



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE** HELD AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ON MONDAY 18th MAY 2026 AT MIDDAY

PRESENT: Kay Montandon (Chair) David Anderson
Julie Boyd Kevin Cunnane
Mary Evans Wendy Sadler

Also in Attendance: Faye LeBon (Clerk to Aylsham Town Council) and Andy Bell (Groundsman to the Town Council)

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mathew Martin.

2. To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None raised.

3. To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting of 20th April 2026

The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 20th April 2026 had been circulated. These were **agreed** by the committee as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting, not forming part of the agenda

No matters raised.

5. To Adjourn the Meeting to Allow Members of the Public and Councillors with Prejudicial Interests to Speak

No matters raised.

6. To Receive Update on Church Wall Repairs

The Clerk reported that the consultation period had been extended to accommodate those who claimed to have not been consulted on the revised planning application. It is anticipated that a decision will be made by 28th May.

7. To Receive Update on Memorial Garden Project and Finalise Details for the Fund Raiser

The fund raising event for the memorial garden raised £682.66, which is ample to pay for the two plaques.

Examples of possible wording for the two plaques was consulted upon at the fundraiser, with the result being no obvious preference between the shorter or longer wording. The committee agreed the following wording but with the addition of dates, to be put forward to full council for agreement:

Blue Memorial: In Memoriam. Dedicated to the people of Aylsham affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Those we lost, those who suffered, and those who gave so much to help others.

Green Memorial: Women's Suffrage. To remember and celebrate the women of Aylsham who fought for the right to vote, and whose legacy continues to inspire equality and justice today, and into the future.

Once the exact wording is agreed by full council, this will be forwarded to Julie for faculty consideration.

Andy will send Julie a copy of the plans for the memorial garden so they can be displayed in the church.

It was noted that this project and associated fundraiser was an excellent example of collaboration between the church, the Town Council and Aylsham in Bloom. The thanks of the committee were extended to all volunteers who have assisted with the project and the fundraiser.

The Clerk is to arrange for the ward members grant for the seating and associated fixings to be paid across.

Anything left from the fundraiser can be spent on plants.

8. To Receive any Further Representation on Reinforcement of Car Parking Area in the Church

Julie had yet to receive a response from the Archdeacon, however it was agreed to be mindful of the aging nature of the congregation and not to restrict car parking, with the exception of a post to prevent parking between graves. During inclement weather consideration could be given to temporarily cordoning off the grassed area to prevent the grass being damaged by vehicles.

9. To Agree Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday 29th June 2026 at midday, at St Michael's Church.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.30pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____

Meeting of Aylsham Town Council Churchyard Committee

29th June 2026

Item 6 – To Receive Update on Church Wall Repairs

The planning application (2024/0791) remains undetermined, despite an extension of time to 28th May. The planning officer is aware of the outstanding application and has advised that there have been no further representations made.

Item 7 – To Receive Update on Memorial Garden

The information has been provided to Broadland Council for £1,000 in Ward Members funding to cover the bench and groundworks for the garden. This has yet to be received but Broadland Council accepted the information and was awaiting sign off from Cllr Miah.

The plaques have been redesigned and are appended for consideration.

In Memoriam

Dedicated to the people of
Aylsham affected by the
COVID-19 pandemic

Those we lost, those who
suffered, and those who
gave so much to help others

March 2020 – May 2023

Achieved limited voting rights in 1918

Women's Suffrage

To remember and celebrate
the women of Aylsham who
fought for the right to vote,

and whose legacy continues
to inspire equality and
justice today, and into the
future

and attained equality of voting rights in 1928

Faye Lebon

From: Paul Fisher <paul@ivanfisher.co.uk>
Sent: 11 May 2026 09:47
To: Faye Lebon
Cc: Rob Wells; Rev Julie Boyd
Subject: Children's Memroial

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Dear Aylsham TC,

A few weeks ago I was contacted by a family looking to trace the historical record and burial location of a stillborn child from the 1960s. As was the case with many cemetery authorities at the time, records were not particularly clear, and unfortunately it doesn't look like they will be able to find this plot. During my conversation with Donna at the council, she mentioned receiving a similar call from a family some time ago. This prompted an idea that I would like to run past you all.

I spoke with our local stonemason Robert Wells and suggested that together, we could provide a memorial in the cemetery for local families who have children buried in unmarked graves, for families who have lost children through miscarriage, or for families who have never had a dedicated place to reflect and remember.

I have given it some thought and I think a general memorial would be a better option than one detailing names to ensure its longevity. I am very aware of the limited space in the cemetery at the moment but of course, we wouldn't require the use of a full grave. I would leave the placement of the memorial to the council's discretion (However I am aware of an unusable plot on the current row that would be an ideal placing). It wouldn't be a big, flashy memorial, in fact, I was thinking of something like a traditional headstone with appropriate wording and a place to lay flowers.

If approved, I will speak to Rev. Julie to see if she would be kind enough to lead a service of dedication at the memorial. It would be a great opportunity for the council, the church, myself and the stonemason to provide a tangible and lasting gift to the town.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Paul Fisher
Ivan Fisher Independent Funeral Home

