

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, on Tuesday 8 April 2025

Present: Councillors Mrs Gadd (Chairman), Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, 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, Hammond, Mrs Ogun, 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 4 March 2025

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March 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 that the Council's tree surgeon has looked at the tree and informed her it has die back and consideration should be given to felling it for health and safety. It may last another year but would have to be monitored. It was **Resolved** that the Clerk will ask the Tree Officer from TMBC to look at the tree and advise. Should it need to be felled then the Council will plant two trees in its place.

Ongoing

6. Request received to use Old Bridge Gardens

A resident has requested to use Old Bridge Gardens in Aylesford to host the annual 'Aylesford Big Lunch' on Sunday 22nd June 2025 from 12pm to 6pm. An events insurance policy will be taken out and the certificate sent to the Clerk. Should any damage be caused to the land as a result of the event then the resident will be responsible for rectifying it to the Council's satisfaction. The resident also requested the fee be waived as this is a community event. It was **Resolved** to permit the requested use and to waive the fee. **Closed**

7. Request received from Aylesford Bulls Rugby Club

The Rugby Club have requested permission to hold a silent fireworks event for club members and Aylesford residents. The display would be mainly lasers and drone lights with a few silent fireworks at the end. The reserved date is Saturday 1st November 2025. The event company have their own insurance, and the Rugby Club have Public Liability Insurance to host an event of up to 3,000 attendees. It was **Resolved** to permit the request. **Closed**

8. 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 has agreed that there is no legal liability on the Council for the damage but suggested the claim be settled on a non-admission of liability basis. The excess on the policy is £250.

While the Council understands this is a sensitive matter; with no clear evidence how, the damage was caused it feels it would be setting a precedence for the future. The Council is mindful that it is dealing with public funds and feels it should not be agreeing to settling claims where it has no legal liability to do so.

It was therefore Resolved that the suggestion from the Council's insurer of settling the claim on a non-admission of liability basis be refused.

The Clerk will inform the insurance company of the decision.

Closed

9. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk informed the committee that she has enquired with TMBC whether it is worth Aylesford Football Club obtaining pre-application advice regarding the proposed extension of the 3G car park onto the Forstal Recreation Ground. TMBC do not give any priority to pre-application advice, priority is however given to planning applications. They informed the Clerk that should the application be submitted and it fails on planning grounds, the football club would be required to make the amendments as requested then resubmit. If the planning application is submitted as a joint project, so the proposed changing rooms and the proposed car park extension and one fails on planning grounds then they both fail and will need to be resubmitted.

11. Duration of Meeting

8:14pm to 8:34pm