



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **CITTASLOW** AYLSHAM COMMITTEE HELD AT DRILL HALL, ON TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2026 AT 11am.

PRESENT: Pat Prekopp (Chair) - Aylsham Slow Food, Town Council
David Anderson – Aylsham Town Council
Mo Anderson-Dungar - W.I. and Country Markets
Kevin Cunnane - Aylsham Town Council
Mary Evans – Aylsham Town Council
Giles Margarson - Aylsham Community Partnership
Graham Peers – Broadland District Council
Jean St Clair – U3A
Wendy Sadler – Aylsham in Bloom
Grizelda Tyler – Aylsham Climate Emergency

Also in Attendance: Faye LeBon, Clerk to Aylsham Town Council.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mike Downes (Aylsham Rotary).

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None raised.

3. To Agree the Minutes of the Cittaslow Aylsham Committee held on 18th November 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on the 18th November 2025 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. To Note any Matters Arising from the Minutes, not Listed Elsewhere on the Agenda

No matters raised.

5. Adjournment of the Meeting to Allow Members of the Public to Speak

No members of the public in attendance.

6. Cittaslow UK and Cittaslow International

Mo reported that a Cittaslow UK meeting needed to be arranged for March. Patrick raised concerns that there remains an issue with the Cittaslow UK website. Confirmation is required from Mold as to whether they would be looking into this.

Mo reported that the International Coordinating Committee would be meeting between the 17th and 19th April in Canada, and the General Assembly would be meeting in Italy between the 19th and 21st June. Cittaslow week would start on 20th September, culminating with Cittaslow Sunday on 27th September.

7. To Receive Market Updates

a) Food and Craft Market

Country Markets had yet to decide whether they would be continuing with the Food and Craft markets.

The facilities officer had advised that last months food and craft market had 7 stalls, including the charity stalls. The stalls were condensed down into the spaces outside the Co-op, and this format will remain in place until there are more attendees. The Clerk reported that entertainment for the food and craft markets has been contacted in the form of:

- Norwich Droids
- AB Enchanted (princesses)
- James D's party time (play trailer)
- Phil Cole Caricaturist
- Holt Ridge Morris Dancers

Dates offered are:

- Saturday 4th April
- Saturday 2nd May
- Saturday 6th June
- Saturday 4th July
- Saturday 1st August
- Saturday 5th September

Once all forms of entertainment have been booked in, promotion can take place.

Investigations have been taking place into whether buskers would require any form of licensing. This is not the case and work can be done to attract this type of informal entertainment.

b) General Markets on Monday and Friday

The facilities officer had reported that Mondays are going well at almost full capacity. There is space for one small stall now that Earthglade has left. There are two larger stalls currently on the waiting list.

Fridays are low on numbers with the average attendance being four stalls. The market traders are putting the word about that there are spaces available, but it is acknowledged this is not the best time of year.

Mitchell Philpott is seeking to arrange a meeting of the market traders.

With the budget agreed, the new prices can be implemented on 1st April 2026.

c) Country Markets

As previously reported, Country Markets are still keeping under review their attendance at the Food and Craft market.

8. Visit Aylsham

a) To note the minutes of the Visit Aylsham Working Group (20th November 2025)

The draft minutes from the meeting of 20th November were noted.

b) To receive update on Heritage Snail Trail

Patrick showed the meeting potential designs for the stone snail plaques. It is planned to install these on the listed buildings that are part of the trail. The Heritage Officer has visited the listed buildings involved and is content in principle to the stone plaques and fixings. These would be subject to a listed building planning application. Other local artists would have their designs on tiles displayed on the non-listed buildings. Their work would be credited on the website.

Permission is required from business owners and the paper map and website connections are to be arranged.

The next meeting of the sub group is on 29th January 2026.

c) To consider options for town planters

The Town Council is not currently in a position to replace the town planters and alternative sources of funding, such as business sponsorship was suggested.

Wendy reported that Aylsham in Bloom is responsible for 30 planters. These included:

- 12 around the pump
- 12 in the market place
- At the town sign on Burgh Road
- The tubs by Tesco bus stop
- Two at the Drill Hall and the Drill Hall borders
- The Blickling Road Triangle
- At the town sign on Cawston Road/Henry Page Road

Apart from the tubs around the pump these are made of wood, and therefore require maintenance which Bloom will do. Bloom has plans to gradually replace these with composite plastic.

There are 4 wooden Town Council planters left in the town (at the bus stop, by the Co-op wall, outside the public toilets and in front of the town hall). Wendy and the clerk will review them to see if there is any possible maintenance work that can be done.

Three Town Council planters were donated to the pizza place in the Market Place and required attention. Patrick will visit the business and open up a dialogue with regards to these works.

9. To Receive Information on the UK Town of Culture competition and agree any further actions

Information on the UK Town of Culture competition had been circulated. Should the town wish to enter, an expression of interest needed to be submitted by 31st March 2026. Whilst not committing to the project until this has been decided by full council, the clerk will:

- Discuss a partnership area with Blickling and Wolterton.
- Email community groups with some baseline questions and establish their ideas and enthusiasm for the project.
- Contact regional partners to ensure any plan Aylsham makes aligns with theirs.
- Speak to Mitchell Philpott about digital technology.
- Contact the Roman Dig project.

10. To Note the Minutes from the Aylsham Climate Emergency Working Group (1st December)

Grizelda reported that the Live Well for Less event will be held on 31st January. As part of this event, partners include:

- Slow Food will providing free bowls of soup and the recipes to make at home.
- Second hand school uniforms
- Upcycling materials
- The community shed
- Broadland District Council's Help Hub
- Thermal imaging camera
- Knitters and Sewers
- Country markets, selling dog coats from recycling materials.

The focus of the event will be a save money through reducing carbon. There will also be an explanation of where the various recycling goes.

There will be consultation opportunities for the Neighbourhood Plan and transport ideas.

The film 'Climate Scam' is being shown on 6th February and a series of films for 2026/2027 is being organised.

11. To Note the Minutes from the Aylsham Community Events Committee (20th November and 17th December)

The minutes were noted. The next meeting is on 21st January.

12. To Receive the Following Group Reports

a) Slow Food Aylsham

Patrick reported that the Slow Food Aylsham AGM was held last week, with all the officers re-elected. There are three new members to the group, and a commitment was made to the Slow Food Festival in October.

Grizelda thanked slow food for coming to the Live Well for Less event on 31st January.

b) Aylsham High School

No report.

c) Aylsham in Bloom

Wendy reported that the Open Gardens are to be held on 27th and 28th June, with tickets being sold from the Heritage Centre. So far there are eight gardens but the group is appealing for more.

d) Aylsham Business Consortium (ABC)

No report. The next meeting is on 10th February.

e) Aylsham Parish Church

No report.

f) Aylsham Rotary Club

No report.

g) Aylsham U3A

Jean reported that the group has seen an increase of membership. Plans are being put in place for the forthcoming year.

h) Aylsham WI

Mo reported that the group did the 'Lights Down breakfast for the volunteers on 18th January. The group is putting together the calendar of events from April 2026 to March 2027.

13. To Note any Items for the Next Agenda

UK Town of Culture

14. To Agree the Date of the next Meeting

This was agreed as Tuesday 17th February 2026, 11am at the Drill Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.05pm