

AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of Ailsworth Parish Council held on Monday 20th April 2026 at 7.30pm
at the Cedar Centre

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING

1. ATTENDANCE

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- a. To receive Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items in the agenda: *None*.
- b. To receive written requests for Dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: *None*.
- c. To grant any requests for Dispensation as appropriate: *None*.

3. OPEN FORUM

- a. John Hodder attended - see Minute 7a.
- b. A resident attended the meeting to provide an update regarding the new bus service arrangements. It was confirmed that a new bus timetable has been drafted. APC thanked the resident for her work and ongoing efforts in coordinating the service.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. To confirm [Meeting Minutes of 16th March 2026](#) held at the Cedar Centre; *Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.*

5. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. [Planning/tree applications log](#) – current log.
- b. Planning/tree application decisions since the previous meeting –
- (1) 26/001991/CTR - 3 Maffit Road, Ailsworth - T.1 - Robinia - Reduce height by 4m, T.2 - Apple - Reduce height by 1m – **permitted**.
- c. Planning/tree applications to consider since the previous meeting – one new tree application-
- (1) [26/002117/CTR](#) - Maffit Stables, Maffit Road, Ailsworth - T.1 - Multi-stem acer - Fell to low stump. **APC had no objections.**
- d. Draft Local Plan. PCC has carried out consultation on the Draft Local Plan. The next stage is the publication of the Proposed version of the Plan, which is expected in summer 2026.
- e. Neighbourhood plan (NP). It was agreed in the village meeting on 14th April to proceed with updating and making amendments to the NP. It was proposed by Cllr.

Raven and seconded by Cllr. Stalley that APC is happy to proceed with update of the plan. All members of APC were in agreement.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/WORKING GROUPS

a. JPLG –

(1) APC confirmed they were happy with the draft summary from the 16th April meeting.

(2) The next meeting date is likely to be the 16th July but it will be confirmed in due course.

b. PLMG.

(1) APC has the agreement to sign for the 16-acre field.

(a) Clerk signed the agreement at the end of the meeting and will scan the document so there is an electronic copy on file.

(2) NPT will be planting a hay crop.

(3) NPT are exploring the option of having a footpath installed around the field perimeter.

(4) APC has fed back to NPT that their communication with the community needs to be better going forward.

c. Parish Liaison meeting – date to be confirmed.

7. COMMUNITY MATTERS

a. CIL spending.

(1) Table tennis table. Delivery due to be imminent.

(2) Troughs x 2 for the village green. Order has been placed.

(3) Replacement benches x 2 for village green. Clerk waiting on PCC to provide a quote for removal/relocation of the existing benches.

(4) Cllr. Perkins confirmed that there has been a donation request from pre-school. Further information has been requested.

b. Nature Recovery.

(1) Cllr. Stalley circulated the new sign for the nature recovery area. APC were all in agreement to proceed with the installation of it. Cllr. Stalley to get the total cost so far from the designer. Cllr. Perkins thanked Cllr. Stalley for his efforts.

(2) A few gaps have been filled with plants.

(3) Cllr. Stalley confirmed that under the Environment Act 2021, Parish Council has a responsibility under the biodiversity duty to continue to consider and record actions which support biodiversity and nature recovery within the parish. Cllr. Ellershaw is going to have a look at the requirements.

- c. Fly-tipping.
 - (1) APC received an update following a meeting with PCC's fly-tipping team regarding known fly-tipping sites within the parish. The option of installing a fly-tipping camera was discussed; however, due to the cost and limitation of the camera being fixed to a single site, APC agreed not to proceed further with the proposal.
 - (2) Clerk to find out from PCC if there is anything stopping APC from putting up their own signs as a deterrent attempt.
- d. Improved/new signage for all parish land - recurring item.
- e. Bus shelter.
 - (1) Names/memorial list – recurring item – awaiting new website.
 - (2) The Community Payback Scheme have offered to take on the task of painting the bus shelter. CIL money can cover the cost of the materials.
- f. 16-acre field agreement. See Minute 7b.
- g. Resident email – verge/bikes. Clerk confirmed that PCC confirmed the following – *With the kids using the ditch as a bmx track, there isn't much we would be able to do, as we wouldn't look to fence off the area as there is verge damage across the City and we wouldn't have the available budget to prevent this.*

8. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

- a. Helpston Road – resident concern that there is no footway and the increased number of parked cars. Clerk has been liaising with PCC. No further update from the last correspondence from PCC confirming that they will not put a path in or any additional signs. Clerk has gone back to them.

9. BURIAL GROUND MATTERS

- a. Provision of extra burial ground. APC has agreed to put the item on hold until the new church rector has taken over – recurring item.

10. GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. [Unity Trust Current Account Statement](#) for March.
- b. [Unity Trust Deposit Account Statement](#) for March.
- c. Unity Trust Current Account [reconciliation](#) and [transactions](#) for March.
- d. Unity Trust Deposit Account [reconciliation](#) and [transactions](#) for March.
- e. Budget update – 2025-2026. Clerk confirmed the budget position for 2025-2026. Expenditure exceeded income by £4,091 during the financial year, resulting in a reduction in total reserves by that amount. However, a transfer of £5,424 was made from CIL earmarked reserve into the general reserve, resulting in an overall increase in the general reserve balance of £1,333.

f. APC election – 7th May 2026. APC members confirmed that their completed election nomination forms had been returned to PCC within the required timescale.

(1) APC continues to invite expressions of interest in relation to the current councillor vacancy.

g. APM and APCM format and dates. APM, APCM and normal meeting will be on Monday 18th May, starting at 7.15pm.

h. VAT reclaim submitted to HMRC - £749.89.

i. AGAR – Section 1 approved in meeting and signed by Chairman.

j. New website. Clerk confirmed this is a work in progress.

k. Invoices to be authorised for payment –

(a) **Clerk expenses** for March – approved.

(b) Nurture invoice – March rec maintenance - £324.30 inc VAT – approved.

(c) Parish Online – website service – March 2026-March 2027 - £378 inc VAT – approved.

(d) CAPALC – affiliation fee – April 2026 – April 2027 - £385.11 – approved.

(e) Rialtas -- accounting software and licence – May 2026 – May 2027 - £252 inc VAT – approved.

11. ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS

a. Allotments. Clerk raised the point that a couple of the allotment plots were appearing poorly maintained and untidy. APC discussed the matter and decided to review the allotment agreement. Clerk work on this for the next meeting.

b. It was noted that Cllr. Raven has kindly agreed to act as the Parish Councils representative on the Village Hall group. Cllr. Perkins is going to inform the coordinator of the Village Hall Group.

12. NEXT MEETING

a. APC confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 18th May 2026.

13. Meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

Michelle Dickens

Michelle Dickens
Clerk to Ailsworth Parish Council
6th May 2026

Signed as a true record: Chair: Dated: