

Aylesford Parish Council

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 May 2026 held in the Aylesford Football Club Pavilion, Aylesford

Present: Councillors Mrs Eves (Chair), Ms Anderson, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Chapman Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Netzel, Ms Oyewusi, Sharp, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan and Mrs Waters.

In Attendance: Mrs Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Gledhill, Ludlow and Rillie.

Apologies also received from Borough Councillors Cannon, Dalton, Davis, Keers, McDermott and Williams.

1. Report of the Chair of the Parish Council 2025/26

It was **Agreed** to accept the report of the Chair of the Parish Council 2025/26 - appendix A

2. Reports of the Chair of the Committees 2025/26

2, a) Planning Report – Noted – appendix B

2, b) Environmental Services – Noted – appendix C

2, c) Policy and Resources (included in Chair report)

3. Reports of the Representatives on Outside Bodies 2025/26

3, a) Tunbury Hall – Noted – appendix D

3, b) Blue Bell Hill Village Hall – Noted – appendix E

3, c) United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Burham – Noted – appendix F

3, d) Aylesford Village Community Centre – verbal update given by the Chair of the Community Centre – A lot of change has taken place in the centre with a new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The finances are a little troublesome but with the right people on board it will get better. Have got some new regular bookings., which will help with the finances.

4. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

5. Duration of Meeting

8.15pm to 8.18pm.

Chair Report 2025/26

Including Policy & Resources

It is my pleasure to present this year's Annual Report and to reflect on the progress and achievements we have made together over the past year.

In September 2025, we welcomed two new Councillors representing Eccles and Walderslade. I hope they have enjoyed their time with the Council so far and look forward to their continued contribution to our work and community.

The Aylesford Christmas Market once again proved to be a great success, providing local small businesses with an opportunity to showcase their products while bringing the community together in a warm and festive atmosphere. The Market Committee works tirelessly throughout the year to deliver this event, and we are extremely grateful for their continued dedication. This year's event raised £3,600 for the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance.

This will be their chosen charity of choice every year going forwards.

The Council recently commissioned an independent Health and Safety review. I am pleased to report that no major issues were identified, with only minor administrative updates required. In addition, an independent HR review has been completed to update Council policies and ensure employment contracts for new starters are fully up to date.

We continue to benefit from strong and constructive relationships with our local policing team. PC David Warner regularly attends the Parish Office to meet with the Clerk, supporting close liaison on matters affecting the community. PC Cole Brown, who covers another part of the Parish, also visits regularly. Both officers have introduced separate drop-in sessions at the Parish Office for residents, which have been very well received.

The Clerk remains dedicated to securing as much Section 106 funding as possible for the benefit of the Parish. To date, she has successfully secured £400,000 towards the proposed new changing rooms at Forstal Recreation Ground, as well as £13,903.23 towards the renewal of the Tunbury Recreation Ground play area. In addition, approximately £100,000 is currently being sought to fund a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Forstal Recreation Ground, which is nearing the end of its life and will provide a more inclusive facility for children of varying disabilities.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Councillors, our Clerk, and staff for their continued hard work, support, and dedication to the community. Thanks are also due to Tom for continuing to represent the Council at KALC meetings, the Parish Partnership Panel, the Climate Change Forum, and the Aylesford Station Adoption Group.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice Chair, Lorna, for her unwavering support throughout my time as Chair. Her commitment to the Parish, willingness to assist whenever needed, and dedication to serving the community have been greatly appreciated. I am extremely grateful for all of her support and hard work over the past year.

Mrs Joyce Gadd

Chair

7th May 2026

Planning Committee Annual Report for 2025/26

The Planning Committee met 19 times and considered 212 Applications of which The Parish Council Objected to 10.

T.M.B.C. Permitted 184 and Refused 4 and at this time there are 24 ongoing waiting to be decided by T.M.B.C.

As in previous years Tree Pruning has been the major feature of The Applications.

During the year there has been meetings with Developers Regarding plans for projects in the Aylesford / Eccles area.

Concerns have been expressed to them about the amount of Housing Projects Proposed and Amenities they need to Consider, like Doctors, Play Areas, Green Spaces, Bus Routes and one of the most important is Water Services.

The Bushy Wood Application is still at Outline Stage, and we are not sure about the situation with Trenport at this moment in time.

I would like to thank My Vice Chair Tim Sharp and of course all Ward Councillors for their Support, time and dedication in all Planning Areas at this time.

Councillor Barry Smith (Chair of Planning)

Environmental Services Annual Report for 2025/26

The allotments continue to be well used and remain popular with residents. At present, there is no waiting list for Eccles and only a small waiting list for Aylesford. The Council has invested in clearing vacant plots at both sites, with a contractor removing significant overgrowth and debris left by previous tenants, at considerable cost. Staff have worked diligently to reallocate plots as they have been cleared, ensuring continued use and accessibility for residents.

The proposed new changing rooms at the Forstal Recreation ground have not yet commenced and are currently progressing through the planning approval process with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC). The Clerk has successfully secured £400,000 in Section 106 funding towards the overall cost of the project.

In addition, the Clerk has also secured £13,903.23 of Section 106 funding for the refurbishment of Tunbury Recreation Ground play area. The current design proposals have an estimated cost of £79,968.30.

