

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, on Tuesday 4 February 2025

Present: Councillor Mrs Gadd (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Chapman, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Sharp and Shelley.

Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Fuller, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Smith and Sullivan were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests, except Councillor Fuller declared an interest in item 7 as he is Chairman of Aylesford Football Club.

3. To Agree the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 January 2025

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

The Clerk informed members that the Improvements to the overflow Car Park behind the Parish Office will start on Monday 3 March 2025 and will take about a week to complete.

5. Outdoor Gym Equipment in Forstal Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that she has two quotes, from different companies, one like for like and one for a newer enhanced version of the equipment. This would be funded using available S106 monies from the Land at Hermitage Lane development.

Like for like - £33,957.00 (net), this has no resistance to it.

Enhanced version - £41,728.16 (net), this has varying resistance from 1–10.

It was **Resolved** to proceed with the enhanced version if it can be funded using S106 monies. The Clerk will start the process and place the order once confirmation is received from TMBC regarding the funding. **Closed**

6. To consider installing a permanent connection from the CCTV to the Parish Office.

The Clerk said she has spoken with the CCTV company about the problem, and they have contacted the manufacturer to see if there are any firmware updates or newer equipment that may not have this problem of the receiver timing out and not reconnecting automatically. She is waiting to hear back. She has been keeping Councillor Iain Craig informed.

Ongoing

7. Request received from Aylesford Bulls Rugby Club

To use Ferryfield for parking on the following dates
23 March 2025 – Kent U11 Annual Mini Festival – approx. 500 cars
27 April 2025 – Kent Senior Men’s Finals – approx. 500 cars

It was **Resolved** to permit the requested use which will be subject to the usual stipulations, such as the Parish Council reserve the right to withdraw its permission if the weather is such that damage will inevitably be caused to the ground. If damage does occur the Rugby Club are responsible for rectifying it to an acceptable condition. The height barrier will not be opened.

Closed

8. Proposed new Changing Rooms on land behind 3G Pitch

The Chairman informed those present that the Sports Committee had recently met with a representative of the Football Club to review the revised plans. She informed them that the Sports Committee’s view of the proposal was of a positive nature. The Clerk informed members that the football club would like to extend the current 3G car park a bit more than indicated in the location plan onto the currently unused land which is part of the recreation ground.

This would be entirely funded through S106 monies from the Land at Hermitage Lane development.

Members discussed and reviewed the proposed plans, and it was **Resolved** to proceed with the changing room plan as submitted. The Clerk will now go through the S106 application for funds process, so it is ready when needed and confirm timings with TMBC. The football club will now need to submit their plans to TMBC and go through the planning process.

The extension of the car park was agreed in principle, but members want to know in detail how much of the recreation ground would be proposed for additional parking.

Members also wanted assurance that the extension of the car park will undoubtedly relieve the stress currently placed on the main car park and that their own car park would be used in the first instance before the main car park.

There was a comment about the door to the disability toilet, asking if it is wider than a normal door width. It looks like it is wider in the plans, but the Clerk was asked to mention this to the football club.

It was also **Resolved** that the Sports Committee can agree the finer details as they can meet at short notice and any meetings or discussions that happen will be reported to this committee for members information. If there are decisions to be made, then that will be the responsibility of this committee. **Closed**

9. Any Other Correspondence

The Chairman informed members that some of the Sports Committee had recently met with the Board members of the Rugby Club to discuss a few things, one being their plans for extending their clubhouse. This will be included in the Parish Councils Infrastructure Statement when the Clerk revises it later this year and hopefully some S106 funds can be allocated towards their much-needed extension. **Closed**

10. Duration of Meeting

7:37pm to 8:05pm