

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Capel Morris Centre, Aylesford on 18 October 2022

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**Present:** Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Base, Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Mrs Ogun, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Williams and Winnett.

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Fuller, Ms Oyewusi and Walker.

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Fuller, Ms Oyewusi and Walker 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 23 August 2022

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 August 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that the Safety Surfacing repairs in the play area at Tunbury Recreation Ground had been completed on 21 September 2022. No other works had been done.

**Ongoing**

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

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

- a) **Blue Bell Hill Slip Road** – no further update received from KCC. Members reported that there does seem to be less lorries however Kent Police do need to police this as there are still a number who are parking there. **Ongoing**
- b) **Tunbury Avenue, Walderslade – near School** – no further update received direct, however the Deputy Head of the School recently left so no further action has been taken regarding the scheme to be implemented by the KCC Warden. **Ongoing**
- c) **The need for a Highway Improvement Plan**  
 No reply received from KCC. Members asked the Clerk to follow this up one more time in an attempt to get a response. **Ongoing**

## 6. Bus Services

### 6.1 Bus Service

The Tuesday and Thursday bus service is well used but users were reporting that there is not much time to do things once you arrive in Maidstone, so in response to the feedback Nu-Venture have extended the Thursday service by one hour on the return journey. **Ongoing**

## 7. Gap between Ferryfield and Rugby Club

The Chestnut Paling was put up; however, it has been knocked down twice by people wishing to walk through. After discussion it was **Agreed** that once it is broken it will not be put back up. **Closed**

## 8. Arch Lights on the Old Bridge Aylesford – Review

The Contractor has looked at all the options but a like for like replacement is the best option. It was **Agreed** that the Parish Council would like to replace the arch lights on the Old Bridge in 2023/24 and asked the Clerk to ask the Contractor if they can refresh their price that was initially given to the Council in June 2021. The issue of the transformers being submerged in water periodically will remain irrelevant of what type of light is put up. Members also asked the Clerk if only the main centre arch can be lit this year, as that would look better than only two arches lit up. The Clerk will ask the Contractor if that is possible. **Ongoing**

## 9. Aylesford Cemetery Regulations – Review

The Clerk explained that the last review was in 2016, the suggested amendments are to bring the Parish in line with other Cemeteries and current guidance. It was **Agreed** to accept the amended regulations as submitted to members and attached to the Agenda. **Closed**

## **10. The Future of Aylesford Cemetery**

The Clerk explained she had not had time to move this forward due to other priorities in the Parish office.

**Ongoing**

## **11. Christmas Lighting 2022**

Quotes were received for the putting up, taking down and testing of the Festive Lights for 2022.

Walderslade tree Lights - £820.00 – **Agreed**

Aylesford Lights - £2,323.00 – **Agreed**

Eccles Lights - £1,450.00 – **Agreed**

The Clerk explained that in addition to the lights, Eccles will have its usual Christmas Tree and the Parish Council will buy one for Blue Bell Hill, like it did last year. After discussion it was also **Agreed** that Aylesford will have a Christmas Tree.

Members asked can the contractor please ensure the lights work in Blue Bell Hill before switch on as they are notorious for suffering difficulties which is highly frustrating and disappointing for residents. The Clerk will bring this to the attention of the contractor.

**Closed**

## **12. Forstal Recreation Ground – Outside Gym Equipment**

The Clerk that this item is connected to item 13 on this Agenda. She reported that there are three pieces of equipment that have come to the end of their life, the Leg Press, Skier and Cycle. The items are rarely used and are abused by children/youths. Members were asked to consider removing all the outside gym equipment at this location as and when they come to the end of their life. After discussion it was **Agreed** to ask the manufacturer to remove the three mentioned items as soon as possible and once the others are at the end of their life they too can be removed.

**Closed**

## **13. Outside Table Tennis Table – Forstal Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that she had received an enquiry from a member of the public about the possibility of putting a table tennis table in. The Parish Council could not fund it itself this financial year, however there is some S106 money still being held by TMBC for outside sport enhancement at this location. The Clerk has made some initial enquiries as to whether the table tennis table would meet the criteria and initial indications from TMBC suggest it would be eligible. After discussion it was **Agreed** that as it seems likely it can be funded through S106 monies the Clerk can obtain some costs and a couple of different style options and then seek final clarification from TMBC the preferred option is definitely eligible before bringing it back to committee for decision. Should this project go ahead, users would be required to bring their own bats and balls.

**Ongoing**

#### **14. Any Other Items of Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that some repair works to the culvert in Aylesford are needed, the work is currently scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022, however it may change because this is during the high tide sequence. It will be necessary to close the footpath that runs up the side of Bluebell Estates into Old Bridge Gardens to enable the repairs to take place. The work will be carried out by the Environment Agency and should any damage occur to the ground they will reinstate it.

**Closed**

#### **15. Duration of Meeting**

7.56pm to 8.38pm