

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Parish Council Offices, Aylesford on Tuesday 20 February 2024

Present: Councillor Mrs Gadd (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Gledhill, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan and Walker.

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Chapman, Fuller, Hammond, Ludlow, Mrs Ogun and Ms Oyewusi.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Chapman, Fuller, Hammond, Ludlow, Mrs Ogun and Ms Oyewusi 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 January 2024

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 January 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Small Works Programme

Tunbury was scheduled in twice and both times it rained so couldn't be started. **Ongoing**

5. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

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

No update to report.

Ongoing

6. Climate Change and Environmental Strategy for Aylesford Parish Council

The Clerk informed the Committee that she is in the process of applying for the Green Business Grants Scheme

As per the last minutes this item will now be removed from the agenda. **Closed**

7. Metal Coronation sign for Coronation Gardens

The Clerk informed the committee that due to other work taking priority no further progress had been made. **Ongoing**

8. Request received from Smiths Family Funfair

This item was deferred from the last meeting of this committee to allow Councillor Ludlow an opportunity to share his views before a decision is made.

The Clerk reminded members the office had received an enquiry from the funfair regarding the hire of Eccles Recreation Ground in May, June or July for one week.

She informed members that the last time the funfair was on Eccles Recreation Ground the Parish experienced an unauthorised encampment on the site as it was vacated. June is when the Council doesn't allow any football related activity, as various pitch repairs and maintenance are scheduled to be carried out.

There are many people who enjoy the Funfair, and it brings the community together, however the office does receive complaints from residents, particularly from those who live opposite the recreation ground. The complaints usually centre around noise and light pollution.

Members were disappointed that Councillor Ludlow had to give his apologies again, as they would have been interested in his views.

After discussion it was **Resolved** to permit this request, subject to various conditions such as they will need to provide the Clerk with a 30-minute window of their arrival as the gate to the recreation ground will not be left open. Any damage caused to the land either by entry or exit including any damage to the ground must be repaired to the Councils complete satisfaction.

They will also be required to always keep a vehicle across the entrance to the recreation ground to deter an unauthorised encampment. The Parish Council reserves the right to withdraw its permission if the weather is such that it is clear damage will be caused to the ground, by giving the hirer 48 hours' notice. They will also need to provide the Council with a copy of their Public Liability Insurance. A fee will be applicable at £158.24 per night as per the fees already agreed for 2024/25. A deposit of £300 will be required. **Closed**

9. Request received from Aylesford Bulls Rugby Club

The Clerk explained that the Rugby Club have requested to use Ferryfield for parking on 17 March 2024 for approx. 400-500 vehicles as they are hosting the Kent Mini-Festival. The request is to ensure minimal disruption to residents in neighbouring streets.

After discussion it was **Resolved** to permit the parking request subject to the usual conditions which are

- The Parish reserves the right to withdraw this permission up to 48 hours before the planned use if the weather is such that severe damage will inevitably be caused to the

ground or if bad weather is forecast on the date(s) in question. In these circumstances the club will be responsible for sourcing additional parking elsewhere.

- If damage is caused to the ground/surrounding area by the vehicles using the land, then the Parish will require the Rugby Club to carry out any repairs necessary to the ground in order to reinstate it to an acceptable condition.
- The height barrier will not be opened and as usual please ensure the gate to the recreation ground is manned at all times to ensure the risk of an unauthorised encampment on the land.

Closed

10. Request received from Aylesford Football Club

The Clerk explained that a request has been received to use the Forstal Recreation Ground to hold a Community Fun Day on Saturday 15 June 2024.

After discussion it was **Resolved** to permit the request, however some concerns were raised by members, such as the proposed location of the stage in between the tennis courts and properties. The Council feels this is too close to the properties and although the times the bands will be playing is in the afternoon, the Council feel it would not be appropriate to position the stage there. The Clerk is authorised to speak to the Football Club to come to an agreement over an alternative location that will cause less potential disruption to residents.

Another concern was the fun fair rides being put in the back car park, as this should really be used for parking to ensure as less of a disruption to the village as possible. It was agreed that the Clerk will speak to the Football Club about an alternative location, one suggested place is on the grass immediately by the table tennis table.

The grass maintenance/repairs are usually carried out in June, and the Council does not usually permit football related activity during this month to ensure the completion of the maintenance and that the ground has a rest. The maintenance/repairs will not be done until after the event and this may mean that the football club cannot use the recreation ground going into July. This will depend on when the contractor(s) can carry out the work.

The Parish reserves the right to withdraw this permission up to 48 hours before the planned use if the weather is such that severe damage will inevitably be caused to the ground or if bad weather is forecast on the date(s) in question (although this is a low possibility).

If damage is caused to the ground/surrounding area by the vehicles using the land, then the Parish will require the Aylesford Football Club to carry out any repairs necessary to the ground in order to reinstate it to an acceptable condition.

Organisers should ensure the top gate is manned at all times to reduce the risk of an unauthorised encampment and ensure it is completely locked once everyone is in, it must not be left open for the duration of the event.

Closed

11. Eccles Car Park – White Lining

Photos of the car park were circulated, and it was **Resolved** the Clerk will obtain three quotes and report back to this committee. **Ongoing**

12. Tunbury Car Park – White Lining

Photos of the car park were circulated, and it was Resolved the Clerk will obtain three quotes and report back to this committee. **Ongoing**

13. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk informed the committee of the following.

- The 20mph and 30mph Toolkits have arrived from KCC. These are a selection of things like posters, flyers, and stickers for residents to collect from the Parish Office and use themselves, they are not for the Parish to put up.
- Some welding work has been carried out in Eccles Skateboard Park to the barrier on one of the ramps and the gate to the skateboard park.
- A new pedestrian gate was put in at Eccles Recreation Ground in September 2023 and unfortunately dogs have been scratching it to leave. It was suggested that a metal plate be placed over the bottom to protect the gate from further damage.
- Phase Two of Ferryfield play area renewal has now been completed and the replacement of some old equipment at the Hollow has also been done. The Clerk is trying to arrange a photo opportunity for both sites, as it would be nice for the children from St Peters School to be involved in the Ferryfield photo as they were consulted on the plans and took the time to write to the Council with their views.
- The work to replace the fence at the Cemetery is due to start within the next couple of weeks, subject to materials being delivered.

14. Duration of Meeting

7:46pm to 8:15pm