

Aylesford Parish Council

Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Tunbury Hall, Walderslade on Tuesday 18 July 2023

Present: Councillors Sullivan (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Chapman, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Gledhill, Rowe, Rillie, Shelley, Smith and Walker.

In Attendance : Mrs Randall (Clerk).

Also in Attendance: Borough Councillor Colin Williams and one member of public.

Apologies: Councillors, Beadle, Mrs Gadd, Fuller, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Sharp and Borough Councillors Canon, Dalton, Davis and Keers.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Beadle, Mrs Gadd, Fuller, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Sharp, and Borough Councillors Canon, Dalton, Davis and 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 informed the committee that he had been to the Gallagher 50th Anniversary celebrations on Friday 7 July along with the Clerk and Councillors, Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd and Sharp. There were tours of the Quarry throughout the day, which was interesting.

He also reported that he went to the start of the RBLI Ride with a Veteran on Friday 14 July, with the Clerk and Councillors Ms Dorrington and Chapman.

4. Adjournment of the meeting to allow Public Participation.

A member of public raised concerns about overgrown trees in the Oaks Dene area of Walderslade where they seem to have grown considerably in the past year. The Parish Council was asked to contact KCC and TMBC to request their tree experts have a look around the area to inspect the trees in question. There are fears among residents that if maintenance isn't carried out now to reduce their height and they come down in a storm they will seriously damage people's houses. Oaks Dene to Sheraton Court right round to the bus stop is particularly bad.

The Clerk will contact the relevant departments within KCC and TMBC to report the concerns.

Closed

4.2 Police Report

There was no representation from Kent Police.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 13 June 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 13 June 2023 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 and Resources Committee on 4 July 2023.

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 20 June 2023, subject to an amendment to Item 1, Apologies for Absence, to remove Ms. Dorrington. 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 20 June 2023
There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 4 July 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)

See attached report at Appendix A from Borough Councillor Williams and a report from the Borough Councillors for Aylesford North and North Downs Ward attached at Appendix B. **Noted**

12. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Balcombe proposed and Councillor Ms Dorrington seconded and it was **Resolved** that 26 payments totaling £8,495.29 be made.

13. Council Vacancies

There are currently no vacancies.

Noted

14. Decisions taken under S101 Delegated Authority

No decisions had been taken.

15. Campers in Ferryfield

The Chairman reported that there are two people in a tent on Ferryfield who have no permission to be there. They have been there for 4 weeks and are defecating and urinating in the hedge line of Ferryfield. The Clerk has worked tirelessly to bring this situation to a close. There has been no assistance from the Police who have said the Council needs evidence if it is those people who are defecating and urinating. The Clerk has approached TMBC for help as it would be them who would assist with the removal of an Unauthorised Encampment, but it seems that they cannot assist either. The only option now is for the Council to engage its Solicitor with a view to removing the people via any method available to them and through the Courts if needed. Members were appalled at the situation and after discussion **Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the Solicitor for advice, even if that means the Council has to pay for that advice.

16. To Consider Any Other Items of Correspondence

There was no Any Other Correspondence

17. Duration of Meeting

7.37pm to 8.12pm

Borough Councillors Report 18/07/2023

Land at Russett Close, Aylesford

At the Cabinet Meeting of 4 July 2023, myself, Rob Cannon and Steve Hammond provided further information in respect of this field including the previously stated views of the Planning Inspectorate supporting the protection of this green space and also the existence of a covenant that the Finance, Regeneration and Property Scrutiny Select Committee has previously been unaware when it originally considered this in June.

As a result of the extra information provided the Cabinet have decided that the site (56469) remains unavailable for development when formally responding to the letter from the Local Planning Authority.

Castor Park, Allington

West Kent Housing Association are the new owners of this development site, previously granted outline planning permission for 106 new homes. The contractor is Penenden Heath Developments Ltd, an SME company based locally in East Farleigh. Tomorrow afternoon the three of us are meeting with WKHA on site to discuss the development ahead of the submission of the reserved matters planning application.

