

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, on Tuesday 6 May 2025

Present: Councillors Mrs Gadd (Chair), Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith and Sullivan.
Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Chapman, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Gledhill, Hammond, Ms Oyewusi and Ludlow and the reason 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 8 April 2025

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 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 felling extra-large Cedar Tree in Ferryfield

The Clerk reported she is still waiting for the Tree Officer at TMBC to respond to her email requesting advice for this tree.

Ongoing

6. Damaged Memorial Tablet in Aylesford Cemetery

The Clerk informed the committee that she had received further correspondence from the Council's insurance company regarding the damage to a memorial tablet (footstone). The insurer is still in agreement that there is no legal liability on the Council for the damage and

are still suggested the claim be settled on a non-admission of liability basis which would be done so without prejudice and on a confidential basis.

The Council finds this to be a difficult position to be in as it understands how sensitive this matter is but with no clear evidence of how the damage has happened and no legal liability to settle the claim, makes it difficult to agree to. It remains concerned about setting a precedence for the future.

After discussion it was **Resolved** that the suggestion from the Council's insurer of settling the claim on a non-admission of liability basis to be done so without prejudice and on a confidential basis be accepted.

The Clerk will inform the insurance company of the decision.

The excess on the policy is £250.

Closed

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

The Clerk reported that she has had an initial plan drawn up by a company, to get a feel of potential cost which was tabled.

The quote obtained is for £99,280.40 and is before the Clerk has negotiated any discount. She advised this could be funded via a grant or S106 monies and requested to be authorised to research available grants and to also seek clarification from TMBC if S106 can be used.

As part of the process of applying for a Grant or for the S106 monies for a large project, the Council will need to consult with local children to see what they would like and have to supply more than one quote.

Members were very positive about the current plan and authorised the Clerk to take all steps to secure funding, consult with children, amend the plan if needed and negotiate a discount. She will report back in due course.

Members also mentioned that Tunbury play equipment is also in need of replacing, the Clerk advised that she will also be working on that as it might be that she can secure funding to do both. However, The Hollow currently remains the slightly higher priority and if Tunbury cannot be done as quickly as needed then due to some of the safety surfacing lifting the Council may have to surface the area before it renews the equipment.

Ongoing

8. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk raised the issue of TMBC not emptying the litter bins, she is regularly emailing the Waste Services Team to report this issue. Members advised to contact the Borough Councillors and ask them to raise this with the relevant department/persons.

9. Duration of Meeting

8:11pm to 8:36pm