

AYLBURTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 20 May 2025, 6.30 pm at
Aylburton Methodist Community Rooms

PARTICIPATING:

Cllr Frankie Evans (Chair)
 Cllr Claire Shirley
 Cllr Lorraine Haddrell
 Cllr Mark Topping
 Cllr Julie Tallis

ATTENDING:

Rachel Hales (Clerk)
 Mark Westwood

No/Ref	Item/Notes	Action
APA01.25/26	1. To receive any apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr Mark Harvey. Accepted.	
APA02.25/26	2. Welcome. As Chair of the meeting, Cllr FE welcomed all in attendance.	
APA03.25/26	3. To approve the accuracy of the 2024 Annual Parish Assembly Minutes. Approved.	
APA04.25/26	4. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report. <i>Through 2024-25 the parish council has continued to pursue our priorities as outlined in las years Chair's report;</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Safety in relation to roads 2. Appearance of the Village 3. Communications with the residents 4. Reducing risk. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data from the ANPR camera continues to be collated and analysed. The information is forwarded to the police and letters are sent to motorists who exceed the speed limit. Zebra crossing: the update from the petition is available on our website. The next steps are to fund a feasibility study and options are being considered. TRO – speed limit reduction: We are looking to liaise and work with other villages along the A48 to apply for a TRO to reduce speed limits with the village. 2. The cherry trees planted at the Lydney end of the village are a great success and certainly herald the entrance to the village. The scrubland outside Lydney Park Estate has been cleared. Volunteers and continuing to hand weed the village. We are grateful to all residents planting and tending to the village flower tubs on a voluntary basic and thank them for all their hard work. 3. The council continues to use the following ways to communicate with parishioners; Ducktown Echo, website, Facebook, 5 noticeboards situated throughout the parish, news releases, notices and leaflets. Dave Crabbe, current editor of the Ducktown Echo is stepping down and we are actively looking for someone to take on this important role. We would like to take the opportunity to thank David for all his hard work. 4. The clerk has investigated obtaining grants for flood prevention but has unfortunately been unsuccessful to date. Following Storm Bert, which caused significant flooding to several homes, the parish council is working on what we can do to help in these instances, including working on an emergency plan, volunteer depending. We are currently looking at the best flood defence measures and potential storage options. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Cllr Frankie Evans (Chair)</i></p> 	
APA05.25/26	5. Reports from local organisations (either in person or sent in). Mark Westwood, Scouts: We were the largest group in the Forest but sadly lost some leaders and a beaver's colony and squirrel drey both shut. However, we have now	

reopened a second beaver colony. We have 2 cub packs of 48 and 24+ scouts. We are starting to see a post covid uptake of adult volunteers. We are taking a group of Scouts to Belgium in July and visiting the Netherlands in 2027. We do this on an entirely voluntary basis and always welcome more volunteers.

Aylburton Acorns: Aylburton Acorns (Baby and Toddler Group) has gone from strength to strength over the past year.

During the school summer holiday we met on the field each Friday morning, and the sun shone every single week! One week we were 'entertained' by the grass being mowed. These very informal summer sessions really 'gelled' the families as a group and we now have a regular cohort who attend each Friday morning in the hall.

Each week we meet for activities, craft, chat and songs. The children love to play and meet with their friends, whilst the adults can enjoy a hot drink and the opportunity to share life together

We have also had 3 new volunteers join the team, which is a blessing and enables us to meet even when a team member is on holiday or unwell.

We have enjoyed visits from Forest of Dean Baby Bank who provide clothes and other resources for our families.

During February Half Term we held a special session, which was open to older siblings and members of the community. This was supported by members of the local churches too. We are having another 'special session' during the forthcoming May half term.

The group is free, but donations are given which go towards the cost of hiring the hall.

The remainder of the costs are covered by the Community Family Ministry of Churches Together in Lydney.

Many of the families who come live in Aylburton and walk to the group, we also have a few who come from further afield. Being able to park on the field has made an enormous difference to those who come and we are grateful for this facility.

Thank you to all those who enable this group to happen and to all the families who allow us to share in their lives.

Aylburton Methodist Church: Sunday worship lies at the heart of all we do and we meet every Sunday morning at 10.30. We have begun occasional All Age worship services and these are enjoyed by those from primary school age to much older !

As a church we contribute to a number of causes. Among them

Action for Children, where this year we sent £733 and The James Hopkins Trust £185.

The annual Women's Rally brought folk from all over the Forest, and we heard from a leader of the local foodbank about the excellent work that is done to support people in moments of crisis. A very good amount of food was brought on the day and donations totalling £125.

Links with the primary school are strong, Rev Michelle taking regular school assemblies, and we also take it in turn with the Parish Church to host school end of term and seasonal services.

A monthly friendship afternoon consisting of games, chat and a cuppa is proving popular as well as the monthly coffee morning.

The Methodist Church is aware of the aim to prepare an Emergency Plan for the village – we would be pleased to support this as a place of refuge.

Forest Exiles Cricket Club: We are very lucky to be able to enjoy our sport in such an idyllic location.

We would very much welcome anyone who may be interested in cricket, either playing, umpiring, scoring, or simply spectating to get in touch. We train on Wednesday evenings and have many matches organized throughout the year.

We have managed to improve our net training facility and would like to invite remind anyone from the local community that this is open to all at any time.

APA06.2 25/26	6. Open Forum. None.	
APA07.2 25/26	7. Future Parish Assembly Date: To be confirmed. Noted.	

Meeting ended at 19.41pm.

Signed:..... Chairman Date:.....