

# **Aylesford Parish Council**

## **Environmental Services Committee**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, on Tuesday 7 October 2025**

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

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#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Mrs Birkbeck, Fuller, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi and Sullivan were received, and the reasons for absence agreed. It was also agreed to extend the apologies of Councillor Hammond to the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 due to ill health.

#### **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 2 September 2025**

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 September 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 advised that she had had a meeting with the contractor to redesign some of the Play Equipment at The Hollow to incorporate some play equipment that is classed as outdoor sports to enable some of the project to be funded using S106 monies. Once the revised plan comes back with costings the Clerk can then look to fund the remaining items from the FCC Communities Foundation. Tunbury play equipment also needs replacing soon and the FCC Communities Foundation could be used for this site also.

**Ongoing**

## 6. TMBC Anit-Social Behaviour Team

The report for August 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.

Members requested clarification regarding the figures presented in the report, particularly the total number of hours spent in the Borough and a breakdown of how this total was calculated. TMBC answer: the number of hours spent in the Borough is calculated using the invoices submitted by Kingdom – they tell TMBC the hours each officer has worked per month which is then used to calculate the total number of hours worked across the Borough.

Members had also asked for further detail on visits to the Parish, with specific reference to the category of 'Public Engagement.' Members wished to understand what this term covers. A request was made for each public engagement to be listed on the report for clarity. TMBC answer: the term 'public engagement' refers to the team talking/chatting to residents while patrolling – they do not always get feedback from Kingdom about the exact conversations they are having, but where possible they will now try to include an explanation or examples of the types of conversations they are having. **Noted**

## 7. Podkin Meadow Rewilding Project

No update received as Councillor Shelley has not had any luck at the moment with obtaining a grant for the purchase of seed, due to the Parish Council not having any available funds for this purpose. **Ongoing**

## 8. Aylesford and Eccles Allotments

The Clerk reported that she still has not received a response from Trenport regarding a site meeting to inspect the plots requiring clearance and the person she has been contacting has now left Trenport. She now has no direct route into Trenport.

There are 10 vacant plots in Eccles, 8 of which are on the side that will be taken for the Bushey Wood development. There is no waiting list, other than the existing plot holders who want to move to the other side.

There are 8 vacant plots in Aylesford with 5 people of the waiting list.

It was **Resolved** that the vacant plots will be cleared by a contractor and trimmed down. Once this has been done going forwards the Council or its contractor will maintain the vacant plots by keeping them trimmed.

Quotes will be obtained.

**Ongoing**

## **9. Proposed Changing Rooms for 3G Pitch**

The Clerk explained that as members are aware they agreed in principle to additional parking at the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The Aylesford Football Club have now proposed that ten extra spaces be created from the existing 3G car park towards Waitrose, using the waste land. They also proposed a turning point round the TPO tree which sits on the recreation ground, the size of which would be 5m x 5m square. The tree would be protected by some form of fencing in a circular shape.

It was **Resolved** that the parking is needed and to permit the proposal for the ten additional spaces. The land for the extra parking is already within the Football Clubs Lease.

It was **Resolved** to permit the turning point, however the land referred to is not currently included within the Football Clubs lease, so should the planning application be permitted by TMBC this area will need to be incorporated into the lease. The Clerk is authorised to address this matter at the appropriate time. The fencing should be of substantial quality to ensure durability in protecting the tree.

**Closed**

## **10. Any Other Correspondence**

### **Picnic Bench – Tunbury Rec**

The Clerk reported that she has obtained a grant from Kent County Councillor Kennedy of £500 towards the cost of the picnic bench to be placed in Tunbury Rec.

The cost of the bench is £645.00, and the installation cost is £250.00.

Once the payment has been received, she will order the bench as the funds cannot be claimed retrospectively.

## **11. Duration of Meeting**

7:53pm to 8:22pm