

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, on Tuesday 7 January 2025

Present: Councillor Sullivan (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Chapman, Craig, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Sharp, Smith and Walker.

Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Ludlow, and Shelley 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 3 December 2024

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 December 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Outdoor Gym Equipment in Forstal Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that she still needs to obtain the third quote.

Noted

6. Improvement to overflow Car Park behind Parish Office

The Chairman stated that she feels this is a good idea especially as the white lines may help with the way people park, giving them guidance and ensuring cars park properly therefore ensuring as many cars as possible can make use of the space. Drainage is also wise as this will help to minimise any flooding as at the moment this car park becomes unusable when

there has been heavy rain as it floods. The Clerk said the cost to tarmac, white line it and install drainage will cost £22,322.46. It was **Unanimously Resolved** to proceed with the work.

A Councillor raised the issue that was witnessed of the Clerk manning the overflow car park this evening whereby she was subjected to a situation of a football attendee having parked in front of the gate to the overflow car park who did not want to move. Due to him not complying with the Clerks request straight away it meant the vehicles coming in backed up and it became difficult for anyone to manoeuvre. He did move, albeit reluctantly. The point was raised that the Clerk should not have to man the car park or put up with or deal with situations that cause confrontation that can feel intimidating. Therefore, members agreed that going forwards the back car park is to be left open and locked at night when the site is locked up. If this means people can't park on site, whether that be our Councillors, hirers of the Community Centre or attendees to the Football Club then there are two other car parks over the road that can be used. **Closed**

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

The Clerk reminded members that she raised this at a previous meeting, where the cameras on the lamppost opposite the office in the car park intermittently go off for a short period causing a process of events to happen in order to get them on again. Having spoken to the CCTV company it seems the connection fails from the cameras to the box in the loft, the way to rectify it is to install a trench and lay cabling from the lamppost to the office so there is a permanent supply. The cost is £3,741.00. Members were not sure this is necessary and mentioned possible causes such as wi-fi not being strong enough or a new router being needed, however the Clerk advised the issue is not being caused by the wi-fi or the router. It was **Resolved** not to proceed with the work for now but for the Clerk to arrange for someone from the CCTV company to meet at the office with Councillor Iain Craig so the situation can be explained to him and therefore gain a better understanding of what the problem is and what needs to be considered to rectify it. **Ongoing**

8. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the Demo Outside Gym Equipment will be on site in the back car park behind the Parish Office from 22 January to 5 February. Other Councils will come to look at it and most of it is what the Council is potentially considering purchasing to replace the end-of-life equipment on Forstal Recreation Ground.

A Councillor reminded members that should any help be needed for sport related activities then we should consider involving our MP, which is either Helen Grant or Tristan Osborne depending on the Ward.

9. Duration of Meeting

7:51pm to 8:12pm