

Aylesford Parish Council

Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Capel Morris Centre, Aylesford on Tuesday 10 January 2023

Present: Councillors Sullivan (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith, Walker.

In Attendance : Mrs Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Ludlow, Winnett, Borough Councillor Keers and County Councillor Kennedy.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Hammond, Ludlow, and Borough Councillor Keers were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

3. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year, there were no Chairman's announcements.

4. Adjournment of the meeting to allow Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 November 2022

It was proposed by Councillor Balcombe and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Gadd that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 November 2022 be **approved** as a correct record and signed.

6. Any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no Matters Arising

7. To Receive and Note the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee

- a) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee on 6 December 2022. There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Unanimously Agreed** that the Fees and Charges for 2023/24 be adopted as submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee on 3 January 2023, item 13.
- c) It was **Unanimously Agreed** that the 2023/24 Budget – Precept Setting be adopted as submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee on 3 January 2023, item 14.

8. To Receive and Note the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee

- a) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee on 22 November 2022. There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee on 13 December 2022. There were no matters arising.

9. To Receive and Note the Minutes of the Planning Committee

- a) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 15 November 2022. There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 22 November 2022. There were no matters arising.
- c) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 6 December 2022. There were no matters arising.
- d) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 3 January 2023. There were no matters arising.

10. To Receive the Report of the County Councillor

There was no County Councillor present, however members were provided with the annual report for residents produced by Councillor Kennedy. **Noted**
After discussion it was agreed that as most Parish Councillors already receive monthly updates there is no point in this information coming from the office as well. Those who do not currently receive it can sign up if they wish.

Therefore, it was **Agreed** that the office will no longer send these reports out to members, and neither will they be included for this item on the agenda as these should not be a substitute for the County Councillor to attend or to provide a written report. **Closed**

11. To Receive the Report of the Borough Councillor(s)

Borough Councillor Keers submitted a report which was **noted** (See Appendix 1)

12. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Balcombe proposed and Councillor Mrs Gadd seconded and it was **Agreed** that 15 payments totaling £299,070.95 be made.

13. Council Vacancies

There is currently one vacancy – Aylesford South

14. Decisions taken under S101 Delegated Authority

There had been one decision taken under S101 Delegated Authority which was to agree to an increase in the cost of materials for the new enhanced fence for the Forstal Road Recreation Ground. The Clerk reminded members that this is being funded through S106 monies and she confirmed that there is enough to fund the increase. **Noted**

15. To Consider Any Other Items of Correspondence

The Chairman referred to the attendance of Borough Councillors and asked whether members felt the Council should consider changing the day of its meetings, which may give the Borough Councillors more opportunity to attend as the vast majority of the Borough Council's meetings are held on Tuesdays and clash with the Parish Council's meetings. After discussion it was agreed that the Council would continue with Tuesdays as that seems to be the most suitable day for Parish Councillors.

The Council would also like more residents to attend Full Council meetings and it was suggested that people might come out more in the summer months when the weather is better and the evenings lighter.

There was discussion around holding meetings online, the Clerk informed the Council that it is not permitted to hold online meetings as any decisions made would be unlawful. Online meetings were permitted during Covid to enable Councils to continue to function and make decisions, but this was a special regulation that was passed to cover a certain period and ended on 7 May 2021 when all local councils had to revert to conducting face to face meetings.

The Clerk was asked to enquire with the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) if other councils have asked if it would be permitted for councils to meet online in the future.

16. Duration of Meeting

7.35pm to 7.58pm

I have been informed by Matt Boughton that for an indication of council tax increases I think it is fair that TMBC are looking at a 3% rise, which will be a real terms cut when inflation is accounted for.

With regards to climate change a few bullet points from the climate change Cabinet Member below,

1. Shopfront improvement scheme starts on 9th January but also supports energy efficiency measures
2. Green business grant scheme next round due February
3. Phase 1 of 30+ TMBC EV charging points due for completion in February, ironically Gibson is last to be completed due to technical difficulties!
4. Phase 2 preparations starting now of up to an additional 100 TMBC EV charging points
5. New climate change officer started and very well qualified!
6. PV projects moving forward in support of our leisure services buildings and 198 panels due to be installed this month at Larkfield Leisure Centre

Renewable energy projects for TMBC leisure centre buildings in order to reduce gas usage etc. being reported

Des Keers