AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of Ailsworth Parish Council held on Monday 19th October 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING

74. **ATTENDANCE**

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

75. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

a. To receive Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items in the agenda: Cllr. Tozer declared his interest in Planning Application 26/002741/FUL below.

b. To receive written requests for Dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None.

c. To grant any requests for Dispensation as appropriate: None.

76. **OPEN FORUM**

a. Two residents attended regarding the recently installed fence around the fields to the south of Ailsworth, towards Water Newton. APC confirmed that NPT has been contacted regarding this and will be invited to our next meeting to discuss further.

b. David Shaw attended to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and Local Plan (LP). David informed APC that the NP team is currently at the stage of assessing various sites and working out the plot allocation on these sites. Once the consultation stage of the LP has passed (12th November), the NP team will begin to progress the NP revision more actively. David got approval from APC for the NP team to make a comment on the draft Local Plan.

77. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

a. To confirm **Meeting Minutes of 7th September 2026** held at the Cedar Centre. Approved and signed by the Chairman.

78. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a. **Planning/tree applications log** – current log.

b. Planning/tree application decisions since the previous meeting –

(1) One tree application – 21 Helpston Road – **permitted**.

c. Planning/tree applications to consider since the previous meeting – two new tree applications and two planning applications -

(1) **26/002872/CTR** – Ailsworth Methodist Church - Wild Cherry (Sgl/306808) - Selectively reduce crown by 25% for the purpose of mitigating a foreseeable risk of failure, due to presence of wood decay fungus – Tree Officer at PCC informed APC via the Clerk that he has no objections.

(2) **26/002965/FUL** - Land To The South Of Old Peterborough Road, Sutton - Change of use of land to cemetery including soft landscaping, car parking and access – **comment deadline date – 28th October 2026**. Clerk to contact Planning to request an extension. Cllr. Perkins to provide Clerk with APC's comments for submission.

(3) **26/002741/FUL** – 1 Barn Cottages, Main Street, Ailsworth - Change of use from residential garage to beauty treatment business including like for like replacement of existing garage door and side door. Clerk to submit APC's comments to Planning which will be visible on the Planning Portal.

(4) **26/003057/CTR** – Turret House, 40 Main Street, Ailsworth - T2) Silver Birch - Reduce height by approx. half, down to sympathetic point. Lop lower branch overhanging the public footpath. APC to have a look at the application and submit any comments to the Clerk to feed back to Planning.

d. Plans - Peterborough draft Local Plan (LP) and Neighbourhood plan (NP).

(1) Update – see Minute 76b above.

(2) Cllr. Moon will be preparing APC's representation on the draft LP for submission to Planning as part of the current consultation.

79. **COMMITTEE REPORTS/WORKING GROUPS**

d. JPLG.

(1) Date of next meeting is 26th November 2026 at 7.30pm.

(2) Draft agenda. To be agreed at November meeting.

(3) Terms of Reference. John confirmed that it might not be necessary for these to be re-approved. If it is, it can be done at the joint meeting.

e. PLMG.

(1) 16-acre field rent. Clerk confirmed that both instalments for the year are on their way - £1,440.

(2) Recently erected fence on Water Meadows. See Minute 76a above.

(3) New Close – PECT. Clerk to reach out to PECT to get an update.

(a) The proposal of a new 'fragile roof' sign for the shed was approved.

80. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

a. CIL (CIL balance - £6,115.67).

(1) Ideas –

i. Area around table tennis table. Cllr. Stalley to get a quote for matting and a quote to secure the table down properly.

ii. 16-acre field work. APC agreed to wait until our next meeting to discuss with NPT.

iii. Nature recovery expenses inc plaque. Approved.

iv. Table tennis balls. Cllr. Stalley purchased more. Noted.

v. Bike track. Cllr. Ellershaw briefly outlined the costings for a potential bike/pump track, noting that there was a considerable variation in the estimated costs. The next step is to arrange for a company representative to visit the site and carry out an assessment, which will be provided free of charge. Cllr. Ellershaw to circulate the slides which she ran through in the meeting. Cllr. Tozer is happy to assist with this.

b. Nature Recovery.

(1) Update.

i. Cllr. Stalley confirmed that 95% of the trees survived the summer heatwaves.

ii. Clerk to contact NPT to thank them for their time & effort to cut the long grass along with the wildflower meadow.

(2) Email from Sophie Rolfe – Conservation Officer. Cllr. Stalley informed APC that he has been liaising with Sophie regarding an audit taking place of all of the flowers and plants in the rec and 16-acre field, with the view of residents taking over the task in the future. APC thought this was a great idea. Cllr. Stalley to follow up.

(3) Tree survey feedback. Cllr. Stalley reported that the tree on the green needs to be taken down. Clerk to start obtaining quotes for the work to present at the November meeting.

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

d. Bus shelter names/memorial list – recurring item.

e. Phone box. Cllr. Tozer to have a look to see what's preventing the door from opening and sort if possible.

f. Litter pick. APC thanked Cllr. Raven for organising another successful litter pick.

g. Hedge opposite rec. Approval given to Cllr. Moon to pay £14-£21 to access the Land Registry, so that APC can identify once and for all who owns the hedge opposite the rec.

h. Area in rec for pet memorial garden. Deferred to next meeting.

81. **HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY MATTERS**

a. Speed sign.

(1) Clerk confirmed that the speed sign has been repaired.

(2) £758.64 to be paid to ElanCity. Total cost, minus £250 excess and VAT (reclaimable) reimbursed from APC's insurance company.

(3) The Street Lighting Team at PCC has been contacted by Highways to book a date in for the sign to be re-installed.

b. Feedback on bus/parking issues at school. Cllr. Tozer confirmed his attendance at the recent meeting and confirmed he can attend the next meeting in early December. Further discussions will be had regarding how busy it gets at school drop off and pick up and if there is a solution.

82. **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.

83. **ALLOTMENTS**

a. Allotment review. Clerk to meet with Cllr. Stalley to go through the current vacancies, new allocations and waiting list.

84. **GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

c. Unity Trust Current Account -

(1) **Statement**, **reconciliation** and **transactions** for September.

d. Unity Trust Deposit Account –

(1) **Statement**, **reconciliation** and **transactions** for September.

e. Unity Trust 32-Day Notice Account –

(1) **Statement**, **reconciliation** and **transactions** for September.

f. **Income and expenditure/budget summary** – quarter two-July-September.

g. Finance meeting to be arranged – 2027-2028 budget. Noted.

h. Clerk revised contract. Cllr. Moon will be preparing the Clerks revised contract of employment, including the increase of working hours and pension.

i. External auditor. Clerk reported that the external audit is complete and all relevant documentation has been published in accordance with the requirements.

j. Remembrance wreath purchased. Noted.

k. Archive plan. Cllr. Raven and Cllr. Pickett are working together on this.

l. Invoices authorised for payment –

(a) Clerk expenses – Sept - £8.80.

(b) Reimbursement to Clerk for wreath - £27.50.

(c) PKF – external audit fee - £252.

(d) Nurture – September mowing - £343.12.

(e) Cedar Centre hire – July and September - £60.

(f) Elan City – VAS - £758.64.

(g) Rebecca Peace – tree survey - £250.

(h) The Feathers – litter pick refreshments - £134.20

(i) Clerk invoiced Castor for 50%.

85. **ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS**

a. None.

86. **NEXT MEETING**

87. Date of next meeting – Monday 16th November 2026.

88. Meeting concluded at 9.35pm.

Michelle Dickens

Michelle Dickens
Clerk to Ailsworth Parish Council
27th October 2026

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