

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2026, in the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, Aylesford

Present: Councillors Sullivan (Chair), Miss Anderson, Mrs Birkbeck, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Netzel, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley Smith, Mrs Waters and Williams.

Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

1.1 Election of Chair

There was one nomination for Chair, Councillor Sullivan. There was a show of hands and Councillor Sullivan was duly elected as Chair of Environmental Services Committee.

1.2 Election of Vice Chair

There was one nomination for Vice Chair, Councillor Shelley. There was a show of hands and Councillor Shelley was duly elected as Vice Chair of Environmental Services Committee.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Balcombe, Chapman and Ms Oyewusi were received and the reason for absence agreed.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

4. To Agree the Minutes of the last meeting held on 5 May 2026

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 May 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

Councillors asked Councillors Ludlow and Shelley for an update on obtaining water quality testing kits. Councillor Ludlow reported that the kits had not yet been obtained, and Councillor Shelley advised that they were still investigating the matter.

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

The Clerk reported that she missed the deadline of the most recent application round for the FCC Communities Foundation grant. However, the next round is now open and does give more time. The deadline for the is 19th August 2026.

Ongoing

7. Renewal of the Play Equipment at Tunbury Recreation Ground

There was no update.

Ongoing

8. Tunbury Car Park

Although the installation of an ANPR camera was agreed at the last meeting, the Clerk raised concerns regarding the proposed installation angle of the camera and whether it would be able to capture vehicle registration numbers effectively. Members noted that the contractor believed in his experience the camera would operate satisfactorily; however, as it would not be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended position and guidance, the contractor could not guarantee optimum performance in all conditions.

It was noted that no refund would be available if the camera did not perform as required, and therefore any decision to proceed would be at the Council's discretion and risk.

Councillor Fuller advised that he would ask a contact to review the manufacturer's installation recommendations and camera angles and would report back to the Council.

Ongoing

9. Parish Infrastructure Statement

The Parish Infrastructure Statement was agreed as submitted with the addition of a Table Tennis Table for Eccles recreation Ground. This will be added in and returned to TMBC and will be the document used to secure S106 funding for 2026/27.

Closed

10. To agree the Sports Committee Membership

The Clerk reported that those who had expressed an interest to be on this committee were Councillors Miss Anderson, Balcombe, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Smith and Sullivan.

The Committee membership was agreed.

Closed

11. Podkin Meadow Rewilding Project

The Clerk reported that further correspondence had been received from the rewilding team advising that the project would require a 10-metre circular area of native hedging, to be supplied as bare-root saplings and planted during the winter period. A separate area would also be required for the storage of cut grass. Following discussion, members concluded that Podkin Meadow could not accommodate the requirements of the project. The Clerk was instructed to thank the rewilding team for their time and efforts and to advise them that the Council had decided not to proceed with the project. **Declined**

12. Climate Change Forum

This will be on the next agenda for discussion as members had not received the notes in their meeting packs.

13. Any Other Correspondence

Streetlighting Columns

The Clerk advised members that the Streetlighting contractor had informed her they have been advised by the Electrical Contractors Association that there have been changes to the regulations which mean that both the Live and Neutral now have to be isolated and our current Secondaries only isolate the Live.

100 of the Council's streetlighting columns are affected, where the Neutral path to the lantern does not disconnect and will need works carried out – the total cost of this is £7,500 + Vat.

There is no deadline by which the works must be completed, the only thing is if the contractor needs to repair one of the affected columns, they are obliged to change them, so they are then compliant.

This is not budgeted for this financial year, so finding such a large sum will be difficult.

Therefore, the Clerk advised members that she will not be taking any action on doing the works in one go. The Chair asked if at the end of the calendar year the finances can be reviewed and if there are any areas that have an underspend.

If the work cannot be carried out this financial year sufficient funds will need to be raised through the Precept for 2027/28.

Bus 552

Councillor Ludlow reported concerns that the bus service operating through Eccles may be withdrawn. It was agreed that further information be obtained to clarify the proposals and any potential impact on the parish and its residents.

Councillor Ludlow requested that bus service provision be included as a standing item on future committee agendas. This was agreed.

Councillors will investigate the matter further and report back at a future meeting.

14. Duration of Meeting

8:26pm to 8:59pm