

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

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

Present: Councillor Mrs Gadd (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Gledhill, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley and Smith. Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Chapman, Hammond, Ludlow, Mrs Ogun 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 8 as he is Chairman of Aylesford Football Club.

3. To Agree the Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 February 2025

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

A Councillor referred to the proposed plans for item 8 and mentioned that the door to the first aid room needs to be a double door, not a single one as shown.

The Clerk referred to item 5 and informed the committee that the new gym equipment will be installed in April.

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

The Clerk informed those present she had met with the CCTV company along with Councillor Iain Craig and the manufacturer confirmed there are no updates. Councillor Craig said the CCTV company have changed the switch in the lamppost in case that is faulty and some wiring and now we monitor it and see if the problem has been rectified. It was **Agreed**

to remove this item from the agenda, but it can be put back on if the problem reoccurs for further discussion. **Closed**

6. Request received from Funfair to visit Eccles Recreation Ground for two weeks

A request has been received from the Funfair to hire Eccles Recreation Ground again this year for two weeks

Arrival – Monday 19th May

Fair open – 23rd 24th 25th and 26th (bank holiday)

Fair closed – 27th 28th and 29th

Fair open – 30th 31st and 1st June

Departure – 2nd June

After discussion, it was **Resolved** to refuse the request due to the damage that was caused last year and the fact that the ground has still not fully recovered. **Closed**

7. Damaged Memorial Tablet in Aylesford Cemetery

The Clerk informed the committee that she had contacted the Council's insurance company for advice regarding damage to a memorial tablet (footstone) in Aylesford Cemetery which the family have asked if it could have been caused by the grass cutting machines. The Clerk informed the council that all memorials are the responsibility of the named person(s) on the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial. The insurance company have said there is no evidence either way of how the damage has occurred and asked if the Parish Council would consider paying for a replacement at a cost of £378 as a gesture of goodwill. After discussion, while the Council understands the family's distress, it was **Resolved** that all and any Headstones, Footstones, Vases for flowers, Mementos or similar placed by any person are left at their own risk and there is no liability upon the Parish Council to replace, repair or otherwise compensate for any loss or damage thereto.

The Clerk will inform the insurance company and ask them to let the claimant know.

Closed

8. Request received from Aylesford Football Club

A request was received from Aylesford Football Club to hold their Annual Tournament on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st August 2025 on Forstal Recreation Ground.

It was **Resolved** to permit the request.

Closed

9. S106 monies that are available now

The Clerk distributed the current Parish Infrastructure Statement for member's reference. She explained that the available funds are not all allocated to projects, which means TMBC could take it for allocation to other projects within the Borough, therefore it is very important that the Parish decide what it wishes to do with the available funds so the Clerk can seek

clarification the projects would meet the S106 eligibility criteria of the agreements which are legally binding documents.

The Clerk reminded members they have already agreed to renew the outdoor gym equipment on Forstal recreation Ground using S106 monies and this project has been confirmed by TMBC that it is eligible for S106 funding. She also reminded members that the proposed changing rooms for the 3G pitch (and possibly increasing car parking) will also be funded using S106 monies and she is awaiting confirmation from TMBC of how much is currently sitting in the pot.

She went through each item that is in the document, some will be revisited at a later date, for example when there are funds from the Bushey Wood development but for now the following was agreed.

1. To seek confirmation that funds can be used to install a bench/picnic table at the top end of Forstal Recreation Ground which will use the remaining £1,671.43 that is allocated for this site. If the answer is yes, the Clerk can proceed and work with the Football Club to ensure its location doesn't interfere with the football pitches.
2. To seek confirmation from TMBC that replacing the MUGA on Forstal Recreation Ground is eligible for funding. If so, this will be done after the changing rooms project.
3. To enquire if there are any funds that could cover the cost of installing the disabled swing in Podkin Meadow as requested by a resident as the Council was unsuccessful in its recent grant application to Persimmon Homes.
4. To confirm that the council can use the funds that are allocated to Bluebell Hill Recreation Ground to purchase two containers for storage of sport equipment so the site can be more widely used for sporting activities.
5. To also confirm with TMBC if the funds referred to in 4 can be used towards making a football pitch on Bluebell Hill Recreation Ground, because in order to play there the site needs enhancing by raising soil levels for example.
6. Another option for the funds referred to in item 4 are purchasing a couple of dug outs for Bluebell Hill Recreation Ground.
7. To enquire if the funds that are available for Tunbury Recreation Ground would cover the cost of purchasing and installing benches to enhance the site as there are only a couple of benches for people to sit and it would be nice to have a couple more.
8. The Clerk will seek suggestions from the playground installation company to install a piece of play equipment where the Rotabounce was removed from and see if it would be eligible for funding using the monies that are available for Tunbury Recreation Ground Play Area.

There were some suggestions for other projects that are not currently on the Parish Infrastructure Statement that is sent to TMBC, the Clerk informed members that it will soon be time to redo it for 2025/26 and asked if they can email her with any suggestions so she can include it in the document.

10. Any Other Correspondence

There was no Other Correspondence

11. Duration of Meeting

7:46pm to 8:28pm