



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITTASLOW AYLSHAM COMMITTEE
HELD AT DRILL HALL, ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 11:00**

PRESENT: Mr P Prekopp, Slow Food Aylsham, Chairman
Mrs M Anderson-Dungar – WI/Aylsham Country Market
Mrs C Bould, Aylsham Town Council
Mr K Cunnane, Aylsham Town Council
Mrs M Evans, Aylsham Town Council
Mr G Margaron, Aylsham Community Partnership
Mr G Peers, Broadland District Council
Mrs W Sadler, Aylsham in Bloom
Mrs J St Clair, Aylsham U3A

In the absence of an officer, Mrs Anderson-Dungar agreed to take the Minutes.
Mrs Evans updated the meeting on the Town Clerk situation.

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No formal apologies had been received

02. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

None received

03. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 October 2024, as previously circulated, were **agreed, confirmed, and signed by the Chairman** with the addition of Mr G Peers to the list of apologies received.

04. MATTERS ARISING

Trees in the Market Place – there was no update.

05. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

In the absence of any member of the public, the meeting continued without adjournment

06. CITTASLOW UK & CITTASLOW INTERNATIONAL

Cittaslow UK – the AGM and Board Meeting was held on 12 November. Catherine Claydon from Mold is the new Chair of Cittaslow UK. Directorships will be finalised at the 2025 AGM to be held in March 2025. Mold has formed a new Cittaslow Steering Group following the Town Council’s decision to remain in membership until 2026.

International – Mrs Anderson-Dungar had attended the October Co-ordinating Committee via Zoom, and Catherine Claydon from Mold had attended the Assembly in June 2024.

07. CITTASLOW IN AYLSHAM

The Chairman had given a talk to Probus members on Cittaslow and Slow Food.

08. FOOD AND CRAFT MARKET AND GENERAL MARKETS

- a) Food & Craft Market – The November market was reasonably well attended.
- b) General Markets Monday & Friday – still holding their own.

09. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Mrs Bould was pleased to report that the Town Council had agreed a proposal from ACE to fund the blister pack recycling for 2025. Donations of blister packs were ever increasing, and ACE had received requests for information from towns who wished to set up similar projects. ACE groups were engaging more with residents via social media postings, polls on community noticeboards on topics such as how people access the town, (70% of respondents walk or cycle), reducing plastic waste at Christmas. Followers are across all age groups.

10. PROJECTS

Information/updates were provided on the following:

- 2025 anniversary of Cittaslow and Slow Food in Aylsham – The Chairman had met via Zoom with the officer from LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) who would contact local farmers for commitment to Open Farm Sunday in June, plus the possibility of other occasions for farm visits and linking with local schools. Generally, all groups were asked to consider how they could contribute to the celebrations throughout the year. With regard to the other UK towns, Mold and Llangollen would celebrate 20 years and 10 years respectively in 2026, and it was suggested that Cittaslow UK be approached for a financial contribution towards each town’s celebrations. The Chairman, Mr Margaron and Mrs Anderson-Dungar agreed to prepare a proposal for the March 2025 Board Meeting. The Town Council also to be approached. Mr Peers offered assistance via a colleague with preparing a programme of events.
- In Bloom – the Town Council had agreed to replace the grey planters in Spring 2025 with ones made from recycled materials, and to buy mangers for the allotments;



a lottery application was to be made, and Mrs Evans would enquire as to progress. In Bloom would provide any wording required for the application. In Bloom would contribute £1000 for plants, commemorative plaques for the 25-year Anniversary, and to repaint the other planters. Woodgate Nurseries had agreed in principle to take delivery of the new planters and provide space for planting up; Town Council to organise transport to the Market Place. The existing wooden planters are deteriorating rapidly and may soon need to be removed.

- Mrs Bould advised of the need to re-surface the Smile Park areas on the Recreation Ground. It had been agreed to tackle the junior area first, and a project had been developed in collaboration with Kompan to re-surface and provide a piece of sensory play equipment. Funding had been obtained from Pride in Place, s.106 money from the Town Council and the Paul Bassham Trust. Work was due to start in December. An application had also been made to the Aylsham Show Association for funding to provide a wheelchair accessible bench. Thanks were recorded to all the funders.

- Aylsham – “the Norfolk Capital of Food”– Mr Peers referred to the Melton Mowbray Capital of Food project outlined at the Market Towns Conference and suggested this could be applied to Aylsham with its growing reputation as a “foodie town.” The Norfolk Capital of Food strapline could be progressed via Visit Aylsham, applied throughout social media promotions for events, used by traders, etc. Mr Peers will prepare a marketing plan. The Chairman to get an initial reaction from the Chairman of the newly formed Aylsham Business Consortium.

11. AYLSHAM COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE

The next event is the Lights Switch-On Evening on 29 November. Father Christmas will switch on the lights. The newly formed Business Consortium will be represented on the Committee from 2025, and the Events Officer will attend Business Consortium Meetings.

12. SLOW FOOD AYLSHAM

Slow Food Aylsham is now part of ACE, with a section on the ACE website. They will collaborate with the Heritage Centre on a ration book trail as part of the 2025 History Day. The Heritage Centre will host a reception to thank the Red Lion Street traders for their support of the very successful Red Lion Street exhibition this year.

13. AYLSHAM IN BLOOM

Mrs Sadler reported that autumn planting had been completed. Fence repairs were awaited for the Paupers Graveyard. There was no work required in the churchyard at this time of year, but Andy Bell would monitor in conjunction with Church volunteers. Some box hedging had suffered box moth caterpillar infestation this year; treatment would be required next year

14. AYLSHAM BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FORUM (ABEF)

This item to be renamed Aylsham Business Consortium for future agenda. In the absence of a representative, the Chairman reported that the group had adopted a Constitution, Terms of Reference and Aims and Objectives; the new Chair is Emma Payne of M's. Three late night opening sessions are planned for 5, 12 and 19 December, plus Christmas Wander'land competitions. Transfer of funds from ABEF is in hand with Barclays Bank.

15. AYLSHAM PARISH CHURCH

There was no report or representation from Aylsham Churches Together. However, it was noted that the Remembrance Service was well attended, and preparations are well under way for the Christmas Tree Festival.

16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NEXT AGENDA

Next Agenda – The Chairman, Mrs Evans, and Mr Peers to prepare an action plan for the Town Council to identify the main points from the Market Towns Conference that would benefit the Council and the town.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was **agreed** as Wednesday 22 January 2025

18. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:58