

AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of Ailsworth Parish Council held on Monday 23rd February 2026 at 7.30pm at the Cedar Centre

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING

79. ATTENDANCE

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

80. 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*.

81. OPEN FORUM

- a. John Hodder attended (see Minute 89a).
- b. Martin Chilcott attended to be part of the Local Plan discussion (see Minute 83d).
- c. A resident from Ailsworth attended with the view to potentially applying for the current Councillor position.

82. PREVIOUS MINUTES

To confirm [Meeting Minutes of 19th January 2026](#) held at the Cedar Centre; *Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.*

83. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. [Planning/tree applications log](#) – current log/status report.
- b. Planning/tree application decisions/status changes since the previous meeting –
 - (1) [25/01574/HHFUL](#)- 10 Holme Close, Ailsworth - Single storey rear extension – **permitted**.
 - (2) [24/01440/FUL](#) - Land To The South Of Old Peterborough Road, Sutton - Change of use of land to cemetery including ceremony building, maintenance building, car parking and soft landscaping – **Application withdrawn**.
- c. Planning/tree applications to consider since the previous meeting – two new tree applications-
 - (1) [26/00059/CTR](#) - 52 Main Street, Ailsworth - (T1) Willow - Repollard (i.e. 4m reduction). (T2) Plum - Cut back from electric line (1m reduction). (T3) Cotoneaster - Repollard (i.e. 2m reduction). (T4) Plum - Reduce by 2m. (G1) Hawthorn and 2no. Plum Trees - Reduce by 2m. APC had no objections.

(2) [26/00101/CTR](#) - 47 Main Street, Ailsworth - Apple tree prune. APC had no objections.

d. Draft Local Plan

(1) Wittering development – land at West Wittering. Comments need to be submitted to PCC by 5th March. Cllr. Moon will be finalising his draft which has been circulated to all Councillors. Clerk will submit to planning at PCC.

e. Neighbourhood plan – 5-year housing requirement figure required from PCC. Cllr. Perkins and Cllr. Moon to attend a zoom meeting with planning along with two Councillors from Castor PC to discuss.

84. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

a. CIL projects/spending ideas.

(1) Table tennis table. Cllrs were presented with two different table tennis tables. The £2,400 table was proposed by Cllr. Stalley and seconded by Cllr. Raven. Cllr. Stalley is going to get a quote from Martin Humphreys for the base where the table will sit and proceed with the purchase of the table. The location of the table was discussed. APC were in agreement of where to have it.

(2) Projector for the Cedar Centre. Cllr. Perkins is going to liaise with Tracey regarding this as it will be so much easier in our monthly parish council meetings if we could bring documents up etc. APC is going to look at how much they are for the possible use of some CIL money.

b. Nature Recovery. £150 budget approved.

c. Improved/new signage for all parish land - recurring item.

d. Bus shelter names/memorial list – recurring item – awaiting new website.

e. 16-acre field agreement.

(1) APC has the draft agreement which is going to be legally checked by a land agent. The cost is £100+VAT. Cllr. Ellershaw to proceed.

(2) APC and CPC are going to have regular liaison meetings with NPT going forward.

f. Metal detecting. APC agreed that metal detecting could be done on the green rec space. Clerk to inform the enquirer of this and to mention that we do not want any detecting done on the wildflower beds on the south side of Station Road.

g. Resident email – verges etc. Clerk to respond.

h. Village fete presence. APC agreed that they won't have a stall at this years village fete. The Annual Parish Meeting date will be before the fete so any concerns etc can be welcomely discussed then.

i. Bus shelter.

(1) Cllr. Perkins has been liaising with the coordinator of the Community Service group, who currently has volunteers looking to provide unpaid assistance in the community. The refurb of the bus shelter is one idea along with the painting of the phone box. APC will purchase the materials. APC were all in agreement of this.

(2) A polite reminder to keep the donations in the bus shelter to books only.

(3) APC would like to say a big thank you to Mr G Simms, a resident of Ailsworth and has been responsible for opening and closing the bus shelter morning and evening, daily. Mr McGinn is no longer able to continue. If anyone is interested in taking this on, please contact the Clerk.

j. Sam Carling. Sam Carling would like to visit again. Cllr. Perkins to follow this up and organise.

85. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

a. None.

86. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

a. [Unity Trust Current Account Statement](#) for January.

b. [Unity Trust Deposit Account Statement](#) for January.

c. Unity Trust Current Account [reconciliation](#) and [transactions](#) for January.

d. Unity Trust Deposit Account [reconciliation](#) for January. Please note there were no transactions.

e. VAT refund received - £1,258.40.

f. Final rent amount received from Andrew Harrison-Smith.

g. Future of Local Government. A few choices have been presented, and APC has the opportunity to comment. Individuals can also comment. The closing date is 26th March. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

h. From 1st April 2026, Peterborough Limited will be direct employees of PCC.

i. Annual meeting format. APC to give this some thought for discussion at the March meeting.

j. Mowing tender quotes. APC has agreed to re-new their contract with Nurture. They were very competitively priced and do the maintenance currently to a satisfactory standard. Clerk to inform Nurture of the renewal and get confirmation of how long the fixed price is for.

k. New website. Clerk confirmed that the new website will be going live imminently. Once this has been done the new email platform will be created and existing emails migrated into the new system. APC email addresses will remain the same.

l. Invoices to be authorised for payment –

(1) [Clerk expenses](#) for January. Approved.

(2) **Nurture invoice** – January rec maintenance - £324.30. Approved.

87. BURIAL GROUNDS

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.

88. ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS

a. Cllr. Pickett mentioned the slabs on the green which are becoming worn and dangerous. Clerk to contact Highways.

b. APC election is on 7th May 2026.

89. COMMITTEE REPORTS/WORKING GROUPS

a. JPLG –

(1) APC agreed the draft Summary of the JPLG meeting held on 15 January together with the revised JCAP.

(2) The next JPLG meeting is on 16th April at 7.30pm in the Cedar Centre.

b. Parish Liaison meeting – date to be confirmed.

90. NEXT MEETING

a. APC confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 16th March 2026.

91. Meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

Michelle Dickens

Michelle Dickens
Clerk to Ailsworth Parish Council
5th March 2026

Signed as a true record: Chair: Dated: