

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

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

Present: Councillor Sullivan (Chair) and Councillors, Miss Anderson, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Netzel, Rillie, Sharp, Smith, Shelley and Mrs Waters.
Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Fuller and Ms Oyewusi 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.

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

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

4. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. To consider renewing the Play Equipment at The Hollow, Aylesford

The Clerk reported that a further meeting is scheduled with the playground contractor on 5 November to review options for reducing the cost of the Play Equipment scheme at The Hollow, which has currently been priced at just over £116,000. Once a revised quotation has been received, the Clerk will present the updated design and costings to Members.

It was noted that funding applications will be made to the FCC Communities Foundation and that S106 contributions will also be sought from TMBC.

The Clerk further advised that, as mentioned previously the play equipment at Tunbury Recreation Ground will also require replacement. A design and cost estimate for this will be brought to Committee once the position at The Hollow is confirmed

The Tunbury item will be included as a separate agenda item at the next meeting for clarity.
Ongoing

6. TMBC Anti-Social Behaviour Team

The report for September 2025 was noted.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that this project commenced on 21 May 2025. Since the last meeting of this committee the team has not visited the Parish Office, still only having visited on two occasions - 3rd and 24th July.

The scheme is due to finish on the 16 November 2025. **Noted**

7. Podkin Meadow Rewilding Project

No update received. **Ongoing**

8. Aylesford and Eccles Allotments

The Clerk reported that she has received the quote to clear and trim down all the vacant allotment plots at both sites. It is estimated to take no more than 10 days to carry out the work at a cost of £350 per day for two people.

If all 10 days are needed the cost will be £3,500.

An additional cost will be for a skip, £230 or £280 depending on what size is needed.

It was **Resolved** to proceed. Once the work has been done going forwards the Council or its contractor will maintain the vacant plots by keeping them trimmed. **Closed**

9. To consider replacement of the Leg Press at Tunbury Recreation Ground due to wear and tear

The Clerk reported that the existing leg press at Tunbury Recreation Ground requires replacement due to wear and tear. A quote has been obtained to install a more modern piece of equipment, similar to that recently installed at Forstal Recreation Ground. While the proposed equipment differs from the current Tunbury item, and will be a slightly different shade of green the Council has been satisfied with the performance of the new equipment at Forstal.

The total cost of the replacement, including installation and removal of the existing leg press, is £3,578.20. It was **Resolved** to proceed.

In addition, it was **Resolved** to fund this using the General Parish Improvement fund and the Playground Repairs fund **Closed**

10. To consider maintenance works to the Conifer Hedge in Tunbury Car Park

The Clerk reported that the conifer hedge in Tunbury Car Park is overgrown, with branches overhanging into neighbouring residents' gardens.

A quote has been obtained to remove all overhanging branches, reduce the hedge by half, and trim both sides, at a cost of £3,200. An alternative option is to fell the hedge to the ground, which would be cheaper at £2,600; however, this could create potential issues for residents and may increase the risk of anti-social behaviour affecting them. There is also no reason to fell it as it is not diseased and neither does it have any health issues.

It was Resolved to remove all overhanging branches, reduce the hedge by half and trim both sides at a cost of £3,200. **Closed**

11. To consider the removal of the noticeboard outside 46 Hallsfield Road

The Clerk explained that this noticeboard is on a piece of land where the owner of number 46 is currently erecting a fence. He has asked for it to be removed. It serves no real purpose in the current location.

It was **Resolved** to remove it and store for future use. **Closed**

12. Any Other Correspondence

The Chair reported that TMBC are due to implement parking charges in the Aylesford High Street car parks in the very near future. Members expressed concern that the implementation appears rushed and does not reflect the conditions previously discussed. It was noted that TMBC had stated that charges would not be introduced until the overflow car park had been formalised, which has not yet taken place.

It is approaching two years since the original consultation began, and it seems that if charges are not introduced by a set deadline, TMBC will be required to undertake a new consultation process.

The Chair of this committee will write to TMBC to express the Parish Councils disappointment they have overturned their own decision and its concern for the speed at which the sudden implementation of the charges is happening.

13. Duration of Meeting

7:59pm to 8:38pm