

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Football Club Pavilion, Aylesford, on Tuesday 9 December 2025

Present: Councillors Sullivan (Chair), Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Netzel, Ms Oyewusi, Sharp, Shelley, Smith and Mrs Waters.

Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillor Miss Anderson, Mrs Eves, Ludlow, Rillie were received and the reason for absence agreed. It was also agreed to extend the apologies of Councillor Hammond to the 3rd February 2026 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 4 November 2025

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 November 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

The Clerk reported that item 10 is scheduled to be completed Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th December.

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

The Clerk reported that a revised quote and design had been received, following discussions with the contractor to slightly reduce the scheme and lower the cost. The updated net cost is £84,901.74. this includes a discount of £11,693.85.

As previously agreed, the Clerk will seek funding, aiming to use S106 monies for items classified under outdoor sports and the remaining funding from the FCC Communities Foundation. The Parish Council will also need to contribute financially to the scheme.

Following the festive and New Year period, the Clerk will consult with the local community and contact Aylesford School to gather the views of the children.

Members expressed their satisfaction with the design and thanked the Clerk for her efforts.

The Clerk will report back to the committee once consultations and funding enquiries have been completed. **Ongoing**

6. Renewal of the Play Equipment at Tunbury Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that the quote and design had been received, the net cost is £68,880.30, this includes a discount of £11,088.00.

The Clerk will now look at funding possibilities, including the FCC Communities Foundation and S106. She will report back to the committee once she has a clearer idea of what funding can be applied for. **Ongoing**

A Councillor asked if the Clerk could investigate turning the steps on Tunbury Recreation Ground by the underpass into a ramp. The Clerk will investigate and report back.

7. TMBC Anti-Social Behaviour Team

The fourth report for October 2025 was noted along with the final report for part of November. **Noted**

8. Podkin Meadow Rewilding Project

The Clerk informed the committee that she had received further correspondence from the Wouldham Rewilding Project (WRP). The group have suggested a small area to trial as a demonstrator that they would manage themselves with no assistance needed from the Parish Council. They could plant some native hedging, and the area inside would be the demonstrator.

The Council is open to this suggestion and would like to know the size of the area they would like. The Clerk will find out and report back. **Ongoing**

9. Grass Maintenance 2026

It was **Resolved** that the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Sullivan, and the Clerk will review the grass-cutting requirements and associated budget for the relevant contractors, enabling the Clerk to set the Precept for 2026/27. **Closed**

10. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received from a resident of Powell Close, Aylesford, regarding the placement of the new storage container at Forstal Recreation Ground. The resident expressed disappointment at not being consulted prior to its installation and had initially believed the container belonged to Aylesford Football Club.

The Clerk clarified that the container is owned by the Parish Council and is used for the storage of huts for the Aylesford Christmas Market. It was noted that without on-site storage, the continuation of this community event would not be possible. The resident confirmed that they had no objection to the purpose of the container, only to the lack of prior consultation.

Noted

11. Duration of Meeting

8:10pm to 8:47pm