

Aynho Village Report 2024

Draft Minutes – 20 May 2024 @19:00

2401 Welcome from the Chairman of the meeting: APC Chairman, Cllr Dawn Willis

The Chairman, Councillor Dawn Willis, introduced herself and welcomed attendees to the meeting. She explained that she was new to the role of Chairman, Aynho Parish Council.

She introduced Councillors and the RFO, including the recently appointed Vice Chairman, Aynho Parish Council, Cllr Alan Beaumont. All councillors and RFO made a brief statement about themselves. The APC Clerk sent his apologies, as he was unable to attend the meeting.

2402 Minutes of the Parish Meeting 22 May 2023

Unanimously Agreed.

2403 Reports and presentations from Aynho organisations

Chairman's report

Farewell and thanks to Jeremy James following his retirement from APC after 20 years service.

We now have 3 vacancies – if anyone is interested contact APC via the website or email on clerk@aynho-pc.gov.uk.

Previous councillors thanked for their service. Current councillors will follow the Nolan principles of public office. APC have a new PC website, thanks to LH. The Annual village report is available in hard copy if needed and you can't access it remotely.

Active village groups, many are here to see and are represented at the tables in the hall tonight.

Brackley FC want to provide a defibrillator for the Pavilion, (Do it for Defib). APC are supporting this initiative.

Funding is available to improve the Pavilion, including the fitting of a new kitchen and improvement to the access road. Plans for the longer-term future of the Pavilion are on display this evening, for residents to view.

APC has adopted the maintenance of the stocks – thanks to Cybil's help – APC will now take over responsibility.

Activities for 2024 include: replacing the Pavilion kitchen, preventing speeding traffic through the village, commenting on planning applications, explore improving pedestrian access to Aynho Wharf.

Ward Councillor Rebecca Breeze, West Northamptonshire Council

RB's report has been submitted to the APC Clerk. The following provide some highlights:

- Good financial governance at WNC. Reporting a small underspend.
- Adult social care and children's services are our priority.
- Pot holes are a big problem everywhere. We want to convert capital to a fund to pay for pot holes maintenance of wider areas not just individual pot holes that meet prescriptive conditions.
- By-pass at Farthinghoe has no funding (£27m) so it's been parked.

- Public transport – Aynho has no buses as there's no demand. However, we are putting money into other services like Dial-Up.
- Acorn bio digester at Barley Mow corner: planning application refused but likely to be appealed. Relevant because of potential traffic and it's the biggest in the country.
- Local Plan 2041 consultation – no strategic housing sites nearby. We are no longer going to support self-builds outside the village confines.
- Keeping profile of rural places high on the agenda is tricky – Northampton seems to get most of the funding due to the challenges. We do what we can.

Rosie Herring

I was asked to join Cabinet. 2 ward members on a cabinet of 10 which is good representation. On your behalf we help with several things including:

- fuel poverty, post covid initiatives, Local Area Partnership relating to preventative efforts to help with health and wellness based in Brackley. We try and get a local perspective. People here do not look to Northampton but more Banbury. There's a website for learning about regular walks, getting space for building facilities for "Men in Sheds" based at Evenley Wood. We consider where we can help and raise money for charity.
- Next election we go down to 2 councillors following boundary changes. Anti-poverty strategy money is used to help children in school holidays get meals – will carry on at least through this summer.

Councillor Leslie Horley introduced the new website and ran through key navigation elements. APC are using a government-recommended provider called Parish Online. APC's website will be separate from village community website but will provide a link to it.

Councillor Ray Willis introduced plans for the pavilion which we now need to finalise. Drawings available to share after the meeting.

The Chairman invited David Dean to talk about the Park Club Draw, and explained that it could not be run by APC, as it would be unlawful to do so because it falls under lottery/parish council regulations.

Park Club Draw

Contributions to Aynho Active have been good in the past. Lately not so well subscribed – current sub is £18. Will draw some lots this evening but been difficult lately because he is no longer a councillor. David Dean would be pleased to hand it on to anyone who could manage it. This would need to be done if we all want it to continue.

2404 Questions from the public

Approx 21 members of the public attended.

Q1 - On planning – last year we talked about environmental issues with new windows in listed buildings etc. Then the planning system broke down and then lots of officers available so things have improved. But we are still unclear about guidance and advice on heritage aspects.

CLlr Rebecca Breeze explained that they have retained staff lately and are doing better with only 2 contract staff. Climate change has lost focus. Rebecca Breeze is now climate change champion and

not leading on planning any longer. She is aware of need for resilience on housing. Some things really shouldn't require planning permission.

Q2 - Are you rebuilding the pavilion? What do you see as the first step to doing this?

A – Cllr Ray Willis explained that APC will consult local residents first. The pavilion will not last forever. Cost is likely to be a few hundred thousand pounds.

Q3 – Accessing playing field equipment. The rounders set donated but how do people know it's there to use?

A – Cllr Ray Willis explained that up until recently we didn't know where things were or what was available. But we need a list of what's available.

Cllr Dawn Willis added that APC are conducting a full inventory of all the equipment we have and that will go on the website and you can hire what is available. There is so much that we don't yet know but we do have some lovely equipment available.

Q4 – looking at connecting Aynho with the wharf is great but perhaps consider the amenity track on the sports field is not accessible to everyone. Instead they could use the old amenity – walkway from Aynho corner along Ryelands which would be an easy fix for now. It would also help those people who walk around the village.

Cllr Dawn Willis – thank you for suggestion this and we will look into it.

Q5 – have we got a footpath warden at the moment?

A – Cllr Dawn Willis – unsure but it will be a good thing to pick up on.

Cllr Simon Wormald - We are still allocating responsibilities which will be easier when we have a full cohort of councillors. Then we will put these roles on the website.

Q6 – problems with the road closures and overhanging branches. How long is the road due to be closed? Also trucks are now longer by 10 feet and are causing havoc.

A – Cllr Dawn Willis – 2 weeks and it relates to sewerage pipes.

Any other business

None

Cllr Dawn Willis closed the meeting and invited people to stay for tea and chat. David Dean will conduct the park club draw.

Meeting closed at 20:00.