

Aynho Parish Council

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PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: Aynho Village Hall

1st December 2025, 7:00PM

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Dawn Willis (Chair)

Cllr Ray Willis

Cllr Poppy Hoole

Cllr Helen Mackenzie

Cllr David Leigh

0 members of public

Meeting commenced: 19:00

25/155 Apologies for absence

The Chair confirmed the resignation received from Councillor Richard Rees. Council recorded its sincere thanks to Cllr Rees for his service, dedication, and significant contribution he has made during his time in office.

Apologies received: **Cllrs Horley, Foxon & Stephenson.**

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve apologies for absence.

25/156 Members' declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

25/157 Public Participation

None.

25/158 Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council of 3rd November 2025

On the proposition of Cllr R Willis, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 3rd November 2025.

25/159 Planning

None.

25/160 Authorisation of Payments

Cllrs Leigh & R Willis inspected and confirmed bank reconciliation and invoices against payments schedule.

On the proposition of Cllr Leigh, seconded by the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve payments scheduled November to December 2025.

On the proposition of Cllr Leigh, seconded by Cllr R Willis, it was **RESOLVED**: to receive and note schedule of receipts **£140.00**.

25/161 Pre-approval of Payments – January to February 2026

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve delegation to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, to authorise and make necessary payments falling due before the next scheduled meeting of the Council in February 2026, as no meeting will be held in January. Details of all payments to be reported and ratified at the February meeting.

25/162 Playground Redevelopment – External Consultancy Approach

Chair Update: Cllr Foxon put the item forward in her absence for Council to consider the suggestion that the Parish Council engage in an initial discussion with a consulting team to explore concept options within statutory parameters, with a view to receiving indicative concepts or findings early next year. The consultancy support would cover assessment of existing play facilities, advice on design options, and management of a compliant tender process.

It was agreed that Cllr Hoole will work with Cllr Foxon, supported by the Chair, to canvas ideas and bring a further proposal to the February 2026 meeting.

25/163 Community Speed Watch

Cllr R Willis Update: An update has been provided on the Community Speed Watch (CSW) scheme following this year's pilot with the Staverton Parish CSW group and support from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Key proposed changes include:

- Introduction of smaller, lighter RADAR equipment that no longer requires a tripod.
- Each participating group to have its own kit, allowing independent operation and submission of results between March and October.
- A one-off cost of £150 per parish/group, after which the equipment becomes the property of the group.

Formal invitations to join the updated scheme are expected early in the new year.

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: that Cllr R Willis register the Council's interest in purchasing the equipment at a cost of £150 when available; and confirm participation in the updated Community Speed Watch (CSW) scheme going forward.

25/164 Level of Reserves

RFO Update: Cllr Leigh brought the item forward to seek clarity on the Council's reserves, noting guidance in the *Practitioners' Guide 2025* (Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel) regarding appropriate reserve levels:

- **General Reserves:** Recommended minimum level is between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure (para. 5.34).

- **Earmarked Reserves (EMRs):** No upper or lower limit, provided they are held for genuine and identifiable purposes/projects, reviewed at least annually, and clearly itemised (para. 5.39). It was noted that significant EMRs may attract auditor queries.

The RFO explained the current position and forecast year-end reserve levels, including the purposes for which all reserves are held.

It was agreed that the RFO will amend the title of the 'Sports Field' Earmarked Reserve to 'Sports Field Donation' to provide additional clarity.

25/165 Highway Improvements

Cllr Leigh Update: Council could consider suggestions for potential improvements in the Glebe, including measures to discourage verge parking and to enhance the environment for residents.

Members discussed how the Parish Council should seek wider resident input on possible highways-related improvements and considered appropriate processes for inviting ideas and suggestions in order to identify priorities. It was noted that the Village Survey is due for renewal in 2026, which may provide relevant resident feedback.

On the proposition of Cllr R Willis, it was **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Leigh write to WNC Highways to explore possible options regarding verge adjustments, including paving, at the Glebe.

25/166 Village Christmas Preparations

Village Christmas tree erected and decorated on **28th November**, council noted the **kind donation of the tree from Perry Tree Farm.**

25/167 Community Matters

a) Health & Safety:

- Cllr R Willis Update:** Village Hall Defibrillator fault identified by supplier, new defibrillator unit to be supplied.
- Chair Update:** Broken footpath at Back Path scheduled for repair by February 2026.

b) Grounds Maintenance: *None*

c) Consultations:

- Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Public Consultation: Precept and Public Confidence Survey 2026/2027.**

25/168 Newsletter

Items for next newsletter edition – Cllr Mackenzie to edit on behalf of council.

- Thanks to Cllr Rees
- Community Speed Watch
- Defibrillator replacement
- No Council meeting in January
- Council Precept level held

25/169 Next Meeting

2nd February 2026 – Full Council Meeting

Please note, this is a public meeting. Copies of all council papers are available to download at www.aynho-pc.gov.uk

Meeting closed: 20:20

Signed: