

Aynho Parish Council

Tel.: 01869 810209

Email: clerk@aynho-pc.gov.uk

Web: www.aynho-pc.gov.uk

Twitter: @aynho

Postal Address: c/o Aynho Village Hall, Croughton Road, Aynho OX17 3BD



PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: Aynho Village Hall

2nd February 2026, 7:00PM

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Dawn Willis (Chair)

Cllr Poppy Hoole

Cllr David Leigh

Cllr Jerry Stephenson

5 members of public

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Cllr Ray Willis

Cllr Helen Mackenzie

Cllr Les Horley

25/170 Apologies for absence

None.

The Chair confirmed the resignation received from Councillor Emma Foxon. Council recorded its sincere thanks to Cllr Foxon for her service, dedication, and significant contribution made during her time in office.

25/171 Members' declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

25/172 Public Participation

- A resident representing **Aynho Cricket Club (ACC)** spoke regarding agenda item **25/185**.

The resident advised that ACC had reviewed the proposed licence agreement and had submitted comments to then Cllr Richard Rees. ACC confirmed that it is willing to pay ongoing fees for use of the pavilion for home matches, including associated services such as water for wicket preparation, and other reasonable costs identified by the Council.

ACC wishes to work constructively with the Council to avoid conflict with other users during cricket fixtures. However, under the proposed licence agreement, ACC is **not prepared to pay any fees relating to use of the wicket or outfield**, on the basis that ACC members are Aynho residents and the sports field exists for the benefit of villagers.

It was noted that ACC requires the cricket square and wickets to be fenced off and unavailable to other users throughout the year, and that use of the square and wickets by non-ACC users, including informal recreational use, is not permitted. It was further noted that the Parish Council is requesting a hire fee in respect of the cricket square and wickets due to the exclusive use being sought, which precludes access by other villagers for general recreation, family games, or practice.

ACC advised that during home fixtures, additional facilities (including frisbee nets) are removed for the duration of matches to avoid conflict with cricket use.

ACC is content to pay for pavilion use but not for use of the outfield or wicket. ACC considers that a licence agreement is not the appropriate mechanism and instead would prefer to enter into a **Memorandum of Understanding**, lasting one to two years.

It was further stated that between **April and October**, the outfield should be available for ACC use during home fixtures; when no fixtures are scheduled, ACC is suggesting football or golf should not take place on the outfield.

- A further resident also spoke regarding agenda item **25/185**, highlighting that preparation of the cricket square and individual wickets is a lengthy process, taking up to **two months** to prepare a wicket for a match and that allowing access by other users would therefore require careful coordination with ACC. It was noted that many villages designate and mark off cricket areas.

The resident emphasised that the sports field is owned by the village and is used freely by residents, and that the principle should be that the ground is owned by villagers, who should have priority access and should not be charged for its use. It was noted that free use by villagers excluded the wicket and square.

- A resident spoke on a **non-agenda item**, raising concerns about traffic safety when turning left onto Charlton Road from the Banbury direction due to oncoming traffic. The resident suggested that a one-way system should be considered.

25/173 Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council of 1st December 2025

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 1st December 2025.

24/174 Co-option to Fill Casual Vacancy

No candidates.

25/175 Planning

To discuss and approve a response as a consultee on:

[2025/5030/LBC](#) - Bortons Farm 14 Roundtown Aynho OX17 3BG - Listed building consent to replace 3 no. existing windows with hardwood casement windows with heritage double glazing. - *No comments.*

[2025/4784/FULL](#) - Bortons Farm 14 Roundtown Aynho OX17 3BG - Replace 3 no. existing windows with hardwood casement windows with heritage double glazing. - *No comments.*

[2025/5127/FULL](#) - Land North of Charlton Road Charlton Road Aynho Banbury OX17 3A - Retrospective change of use from agricultural use to a secure dog walking field with parking area and improved access via Charlton Road. - *No comments.*

[2026/0017/TPO](#) - 4 The Square Aynho OX17 3BL - Works to 1x Yew tree subject to TPO and within a conservation area. - *No comments.*

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

[2025/5311/S73](#) - Park Lodge Croughton Road Aynho OX17 3AX - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and condition 3 (Written scheme of investigation for Level 2) and removal of condition 4 and 5 of planning permission WNS/2022/0489/FULL (Demolition of existing single-storey extension, replacement with two-storey and single storey rear/side extensions) – *Objection to any proposed variation or removal of condition.*

Clerk update: Information requests regarding enabling development at Aynho have been received from Dorset. Clerk has responded with factual information only.

25/176 Authorisation of Payments

Cllr Stephenson inspected and confirmed bank reconciliation and invoices against payments schedule.

On the proposition of Cllr Stephenson, seconded by Cllr R Willis, it was **RESOLVED:** to approve payments scheduled January to February 2026.

On the proposition of Cllr Stephenson, seconded by Cllr R Willis, it was **RESOLVED:** to receive and note schedule of receipts **£180.00**.

25/177 Bank Reconciliation

On the proposition of the Chair, seconded by Cllr Horley, it was **RESOLVED:** to receive and note bank reconciliation to 31st December 2025.

25/178 Expenditure Against Budget

On the proposition of the Chair, seconded by Cllr Horley, it was **RESOLVED:** to receive and note expenditure against budget to 31st December 2025.

25/179 Internal Control

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED:** to appoint Cllr Horley as an Internal Control Councillor for remainder of the 2025/26 financial year.

25/180 Implementation of Assertion 10 (Practitioners' Guide 2025)

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED:** to confirm that the Council has considered Assertion 10 and any recommendations required to ensure compliance with digital governance standards.

25/181 IT Policy

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED:** to adopt the IT Policy for Aynho Parish Council.

25/182 Asset of Community Value

The Chair, together with Cllrs Horley and Leigh, provided an update on the status of **The Cartwright Hotel** and outlined the available options.

It was noted that there is **no immediate action required by the Council** at this time.

Action: Cllr Leigh to include an update in the Parish newsletter, disseminate relevant information to the community, and organise a community meeting.

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

25/183 Pavilion Wi-Fi and CCTV

The Chair updated Members on frequent enquiries regarding the availability of Wi-Fi at the Pavilion and outlined recent incidents of damage that may potentially be addressed through the installation of CCTV, noting that CCTV would require a reliable Wi-Fi connection.

Council considered the installation of Wi-Fi at the Pavilion and the feasibility of CCTV, further to recent damage, including associated costs, data protection implications, management arrangements, and possible funding options.

Discussion points included:

- A broken window at the Pavilion.
- Whether Wi-Fi provision would improve use of the Pavilion for hirers, community groups, and Council meetings.
- Recent incidents of damage and whether CCTV may act as a deterrent.
- Initial installation and ongoing maintenance costs for both Wi-Fi and CCTV.
- Data protection requirements, including signage and policies associated with CCTV.
- Responsibility for monitoring, access to footage, and ongoing management.
- Potential funding sources, including budget provision, grants, and insurance contributions.

Cllr R Willis reported that:

- **Gigaclear** had quoted approximately **£4,800** to bring a Wi-Fi supply to the Pavilion, with additional related costs making this option unviable.
- **BT** service is poor in the area.
- **Starlink Mini** is available at an approximate hardware cost of **£200**, is easy to install, and operates on a subscription basis.

On the proposition of Cllr Horley, seconded by Cllr Mackenzie, it was **RESOLVED:** to purchase **Starlink Mini**, at an approximate hardware cost of **£200**.

Action: Clerk to progress installation of the Wi-Fi and to bring forward item to discuss CCTV options, including costs, data protection requirements, and management arrangements, once Wi-Fi is operational.

The Chair thanked **Cllr R Willis** for arranging the repair of the broken window at the Pavilion.

25/184 Pavilion Charges

The Chair updated Members following feedback from users indicating that current Pavilion hire charges are too low, particularly in the context of rising operational and maintenance costs.

Council considered the current Pavilion hire charges and whether an increase was appropriate. This included a proposal to retain tennis hire charges at the current rate, to review the Pavilion hourly rates (£5.00 per hour for residents and £8.00 per hour for non-

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

residents), and to consider maintaining existing rates for regular users with **10 or more bookings per year** as a loyalty incentive.

On the proposition of Cllr Horley, seconded by the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: that from **April 2026** Pavilion hire charges be increased to **£7.00 per hour for residents** and **£12.00 per hour for non-residents**.

It was further resolved that **frequent users with 10 or more annual bookings** would continue to be charged at the **current rates**.

25/185 Update on Cricket Club Licence Agreement

On the proposition of **the Chair**, it was **RESOLVED**: that **Cllr Horley** meet with **Aynho Cricket Club (ACC)** as the Council's representative to further discuss the draft Cricket Club Licence Agreement and to feedback to council.

Cllr Horley added that other clubs, such as a Tennis Club, could also be viable in the future and that similar licence agreement arrangements should apply.

25/186 Playpark – Update

The Chair provided an update on progress to date, including her and Cllr Hoole recent meeting with **Playdale**. Further meetings are scheduled with alternative playground suppliers **Elevate Play** and **Creative Play**. The Chair also advised that users are being canvassed for feedback.

Initial quotations received total approximately **£58,000**, with installation costs forming a significant proportion of the overall figure. The Chair outlined some of the items included within the quotations and noted that **grant funding and fundraising will be required**. It was advised that the **monkey bars will need to be removed** from the Playpark. Suggested replacement or additional items included **additional swings, a see-saw, a zip-wire, and trim-trail equipment**. Members noted that the existing equipment was installed in **2014**.

Cllr Hoole commented that there is significant scope for improvement, including upgrading existing items, making better use of available space, and removing any redundant equipment in advance to help manage costs. It was noted that the Playpark is a valuable enclosed and safe space, while the recreation ground offers greater space for older children. Families often split use between the Playpark for younger children and the recreation ground for older children. Cllr Hoole suggested that the Playpark could benefit from modest maintenance improvements, while the recreation ground may be more suitable for new equipment. Parking improvements were also suggested for consideration.

Members agreed on the importance of establishing community views, including undertaking a **village survey**. A **pump track** was suggested for consideration.

Cllr Stephenson advised that there may be potential for a **donation from the village lottery**.

25/187 Keep Aynho Beautiful

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: that the Spring village clean-up will take place on **Saturday 21 March 2026 at 10:00am**.

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

25/188 Highway Improvements

- a) The Chair outlined residents' concerns regarding parking along **Croughton Road**. It was reported that **Cllr R Willis** had contacted Highways, who have proposed two possible solutions.
Action: Cllr R Willis to seek views from affected residents and report feedback to Council.
- b) **Cllr Leigh** provided an update following contact with **West Northamptonshire Council Highways** regarding possible verge adjustments, including paving, at **The Glebe**. It was noted that no funding is currently available and no immediate action is planned; however, the matter has been added to the Highways list. Members agreed that a clearer list of requirements and requests for Highways should be developed. It was suggested that a **village survey** could be used to identify priorities.

Action: Cllr Leigh, supported by Cllr Mackenzie, to produce an updated village survey for consideration by Council.

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED:** to suspend Standing Order 3(x) to allow the meeting to continue.

25/189 Community Matters

- a) **Health & Safety**
 - a. Councillors noted that the **defibrillator at the Village Hall** has been reinstated with a new battery and pads.
 - b. The Chair updated members that **footpaths along Charlton Road** (between The Butts and Raincliffe, and from Raincliffe to Butts Close), as well as **Back Path**, have been reported to **West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)**. WNC has attended and scraped back grass to the pathway edge, with no further action deemed necessary.
 - c. The Chair updated Members following a request from residents of **Little Lane** for the provision of a grit bin. A request was submitted to **WNC**, which was declined. Council considered the option of the Parish Council purchasing a new grit bin for **The Square**, including ongoing filling and maintenance responsibilities. It was noted by the Clerk that landowner permission would be required for installation, likely from WNC.

Action: Cllr Horley to canvas local residents on a suitable location for a grit bin, check permissions from WNC, and report back to Council.

- b) **Grounds Maintenance:** *None*

Responding to Non-Contentious Matters Between Meetings

Cllr Leigh outlined a proposal for an agreed mechanism to respond to non-contentious issues requiring a Council response outside the normal meeting cycle. The proposed process was as follows:

1. A non-contentious issue requiring a response before the next scheduled meeting is identified by any Councillor or the Clerk.

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

2. The Councillor or Clerk identifying the issue circulates an email to all Councillors and the Clerk, including a suggested response.
3. The proposed response is considered, commented on, revised, and agreed by email.
4. A vote on the proposed response is taken by email. A simple majority would be required to proceed; any Councillor not voting would be deemed to have voted against.
5. Voting options would be:
 - a. Agree – vote in favour;
 - b. Disagree – vote against or abstain;
 - c. Veto – any Councillor may object to the process and require the matter to be deferred to the next Council meeting.
6. Any item progressed under this mechanism, together with the action taken, would be recorded at the next Council meeting and discussed further if required.

The Chair advised that, outside the normal meeting cycle, an **emergency meeting** could be called to agree a response if necessary. The Clerk advised that, for governance purposes, a **properly constituted meeting** or **formal delegation** would be required in order to agree a response on behalf of the corporate body.

c) **Consultations and responses considered:**

a) **Northants CALC Snapshot Survey** on parish and town councils' satisfaction with their Local Planning Authority (WNC or NNC). Closing date **31 January 2026**.

Noted: The Clerk had completed the response.

b) **Consultation on West Northamptonshire Council's Draft Budget Proposals 2026/27**. Closing date **midnight Tuesday 3 February 2026**. *No response.*

c) **Annual Parish Consultation Survey** organised by **Kier Transportation** on behalf of **WNC Highways**. Closing date **31 March 2026**.

On the proposition of **ClIr Horley**, it was **RESOLVED** to **delegate the Council's response to ClIr R Willis**.

d) **Upcoming Consultation on the Draft West Northamptonshire Local Plan**.

Members noted that this consultation will provide a key opportunity for Parish Councils to comment on proposals guiding future development across West Northamptonshire.

25/190 Newsletter

Council discussed items to be included in the next edition of the Parish newsletter.

Action: ClIr Mackenzie to edit the newsletter on behalf of the Council.

- Spring village clean-up: **21 March, 10:00am**
- Village survey
- Community Speed Camera
- Councillor vacancies

25/191 Next Meeting

2nd March 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: 21:20

Signed: