

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Office, Aylesford on 18 April 2023

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**Present:** Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors, Base, Beadle, Mrs Birkbeck, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan and Walker.

**In Attendance:** Melanie Randall (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi and Winnett.

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi 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 21 March 2023

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that works are due to restart in May, with Tunbury being the first location on the list. **Ongoing**

#### 5. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

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

- a) **Tunbury Avenue, Walderslade – near School** – as far as the Council is aware the Mini Warden project should have started. **Ongoing**

b) **The Highway Improvement Plan**

There had been no further update since the last meeting of this committee.

There was a discussion regarding the junction between Tunbury Avenue and Robin Hood Lane that the Council feels is a dangerous junction. The Clerk was asked to raise this with County Councillor Kennedy. **Ongoing**

A Councillor raised some problems on Forstal Road, Aylesford. Due to the car park for the 3G pitch now being in operation drivers cannot see to pull out onto Forstal Road as it is quite a concealed entrance/exit, especially with parked cars either side of the entrance/exit. In addition, the drains flood onto the road so drivers cannot see the double yellow lines, which have just been repainted so now would be a good time to clear the drains so drivers can clearly see them. The Clerk was asked to raise these issues with County Councillor Kennedy. **Ongoing**

**6. Aylesford Cemetery Extension**

The Monitoring Wells were installed in Ferryfield on 6 February 2023, Staff are continuing to take the weekly readings and submit them to the Cemetery Development Company.

**Ongoing**

**7. Climate Change and Environment Strategy for Aylesford Parish Council**

After discussion it was agreed to start with a small Action Plan of what the Council wants to realistically achieve and a couple of projects to start off with were agreed as obtaining some quotes for the installation of Solar Panels on the Parish Office roof (grant funding will have to be available for the Parish Council to be able to proceed). The planting of trees will be considered where appropriate and the promotion of Active Travel. The Action Plan will be a working document that can be added to over time, it will also include things the Parish Council has already done, like changing the office lights and streetlights to LED.

The Clerk will enquire with TMBC, if any S106 money becomes available if it can be used for solar panels.

The Council asked the Clerk to obtain three quotes for solar panels, which due to her high workload at the present time will be done in June. **Ongoing**

**8. Climate Change Forum**

The next meeting of the Climate Change Forum is Wednesday 26 May 2023. **Noted**

**9. Damage to Ragstone Wall**

The Clerk provided some background history to the Ragstone wall and confirmed that after consultation with the Council's Solicitor, instructions had been given to the Solicitor to write to the relevant parties. **Ongoing**

## **10. Request from a resident to use Old Bridge Gardens, Aylesford**

A request was received from a resident to use Old Bridge Gardens for the annual 'Aylesford Big Lunch' on Sunday 4 June 2023 from 9am to 7pm and for the Council to consider waiving the hire fee.

It was **Agreed** to permit the use of the land subject to the usual insurance, risk assessment and insurance for the bouncy castle. The Council reserves the right to withdraw its permission if the documents are not provided by the 28 May 2023 and up to 48 hours before the event if weather conditions are such that damage will be caused to the ground by the event taking place. It was also **Agreed** to waive the hire fee, however if there is any damage to the Councils land as a result of the event then the organiser will be responsible for carrying out all necessary repairs to the Councils satisfaction. **Resolved**

## **11. Gym Equipment at Tunbury Recreation Ground**

After discussion it was agreed that like Forstal Road Recreation Ground as the equipment comes to the end of its life it should be removed. The Clerk is authorised to remove each piece of equipment as and when it is necessary without bringing it back to committee for decision.

Alternative equipment will be considered, but it is likely the Council will not replace with more exercise equipment. **Resolved**

There was a discussion around anti-social behaviour at Tunbury Recreation Ground and the possibility of installing CCTV was discussed. The Clerk informed members that the Council could not put CCTV near to or pointing at the play area for obvious reasons and as far as she is aware there are no lamp posts to attach it to for power. Despite this it was **Agreed** to add it to the next agenda of this committee for further discussion. **Ongoing**

## **12. Any Other Correspondence**

Councillor Ludlow informed the committee he cannot attend the next meeting on the 2 May, so took the opportunity to thank Members for the support and guidance they had given him during the last year.

## **13. Duration of Meeting**

7.47pm to 8.32pm