Litter

In October 2022 TMBC entered into a 12-month trial with National Enforcement Solutions to help with litter and fly-tipping enforcement. This arrangement was at no cost to the council tax payer as NES cover their costs via the fixed penalty notices that are issued. The scheme has seen more than 1000 fixed penalty notices issued during its first six months. Those caught face a £150 fine for littering reducing to £100 if paid within 10 days and £400 for fly-tipping.

Climate Change

The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee recently heard about the progress being made towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. Larkfield Leisure Centre has had 196 solar panels installed and is about to switch to LED lighting. Scoping reports on the installation of heat pumps at the centre have been commissioned. Properties across the Borough have benefitted from a range of measures including solar panel installation. More than 30 small businesses across the Borough have been awarded green business grants to invest in carbon reducing schemes.

Community Safety

You may have seen from the latest TMBC Community Safety newsletter that one of its top priorities for 2023/24 is tackling anti-social behaviour. As often there is a feeling that nothing is done about repeat offenders, you can now apply for a Community Trigger after the third time a similar behaviour, nuisance or problem has recurred and been reported to either TMBC, the Police or the Social landlord and where no effective actions then seem to have been taken. A Review Panel would then be held to discuss the case and decide what further measures could be taken while keeping the applicant fully informed during the process.

Borough Councillor Colin Williams

REPORT TO AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL 18th July 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 APPLICATION

Trenport have now gone to appeal on the Bushey Wood planning application. The appeal will be by inquiry and will be heard at TMBC's Gibson building in Kings Hill starting at 09:00 on 17th October 2023 and will run for 4 days.

All the evidence and comments sent in by the public for TMBC's consideration as part of the planning application will be passed to the inspectors who will review it all again. There is no requirement to resubmit any of that evidence.

However, members public and public bodies can submit new evidence including from people who have not previously submitted to TMBC. All this evidence must be with the inspectorate by 19 July 2023.

Anybody who wishes to speak has two options.

A casual speaker can indicate to the Planning Inspectorate that they wish to speak. Their chances of speaking are totally at the discretion of the Inspector. The certain way of ensuring that an individual or organisation can speak is to apply for Rule 6 Status with a written statement of case before the deadline of 19th July 2023.

Full details of written submissions and speaking requests have been passed to your clerk if anybody wishes to take part in this inquiry.

NURSERY ROCHESTER ROAD AYLESFORD

1. Concern has been raised by some councillors about the planning application TM/01072/FL, "Proposed change of use of land from a nursery (plants) to mixed equestrian and a holiday park comprising 7 mobile homes, 4 serviced camper van places and a recreational area".

2. We have had a meeting with the case officer and she is fully aware of the background information we have been able to give her.

3. If officers are minded to approve this, we have asked for it to come to Area 3 Planning Committee

4. This location is also the subject of enforcement action. The enforcement action is on hold until this application is decided.

5. LAND REAR OF MACKENDERS LANE ECCLES AYLESFORD KENT

Your Council raised no objection to application TM/22/01389/AGN for a barn to be constructed in the field adjacent to the houses on Hale Farm bend on Pilgrims Way, The landowner has erected a mobile home and access onto Pilgrims Way. This is now an enforcement case and several visits have been made by officers and further investigations are expected.

LAND ON FORMER SCOUT CAMP WARREN ROAD

You will be aware of the enforcement action that has been going on for a year or more on this land.

There have been 3 magistrate court sessions where the landowner failed to turn up: 16th September 22, 9th November 22 and 8th February 23.

The next date set for a court appearance was 28th June 22. The landowner did not attend the case which should have been heard in his absence. However, the preceding case went on until the courts closed for the day and the case is now set to take place on Friday 14th July at Medway Magistrates Court.

Update: The landowner failed to attend the Medway magistrates court on Friday. The case was tried in his absence and he was found guilty and fined £3140 with £3600 towards the prosecution costs. This is a light fine given the scale of the problems. However, he now has a criminal record and this should be seen as the beginning of the enforcement action not the end of it.