

Aylesford Parish Council

Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Aylesford Football Club, Aylesford, on Tuesday 13 June 2023

Present: Councillors Sullivan (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs Birkbeck, Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Gledhill, Mrs Ogun, Rowe, Sharp, Shelley, Smith and Walker.
Chapman from item 7.

In Attendance : Mrs Randall (Clerk).

Also in Attendance: Borough Councillor Dave Davis.

Apologies: Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie and Borough Councillors Canon, Keers and Williams.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie and Borough Councillors Canon, Keers and Williams, 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

There were no Chairman's announcements.

4. Adjournment of the meeting to allow Public Participation.

Luke Chapman introduced himself to the Council as the new Councillor for Aylesford North. The Chairman welcomed him. Luke gave a brief statement about himself and reiterated his keenness to join the Parish Council.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 11 May 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Dorrington and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Birkbeck that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 11 May 2023 be **approved** as a correct record and signed.

The Annual Parish Minutes were noted.

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 and Resources Committee on 6 June 2023. It was **Unanimously Agreed** to co-opt Luke Chapman and Iain Craig – Minute 9. Luke Chapman read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in front of the Clerk and Proper Officer and joined the meeting.

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 30 May 2023. 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 11 May 2023
There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 30 May 2023.
There were no matters arising.
- c) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 6 June 2023.
There were no matters arising.

10. To Receive the Report of the County Councillor

There was no County Councillor present, and no report was provided.

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

A report was submitted on behalf of the three Borough Councillors for Aylesford North and North Downs; Dave Davis, Roger Dalton and Rob Canon which was **noted** (See Appendix 1).

There was some discussion regarding Bushey Wood and the appeals process, it is the public's chance to put their views across at the appeal. A Councillor stated that

comments should be made from the head, not the heart and the experts will decide if its Planning Law or not. It is important that the Parish Council is ready with a Plan B of what it wants for the benefit of its residents should this application be permitted by the Planning Inspectorate.

Buses were discussed namely the now extinct 155 service, it is a frustrating legal technicality whereby the S106 monies were attached to the 155 service so when that ceased the money was lost. People's energy now needs to be put elsewhere as the money is not coming back. A Councillor stated that the current twice-weekly service is very well used and has become the new social thing for the elderly.

Planning Enforcement was also mentioned in that it is not understood and Councillor Davis offered to send the Clerk the link to a presentation he recently made at the Parish Partnership Panel meeting where he talks about Enforcement. Once received the Clerk will send it to all Councillors.

Also submitted was a letter written by Matt Boughton, the Leader for TMBC to Richard Hall the CEO for Trenport (See Appendix 2.).

12. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Sharp proposed and Councillor Ms Dorrington seconded and it was **Resolved** that 18 payments totaling £6,181.23 be made.

13. Council Vacancies

There are currently no vacancies.

Noted

14. Decisions taken under S101 Delegated Authority

One decision had been taken, for a contractor to carry out grass cutting in the Churchyard at St. Peters and Paul's Church Aylesford as a one-off job at a cost of £1,706.40. The reason for the work to be completed by a contractor is that the grass is extremely long due to the late wet weather which meant staff were unable to get on the ground as early as usual. This has meant the grass is a lot longer than it normally is for its first cut of the year and is too much for staff to cut single-handedly. Once cut, the grass will continue to be maintained in house.

Noted

15. Annual Public and Employers Liability Insurance Renewal

It was **Resolved** to note that the Clerk had renewed the annual insurance policy with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £3,967.

Noted

16. To approve the Annual Return for 2022-23

16.1. Section 1, Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

The Council reviewed the statements within the Annual Governance Statement and **Agreed** the document for submission to the External Auditor Mazars.

16.2. Section 2, Accounting Statement 2022-23

The Council reviewed the Accounting Statement and **Agreed** the document for submission to the External Auditor Mazars.

16.3. To approve the dates for the exercise of public rights of inspection

The Council considered the dates for the exercise of public rights of inspection and **Agreed** to approve the dates.

17. To Consider Any Other Items of Correspondence

A Councillor informed the Council that there has been a statement made in the Commons regarding extra funding for buses for Local Authorities and Operators and Kent and Medway will be getting extra support. Local bus operators will also receive access to funding. Money will be available to use to fund vital local services.

18. Duration of Meeting

7.52pm to 8.32pm

REPORT TO AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL 13th June 2023

**By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for
Aylesford North and North Downs Ward
Councillors Dave Davis Alex McDermott and Roger Dalton**

BUSHEY WOOD APPLCATION

Trenport have now gone to appeal on the Bushey Wood planning application.

