr Raven gave verbal feedback from the INP, that it will support the Good Neighbourhood Scheme and build up local partner relationships and prevention of illness etc being the priority, with a review of accessibility and self-referrals, plus there are funds for projects. A piece will be put in the next village newsletter. Action Cllr Raven
	143.4	To note and agree Expression of Interest form for net zero monies not completed as criteria not met. This was noted.
24/144	GOVER	NANCE, FINANCE AND TRAINING, Clerk and Finance working group (FWG)
	144.1	To receive and note financial position report and resolve any queries, including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL - Developer's contribution to the parish) list as per budget and others see 145.2. The Clerk's file was received and noted, and the Clerk gave a resume of the position - that the basic budget is running 5% under budget and 5.2k of projects not yet realised are still in the reserves. The combined bank balance is currently 33.9k but 27.5k of this is earmarked in CIL, projects and expenditure to come, leaving approx 6.4k of general reserves to C/F which is a reasonable 50% of the precept. A list of current ideas for future CIL expenditure was circulated by Cllr Stalley and all ideas are to be considered and reviewed at a future meeting. Action All
	144.2	To note VAT reclaim to date completed and sent off. This was noted and it has now been received.
	144.3	Closed session – the public were excluded under the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 for reasons of confidentiality. To receive feedback from the Staffing Committee on the interviews for the new Clerk/RFO and full council to vote on a suitable candidates and appointment. Agree start/end and handover date/period. (To note option to review job scale level for £100 – CAPALC). The Councillors gave their feedback on the candidates and their proposal was voted on and accepted by a unanimous vote. The closed session ended for any members of the public to re-enter – there were none.
	144.4	To note feedback on recruitment of new Clerk. It was agreed to appoint the candidate subject to two satisfactory references and a probationary period of 3m will be in the contract. A payscale appropriate to experience and grade will be offered. It was further agreed to ask for a review of the grade for £100, by CAPALC's contact. A handover date will be arranged around the end of February/early March. Action Cllr Perkins/Clerk
24/145	PLAY AREA/RECREATION GROUND	
	145.1	To receive and note approach by Scouts organisation to revisit option of building on rec site. And resolve any action. The Clerk confirmed that the Scouts said they had not secured a suitable building and play area (hoping for access permission from Nene Park Trust to the cricket field) and might still be interested in the recreation ground, however, no official approach from the acting Chairman had been received, although contacted to ask.
	145.2	To receive and note resident idea of scooter/skate area – circulated – and resolve action. The Councillors received and noted the idea and photos. They agreed it should form part of the phase 2 playground improvement plan and include other ideas eg table tennis table, pond, padel court, all to be prioritised with timeframes and costs. See 144.1.
24/146	ALLOTMENTS, PARISH LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP - PLMG (Cllr Ellershaw, Cllr Moon, Cllr Pickett and Cllr Stalley) and NATURE RECOVERY GROUP	

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	146.1	To receive feedback on lease sent to the Buckles contact. It was agreed to employ the Buckles Solicitor at a cost of £500 to review the amended lease by end of February hopefully. Action Clerk
	146.2	To note any new update from PLMG and registration of common land, J Hodder email refers. This was noted and some clarity will be sought on the process and records. Action Cllr Ellershaw
	146.3	To receive and note update from Nature Recovery Group and agree any expenditure. There was no new update.
24/147	PROJECTS	
	147.1	To receive and note feedback and proposal on new and improved signage for village assets etc and agree a way forward. Some ideas on artwork were circulated and a basic proposal for numbers and locations of boards. It was agreed to proceed with the "logo" boards at £50 each, annotating the various assets, and more discussion is needed to agree the recreation ground information boards. Action Cllr Stalley
	147.2	To receive update on request for double yellow lines and "cobble" parking. Reply circulated. Cllr Langston Jones was not present to feedback on some double yellow lines and the Highways Authority has warned again about high costs and negative knock-on effects of increased "verge" parking in Main St. It was noted that the no parking signs at the Donkey Paddock corner verge have been installed. This item will be partly C/F. Action Clerk
24/148	CLERK REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE: To receive and note correspondence and decide any actions. a) To note Government National Remembering Covid Day being held on 9/3/25 and agree any local involvement. See gov.uk website for more details. It was agreed not to participate in any Remembering Covid event.	
24/149	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT; To note and agree payments/ transfer to be made and already made as follows; TO BE PAID AND FUTURE The following payments were agreed;	
	149.1	Clerk rate pay 26 hours pm £411.84 less tax/Nl payable 28/2/25
	149.2	Clerk; Reimburse ink shared pm J Rice paid In February.
	149.3	Clerk; mileage Dec/Jan plus home office expenses £26 for February
	149.4	HMRC employer/ee payment for February 2025.
	149.5	The Cedar Centre Hall hire invoice
	149.6	Unity Bank monthly charge by DD
	149.7	Safety Signs for less
	149.8	Nurture for grass cutting/spraying 359254
	149.9	Barcham Trees
	149.10	Tom Sharpe tree work
	149.11	Reimburse Clerk for posts
	149.12	Tree/hedge work
	149.13	Buckles Solicitors for lease
	149.14	Logo sign boards for village assets
	149.15	Receipts: VAT reclaim received 3/2/25
24/150	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.30pm. The date of the Annual Parish Meeting (held in the village hall last year) will be arranged, dates to be circulated by Cllr Perkins . Must be between 1/3/25 and 1/6/25 and the April council meeting needs to be rearranged due to it being Easter Monday.	

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____