

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Football Club Pavilion, Aylesford on 13 December 2022

Present: Councillor Mrs Gadd (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Base, Mrs Eves, Gledhill, Fuller, Rillie, Sharp.

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Ms Dorrington, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker and Winnett.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker and Winnett were received, 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. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 November 2022

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 November 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that no further works have been carried out.

Ongoing

5. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Agreed Action Plan was submitted to KCC on 30 April 2022.

- a) **Blue Bell Hill Slip Road** – the Clerk reported that she has contacted Inspector Mark Stubberfield at Kent Police to see if any enforcement action has been carried out on the lorries parking there and is awaiting a response.

Ongoing

b) **Tunbury Avenue, Walderslade – near School** – the Mini Warden project is due to start in January 2023. No further update **Ongoing**

c) **The need for a Highway Improvement Plan**

The Clerk has received a reply and it is a document of items the Parish would like to see implemented in its area. KCC stated that they ask people to raise it with their Parish Council and ask for it to be added to their Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) as the majority of funding is allocated towards crash remedial sites. Having a problem added to the HIP is a way of unlocking different funding and many can be funded by KCC, however they do have to prioritise, and therefore they ask parish Councils to contribute funding towards certain projects, as even if raised on the HIP KCC may not always be able to fully fund the projects themselves.

After discussion it was **Agreed** that the HIP is kept but the Clerk is to make it clear to KCC that the Parish Council will not be contributing financially to any projects as Highway Improvements and indeed safety is the responsibility of KCC. **Closed**

6. Bus Services

A further meeting has been arranged between the three Parish Council's. **Ongoing**

7. Arch Lights on the Old Bridge Aylesford – Review

The Contractor has implied they hope to re-wire the lights on the bridge within the next week subject to the High Tide and now also the weather. **Ongoing**

8. Aylesford Cemetery Extension

The Clerk reported that Phase 1 – Intrusive Investigation should have been carried out on Monday 12th December, however due to the snow this had to be postponed and has been rescheduled for the 6th January 2023. **Ongoing**

9. Grass Maintenance 2023

The Clerk reported that herself and the Chairman had recently had a discussion with the current contractor to discuss the schedule for 2023. As a result, the Chairman and the Clerk now need a further discussion between themselves before reporting back to members. In the meantime, the Chairman has asked the Clerk to obtain a further quote from another contractor.

It was **Agreed** that the Policy & Resources Committee on the 3rd January 2023 can make the final decision as the next meeting of this committee will be too late. **Ongoing**

10. Available space in the Cemetery

The Clerk reported that after discussion with the Chairman regarding the available space in the Cemetery for new graves it was suggested that the Council temporarily pause all out of Parish Interments and Ashes Burials to extend the availability until the situation around the proposed extension is clearer.

After discussion it was **Agreed** to pause all new burials with immediate effect. **Closed**

11. Any Other Correspondence

There was no Other Correspondence.

12. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 7.49pm