On 8th June at the Area 3 Planning Committee TMBC were asked to decide what TMBC's position would have been had this come to the committee instead of going to appeal. It was unanimously agreed that it would have been refused because the outstanding National Highways issues were not resolved.

PETERS VILLAGE MEDICAL CENTRE

You should be aware that as part of Peters Village development Trenport entered into an S106 agreement to support the provision of a modern GP surgery building in Peters Village, primarily in the provision of land.

This new surgery would be occupied by the Phoenix Surgery which would move into it from Burham.

This enterprise was to be in conjunction with the Kent and Medway Care Commissioning Group. This group is now called the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board or NHS Kent and Medway in the attached letter.

Although TMBC is the planning authority it is not the responsible body for delivery of the GP surgery. The attached letter shows part of the work TMBC is doing to persuade Trenport and NHS Kent and Medway to deliver this much needed infrastructure.

FUTURE BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORTING

It is our intention to provide a written report for all your meetings, as we have done here. If we have nothing to report, we will inform you that we have nothing of substance to report.

We also intend to provide at least one of us to every meeting to take questions. Who attends will vary. So, you should see all three of us at various times. There may be times, when all of us are needed at TMBC meetings and this will take priority.



Matt Boughton

**Borough Councillor for East
Peckham, West Peckham,
Mereworth and Wateringbury**

Leader of The Council

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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26 May 2023

Richard Hall
CEO
Trenport

Dear Richard

As you are aware the ongoing difficulties residents in villages on the east bank of the River Medway around Eccles, Burham, Peters Village and Wouldham face in accessing a GP is of deep concern to myself, local Councillors and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

I have been working alongside Tracey Crouch MP and recently we met with Paul Bentley, NHS Kent and Medway Chief Executive, to pursue our shared concerns further and establish how to expedite development of the medical centre at Peters Village, on land Trenport owns. We have heard back from Paul following his meeting with you last week, that followed his letter of 6 April 2023.

It is following this meeting that I am writing to you today, and placing this letter in the public domain. It was incredibly disappointing to read that Trenport made clear that development of the medical centre at Peters Village is dependent on planning permission being granted for the Bushey Wood development in Eccles.

When Peters Village was first developed, provision of a medical facility was key to its viability as a development option for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council at the time. Indeed the Council has continued to repeatedly offer support and assistance to Trenport, and various NHS organisations, to find a solution to this impasse. We maintain our longstanding belief that medical facilities ought to be developed in Peters Village, alongside the other facilities that have been delivered and that residents who moved into the development would expect.

Phoenix Medical Practice have also been working with Assura to progress options since they have been forced to close their patient list due to lack of available capacity at the current surgeries in Eccles and Burham. I would be interested to know what discussions have taken place with Assura to establish whether Trenport would be able to willing to develop the facility elsewhere on sites that it is able to do so in or around Peters Village?

May I take the opportunity to remind you that the determination of the application at Bushey Wood relates to the extended proposals for the medical centre should permission be granted, and not the principle of a medical centre being developed in that location. Indeed, Trenport have submitted applications for various iterations of a medical centre at Peters Village over recent years and discussions and progress could have continued about this, in parallel with any separate conversation regarding extended provision at Bushey Wood in the eventuality development happened here.

During the many planning applications submitted by Trenport for schemes in Peters Village, and latterly at Bushey Wood, the Council has sought to work efficiently and effectively with Trenport. Where there are issues raised or escalated we have responded to them as quickly as we can. All applications submitted in these locations are complex, especially one the size of Bushey Wood. It is why the Council has sought to work through issues methodically and in detail, as it should.

Ultimately Trenport has made the decision to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate for non-determination of the application at Bushey Wood. It is not a decision that we supported you taking, as I am firm in the belief that you have deliberately denied local representatives the opportunity to take the decision on whether to permit development or not. However, members of the Area 3 Planning Committee will shortly be meeting to determine what decision it would have taken in the event it was still the determining authority, and we will advise the Planning Inspectorate accordingly.

Finally, please can I reiterate the position of the Council on the principal matter of delivering a much needed and long overdue medical centre at Peters Village, as it is clear from your meeting with the NHS last week that this position has yet to be understood by Trenport.

We are firm in the belief that a medical centre must be delivered at Peters Village. The Council remains happy to commit officer time to supporting any discussions about planning and design aspects to facilitate this important infrastructure development, just as we have done for many years through the NHS as well. We will be proactive in our approach and support however we can. There is nothing stopping in principle discussions about delivering the medical centre in Peters Village – regardless of whether the Bushey Wood development happens or not.

I hope this is clear.

Best wishes

Matt Boughton



Borough Councillor, East Peckham, West Peckham, Mereworth and Watringbury
Leader, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

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