Work is also ongoing to secure funding for the play area at The Hollow, Aylesford (locally known as The Pitt), with the FCC Communities Foundation being explored as a potential funding source. Current plans for this site indicate a project cost of £95,595.59.

Improvement works have also been delivered across several sites. Four new solid oak planters have been built and installed in Blue Bell Hill, with ongoing maintenance and planting to be undertaken by local residents.

A new picnic bench has been installed at Tunbury Recreation Ground, funded through a combination of Kent County Councillor Kennedy's Members' Grant and Section 106 contributions. Additionally, the outdoor gym equipment at Tunbury Recreation Ground, specifically the leg press, was replaced after being damaged beyond repair. The new installation is a more modern unit, similar to that installed at Forstal Recreation Ground last year.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, the Clerk will continue to pursue further Section 106 funding opportunities to support a range of local recreational projects. These funds remain vital in maintaining and improving our play areas and recreation grounds for the benefit of the community.

I would like to extend my thanks to all staff for their continued hard work and dedication, Lee Randall (Maintenance Supervisor), Melanie Randall (Clerk), and Claire Goodayle (Administrative Assistant) consistently go above and beyond in their roles to help ensure the Parish remains a welcoming and well-maintained place to live, work, and visit.

I would also like to thank the volunteer litter pickers who do an amazing job helping to look after the community, making it a nicer place.

Allan Sullivan
Chair of Environmental Services

Report on Tunbury Village Hall Oct 1st 2024 to Sep 30th 2025 and subsequently

Costs continue to increase but there has been no increase in charges.

The accounts spreadsheets for the period October 1st 2024 to September 2025 are attached. These should be treated as confidential because of GDPR considerations.

Overall income was £18,249 and expenditure, £17,052.98. Income was around 10% less than the previous year when it was £20,846.59

Income still comes from the same sources as in previous years: Catkins Pre School, the Bluebell School of Dance, private parties, mostly for children, the Medway Amateur Radio and Transmitting Society, Badminton, Medway Model Car Racing, Short Mat Bowls, and a new source, the Prayer and Liberation Ministry, which is a Christian church group. The hall is not presently being advertised since the Hall Committee prefers to have users who are known to them after one of two bad experiences.

There have been complaints about noise from cars occasionally being used in an anti social manner during the night in the car park and Aylesford Parish Council is planning to install an ANPR system since it has so far not been possible to identify the car registration numbers of the miscreants using the existing CCTV cameras.

Tom Shelley

Treasurer

May 6th 2026

Blue Bell Hill Village Hall

Report for Aylesford Parish Council May 2026

We have had another busy year maintaining and developing the hall and its grounds. Projects have included replacing the fence between the neighbouring church and the hall grounds and putting in new main gates which are much easier to use.

We have also added another cctv camera to our security system to enhance it and improve the visibility of the site.

Our most recent development has been extending the car park over the grass area at the rear of the hall building.

We have been fortunate enough to have been awarded grants for all three of these projects from KCC, T&MBC and a members grant from Andrew Kennedy.

Our bookings secretary has taken on several new regular hirers who are all settling in well and are very happy with the hall. All our existing and new regular hirers were very supportive of the improvements that we have made in the last few months. She also accommodates requests for children's parties, wakes and other one-off hires.

As always, we continue to receive many compliments on the hall - how clean and inviting it is.

**UNITED CHARITIES OF THE ANCIENT PARISH OF BURHAM
ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

**This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements specified in Page 2 of Issue 6
of Charity Commission News Spring 1997.**

1. Full Name and Registered Charity Number

United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Burham No. L5 233519 A/3

Formerly known as Burham United Charities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the George Day for School Treat Charity - No. 307537.

2. Main Address

The address of the Secretary, Betty Young is: 17 Bell Crescent
Burham
Rochester
Kent ME1 3SZ

3. Object of the Charity

The duty of the Trustees is to apply the income of the Charity in relieving either generally, or individually, persons resident in the Ancient Parish of Burham who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. The Ancient Parish of Burham includes that part of Bluebell Hill which was in the Civil Parish of Burham prior to 1988. With respect to the George Day for School Treat Charity, the duty of the Trustees is to apply the income received towards the Annual School Treat for the children of Burham at Christmas or midsummer.

4. Names of Trustees

David Young, Chairman (Nominated by Burham P.C.)

Roger Kiralfy, Treasurer (Co-opted)

Barry Smith (Nominated by Aylesford P.C.)

Margaret Older (Co-opted)

Jill Emptage (Co-opted)

Jill Pannell (Co-opted)

Jack Owen (Co-opted)

The Secretary, Betty Young, is a paid employee, who is not a Trustee.

5. Activities during the Year

The amount of the winter fuel grant this year was maintained at a level of £500 per household for all eligible applications to assist with the increased energy costs. Qualifying income levels were unchanged at £300 for single households, but increased to £500 for multiple households. In total, 7 Winter Fuel grants were made in 2 instalments of £300 at the end of December 2025 and £200 at the end of February 2026, a total of £3500 was given out. The George Day fund grant was not claimed by Burham Primary School. There was 1 other grant totaling £2897 that was paid out during this year to a Burham resident in financial need.

Betty Young continued as Secretary to the Charity, and the Trustees thanked her for the good work. The 2025 AGM in April, the October and the December meetings were all held in Burham Village Hall Committee Room.

Registered Charity Nos 233519 and 307537