



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **CITTASLOW** AYLSHAM COMMITTEE HELD AT DRILL HALL, ON TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2026 AT 11am.

PRESENT: Pat Prekopp (Chair) - Aylsham Slow Food, Town Council
David Anderson – Aylsham Town Council
Kevin Cunnane - Aylsham Town Council
Mike Downes – Aylsham Rotary
Mary Evans – Aylsham Town Council
Giles Margarson - Aylsham Community Partnership
Wendy Sadler – Aylsham in Bloom
Jean St Clair – U3A
Jo Tuttle – Aylsham High School

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

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mo Anderson-Dungar, Graham Peers and Grizelda Tyler.

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None raised.

3. To Agree the Minutes of the Cittaslow Aylsham Committee held on 20th January 2026

The minutes from the meeting held on the 20th January 2026 had been circulated. Subject to a typographical amendment, 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 had provided a written report.

Cittaslow UK – The accounts and the CIC report for Companies House had been signed off. A UK meeting will be arranged soon.

Cittaslow International - The membership invoices have been sent out. Planning is

underway for the next International Co-ordinating Committee in Canada from 16th to 19th April. Mo will try to attend the main meeting via Zoom. Mo has now completed the 3 year tenure on the committee in the summer, therefore Cittaslow UK will need to make a new nomination.

7. To Receive Market Updates

a) Food and Craft Market

The clerk reported that the facilities officer is continuing to book entertainment in for the food and craft market.

b) General Markets on Monday and Friday

With the onset of better weather, uptake of stalls on both a Monday and Friday is improving. There is little stall space remaining on a Monday now.

c) Country Markets

Mo had provided a written report. Country Markets were pleased to be part of the Live Well for Less event on 31st January, with in excess of 100 drinks served and the cakes and biscuits much appreciated. The lunches were very popular, serving around 90 people with delicious home made leek and potato soup accompanied by a roll and butter. Although everything was free, people would have been willing to make a donation.

The Annual Meeting will be on Friday 6th March. No decision has yet been made on participation in the Food and Craft Markets this year. They are booked to give a talk to U3A in March.

8. Visit Aylsham

a) To note the minutes of the Visit Aylsham Working Group (15th January 2026 and 11th February 2026)

The draft minutes from the meetings of 15th January and 11th February were *noted*.

b) To receive update on Heritage Snail Trail

This project is gaining momentum. The feature snail has been delivered. The design for this has been agreed and the artist appointed is an Aylsham resident. The design of the snail on the plaques for listed building has been agreed. The remaining decision is how the information and QR codes should look on the plaques.

Wendy has been liaising with Aylsham Community Partnership over the snail at the Pump and whether this is to be a painted snail or a plaque. It was noted that a plaque is recommended. Giles will feed this back to the community partnership. The clerk is to check the ownership of town centre buildings for the purposes of the planning application. Giles raised concerns about the time it is currently taking to validate planning applications.

9. Town of Culture

a) To receive update on Town of Culture Expression of Interest Project

There has been a number of people come forward to help with the project. Keys has also expressed an interest. A meeting of interested parties will be arranged, and it had been suggested that this should be on the evening of Thursday 26th February.

It was suggested that the Aylsham Picture House may be interested, as would the Archives.

b) To consider area of submission

The core area of Aylsham, extending to include Blickling, Wolterton and Mannington (as these establishments had already expressed an interest in the project) was discussed. The population estimate of these areas totals approximately 8,000. This was still within the entry of a 'small town' for the competition which was for a population of up to 20,000. It was agreed to include all the parishes in the local Chairs' group and others bordering the core area. The population total would still be below 20,000.

10. Town Centre Planters

It was reported that a company had approached the Town Council to suggest a project to install integrated rain gardens and large native planters in the market place to capture rainwater from surrounding roofs and the square itself. This reduces surface water flooding, adds year-round greenery and colour, demonstrates the town's commitment to the Broads environment, and enhances the setting for the weekly market.

It was **agreed** not to proceed with this project and remove town centre planters from the agenda.

11. To Note the Minutes from the Aylsham Climate Emergency Working Group (2nd February 2026)

The draft minutes had been circulated to the committee and were **noted**.

12. To Note the Minutes from the Aylsham Community Events Committee (21st January 2026)

The draft minutes had been circulated to the committee and were **noted**.

13. To Receive the Following Group Reports

a) Slow Food Aylsham

Patrick reported that Slow Food met on 11th February. Another International Street Food Festival will be arranged for 12th July. The Live Well for Less Event was very successful.

Jo Tuttle extended thanks to Kay for collecting the second hand school uniforms and allowing them to be sold at the event on the school's behalf. It is hoped to do the same at the Healthy Town event.

David Anderson commented on how well attended the event was and from a good demographic range. People were generally very positive about the town and the consultations were well received.

Slow Food provided 3 different types of soup that can be easily made at home.

These soups were chosen because of their low carbon footprint.

Slow Food also discussed the Snail Trail and the new Visit Aylsham website. It was agreed that the new website was a very good advert for the town.

Slow Food had also agreed to sponsor the Family Learning day for £250, although they won't be doing the café for the event.

The 'Town Tent' at the Aylsham Show was discussed. Decorating the entrance to the tent was discussed to make visitors more aware of the stalls within it.

The Food Festival has been committed to, and Slow Food has attracted new members who are interested in social media marketing.

b) Aylsham High School

Jo reported on behalf of the Aylsham Learning Federation. The Aylsham Sports hub had a major launch, with feedback being very good from members. There are now nearly 900 members and there is a strong community feel in place. Ages range from 14 to 89 and all profits are fed back into the Federation. It also creates opportunities for local employment.

TACT (Families), the charitable arm of the Federation, continues to support families in the local area with their social, emotional & mental health. Other initiatives include the adult learning programme and the Household support fund.

The next project being worked on is the Community Family Hub, which would help to provide support services during the day when the school is not accessible.

A youth work programme has been delivered.

It was noted that the drop in birth rate has had an impact on primary schools, and this will eventually feed through to secondary schools. The new developments will assist feeding children into the local schools. Aylsham high school currently has a good intake as reputation draws children from out of catchment.

c) Aylsham in Bloom

Wendy advised that there was nothing to report this month.

d) Aylsham Business Consortium (ABC)

It was noted that ABC had conducted a survey of footfall to town centre shops.

Kay has been visiting the industrial units to the north of the town to improve engagement with these businesses.

e) Aylsham Parish Church

No report.

f) Aylsham Rotary Club

Mike reported that the Christmas Sleigh was a great success. There were lots of volunteers to assist and in excess of £4,000 was raised for charities.

The regular litter picking attracts volunteers and the Rotary Group has gained new members.

The group is celebrating its 73rd anniversary this year.

The group is looking at potential recipients of community awards.

g) Aylsham U3A

Jean reported that trips are being organised and the AGM in June is being looked at.

She will pass on that it hoped that the group will be involved in the UK Town of Culture competition.

h) Aylsham WI

Mo had provided a written report. The new Committee and officers have settled in well - sharing the secretary duties is a very good idea. They are busy working on the

meetings programme for April 2026 – March 2027, a craft day will be held at the Friendship Hall on 21 February – a mix of Easter crafts and sorting the theme for the Christmas Tree in December! Members enjoyed a post-Christmas lunch at The Plough earlier this month.

14. To Note any Items for the Next Agenda

No matters raised

15. To Agree the Date of the next Meeting

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.10pm