



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **CITTASLOW** AYLSHAM COMMITTEE HELD AT DRILL HALL, ON TUESDAY 19th MAY 2026 AT 11am.

PRESENT: Pat Prekopp (Chair) - Aylsham Slow Food, Town Council
David Anderson – Aylsham Town Council
Mo Anderson-Dungar – Cittaslow UK and Aylsham Country Markets
Kevin Cunnane – Aylsham Town Council
Mary Evans – Aylsham Town Council
Giles Margarson - Aylsham Community Partnership
Wendy Sadler – Aylsham in Bloom

Also in Attendance: Donna Butcher, Office Manager - Aylsham Town Council.

1. Election of Chairman for the Forthcoming Year

It was **agreed** that the Chairman for the forthcoming year should be Patrick Prekopp, after a proposal from Giles Margarson and a second from David Anderson. Patrick was thanked for his time given to chairing this committee.

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mike Downes (Rotary), Jo Tuttle (Aylsham High School) and Jean St Clair (U3A).

3. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None raised.

4. To Agree the Minutes of the Cittaslow Aylsham Committee held on 28th April 2026

The minutes from the meeting held on the 28th 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.

5. To Note any Matters Arising from the Minutes, not Listed Elsewhere on the Agenda

No matters raised.

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

No members of the public in attendance.

7. To Consider Update to Terms of Reference

It was **agreed** to request that full council amend the committee terms of reference to

rephrase the aim of the committee to ‘to encourage the culture of good living ***and wellbeing*** through active citizenship to improve the quality of life in the town’.

8. Cittaslow UK and Cittaslow International

It was ***noted*** that Mold had made the decision to leave the Cittaslow movement. Giles advised it would be Italy that that would decide whether Aylsham, being the only English town, could remain within the Cittaslow network. The committee were keen for this to carry on. Mo will arrange an AGM to discuss further.

9. To Receive Market Updates

a) Food and Craft Market

A written report was provided. Last month’s market had an attendance of 10 stalls, including charity stalls. With the increase in attendance the decision was made to relocate the market back to the centre of the market square, helping to create a busier more vibrant atmosphere.

The addition of the princess characters at last month's event was extremely well received by visitors. The next market will feature Paul Thompson, a local singer/song writer who performs with a rare 20 string harp guitar.

Next month’s market is expected to feature a similar number of stalls, continuing the positive momentum of recent events.

b) General Markets on Monday and Friday

A written report was provided.

The Monday market is currently trading with 6-7 stalls each week. At present there are 2 small pitches available and one larger pitch, which is hoped to soon be filled by a new fruit and veg stall.

Friday markets have seen a slight reduction in numbers, with the average attendance being four stalls. However, due to his popularity on Mondays, Aish Bakery is now attending the Friday market on a regular basis.

c) Country Markets

Mo reported that with Aish Bakery now attending the Friday market and Coxford’s doing their ‘hot food Friday’, it was having an impact on the trade in the kitchen. Aside from that all is going well.

Patrick advised that it was hoped to do a questionnaire for traders and visitors at the markets on the different days - why they visit/trade on a particular day etc.

10. Visit Aylsham.

a) To receive update on Heritage Snail Trail

Patrick reported that the feature snail will be at the Family Learning Day, albeit under wraps (except for its head). The press release is ready, but there has already been coverage in the EDP and North Norfolk News. Giles advised that planning permission for the plaques has not yet been granted but no problems are foreseen with this process and a decision should be made next week. 15 plaques are to be fixed to

buildings around town, with a decision to be made as to what resource is required to fix the plaques.

b) To receive update on Entertainment at the Food and Craft Markets

As previously reported, the princess characters were received very well. Further monthly entertainment is booked up to September.

c) To receive update on Visit Aylsham website

A presentation of the website by Mitchell Philpott at Blickling was very well received. The Office Manager has scheduled several social media posts across the Aylsham Town Council and the Aylsham Town Council Events pages. The committee was asked for content for the Cittaslow section.

11. Town of Culture

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

No decision had been made by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

12. To Consider Bookmarks Project and Funding Thereof

It was *agreed* that there was no budget for this project.

13. To Note the Minutes from the Aylsham Climate Emergency Working Group

These were not available.

14. To Note the Minutes from the Aylsham Community Events Committee

There had been no events committee meeting since the last Cittaslow meeting.

15. To Receive the Following Group Reports

a) Slow Food Aylsham

Patrick reported that the Snail Trail plans were progressing. The Street Food Festival now has 10 vans, 2 gazebos and 1 table booked. Preferably 3 or more vans were needed.

b) Aylsham High School

Jo Tuttle had provided apologies for the meeting.

c) Aylsham in Bloom

Wendy report that the summer planting, including The Pump, was to begin in the next 2 weeks and the window boxes at the Town Hall within next 10 days. The coffee morning at the Town Hall raised £682.66 for the memorial garden in the churchyard. The Open Gardens project is on track.

d) Aylsham Business Consortium (ABC)

No report available.

e) Aylsham Parish Church

Thanks to the fundraiser, there is now funding to install plaques at memorial garden to commemorate the Aylsham women's right to vote and those affected during the Covid 19 pandemic.

f) Aylsham Rotary Club

No report available.

g) Aylsham U3A

No report available.

h) Aylsham WI

Mo reported that May's meeting was held at the Friendship Hall and the speaker was Lesley Polly who has a B&B in France. June's speaker will be Tony Brown talking about Wildflower Meadows

16. To Note any Items for the Next Agenda

Town Tent for the Aylsham Show (contact groups, publicity and banners etc)

17. To Agree the Date of the next Meeting

This was agreed as Tuesday 16th June 2026, 11am at the Drill Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 11.40am

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____