

Aylesford Parish Council

Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Tunbury Hall, Walderslade, on Tuesday 15 November 2022

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

In Attendance : Mrs Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Hammond, Ludlow, Williams and Borough Councillor Keers.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Hammond, Ludlow, Williams 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 announced that he attended the Armistice Day Service on Friday 11 November at the RBL Village Aylesford, along with the Vice Chairman and Clerk. Also in attendance were Councillors, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd and Rillie.

4. Adjournment of the meeting to allow public participation

There were no members of public present.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27 September 2022

It was proposed by Councillor Balcombe and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Gadd that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27 September 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 4 October 2022. There were no matters arising.
- b) There was no meeting on the 1 November 2022.

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

- a) There was no meeting of this committee in September 2022.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee on 18 October 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 6 September 2022. There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 27 September 2022. There were no matters arising.
- c) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 4 October 2022. There were no matters arising.
- d) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 18 October 2022. There were no matters arising.
- e) There was no meeting of this committee on 1 November 2022.

10. To Receive the Report of the County Councillor

There was no County Councillor present, however members were provided with the monthly report for residents that is produced by Councillor Kennedy. **Noted**

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

TMBC Councillor Keers had submitted a report for members.
Attached at Appendix A **Noted**

12. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Mrs Gadd proposed and Councillor Balcombe seconded and it was **Agreed** that 34 payments totaling £22,351.15 be made.

13. Council Vacancies

There are currently no Vacancies.

14. Trade in Kubota for replacement machine

The Chairman asked the Clerk to explain the situation to members.

The Kubota is a rotary machine and does not perform well in wet conditions. Advice has been taken from the Council's Supplier and they have suggested a Cylinder machine would be more suitable. It can be used to cut in damp/wet conditions and gives a neater cut, particularly for sports fields as it cuts finer and will not leave clumps of grass unlike the Kubota. The Clerk stated that with the new machine she intends to take back the grass cutting in house for Forstal Recreation Ground. A quote has been obtained for a Baroness LM281 mower and a demonstration is booked for this week. The Clerk informed the committee that she has negotiated a discount of £7,915 and secured a part exchange price on the Kubota of £8,000. This would leave a Net price for the machine at £24,610.00. A service plan similar to the Kubota would be in place and the Supplier will train the Maintenance Supervisor to carry out various tasks on the machine without having to have it carried out by themselves. This will include things like changing the cutting heights and setting up the cutting units.

A Councillor asked if the Clerk can check that anything our staff carry out would not affect the Manufacturer's Warranty. The Clerk will enquire.

After discussion and subject to the answer concerning the Warranty and satisfactory demonstration it was **Agreed** to proceed with the replacement machine.

Closed

15. Policy for Dealing with Habitual or Vexatious Complaints

The Chairman explained that this is a Policy all Councils are advised to have and the submitted policy for consideration is taken from the KALC model. A Councillor asked if the words **C**ouncillors and volunteers could be added in first paragraph third line down after the word staff. It was **Agreed** to adopt the policy subject to the amendment.

Closed

16. Decisions taken under S101 Delegated Authority

There had been one decision taken under S101 Delegated Authority which was to pay the invoices on the 1 November 2022 payment schedule due to that meeting being cancelled.

Noted

17. To Consider Any Other Items of Correspondence

St. Peter and St. Paul's Church Aylesford

A Councillor asked if the Parish Council cuts the grass in the churchyard as it is quite long. The Clerk confirmed that it does cut the grass and explained that it is not a scheduled job, but done as and when workload allows. The Parish Council does not receive payment for the upkeep of the Churchyard and there are occasions when the maintenance supervisor cannot get access due to school staff parking in the area. It therefore 'misses' a cut.

Litter Pick

A Councillor informed the committee that there is a litter pick on Saturday 18 November 2022 at 2pm from the Brassey Centre, Aylesford, if anyone would like to go along.

18. Duration of Meeting

7.42pm to 8.15pm

There is much going at TMBC and we welcome the opportunity to share some of this with you. Whilst finances are obviously tight in today's economic climate, we are still working hard to maintain and progress what is on offer to the residents of our borough. Firstly, we are very proud to have the lowest Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour numbers in the county. We also have very low numbers of fly tipping reported within our Borough compared with the rest of the County. We have so many new initiatives in place led and driven by the TMBC Community Safety Unit to hold on to this position such as access to new deployable CCTV cameras, and close working with Kent Police and other Key Strategic Partner Agencies who are bringing in a new Neighbourhood Policing model soon which will see more 'bobbies on the beat'. This will follow the selection of the new Chief Constable, interviews and selection are taking place this week. Anti-social behaviour is high on our list of priorities to be tackled with a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) taking effect from early next year following public consultation, this has been highly communicated in the press recently and TMBC is seen as setting the pace across the county in taking such positive action against local crime and ASB issues and we will be helping the police to deal with any increase in violence in and around licensed premises during the FIFA World Cup.

We can also claim to have the highest recycling rates in Kent, and the borough's food waste is used to produce gas at Blaise Farm which is sufficient to supply an area the size of Kings Hill. We have also seen the opening of our new eco cafe at Leybourne Lakes. This is the most innovative building in the South East and was designed and built by TMBC as part of our Climate Change strategy.

Our teams are always on the lookout for the availability of grants, and we have been successful in securing funds for several great projects. Recently we provided children's winter coats to the most needy through grant funding, and soon we will be providing finance for shopfront improvements, carbon reduction and energy efficiencies, and support for rural businesses and communities in this way. We recently won awards in conjunction with Clarion Housing in recognition of our joint project for energy efficiencies in some of their tenant's properties. This will continue for more tenants going forward as more funding is secured.

We are keen to ensure our borough is a healthy place to live by working alongside tmactive in their management of Kings Hill Sports Park, Larkfield Leisure Centre, the Angel Centre in Tonbridge and Poulton Wood Golf Course to name but a few of the sites. Our OneYou team help our GP's in providing support for health, and they coordinate our weekly Wellbeing Walks with help from our much-valued volunteers. Our rough-sleeper numbers are minimal with a high level of work carried out with partner agencies, and we have 2 new Homelessness Prevention Officers who are busy keeping roofs over heads.

The Local Plan consultation has now closed, and we thank all Aylesford Parish residents who attended the Regulation 18 public meeting and those who took the time to respond.

Des Keers (TMBC Councillor)