

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Office, Aylesford on 21 February 2023

Present: Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan and Walker.

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Beadle, Fuller and Winnett.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Beadle, Fuller 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 24 January 2023

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that no further works have been carried out, she had updated the spreadsheet and has emailed it to the Contractor who has stated works will restart in March.
Ongoing

5. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

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

- a) **Blue Bell Hill Slip Road** – a Councillor reported that some additional signs had been put up by KCC that say No Parking on Slip Road. this seems to be working as there

are much fewer lorries parking there. It was therefore **Agreed** to remove this item from the agenda. **Closed**

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

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

The Clerk reminded members that she had sent the report to members via email of the Traffic Analysis carried out in Tunbury Avenue in October 2022. It states the traffic is complying with the 30mph speed limit, so therefore at this moment in time KCC are not considering any physical changes to the site. The law states that the enforcement threshold is 10% of the limit plus 2.

KCC don't feel a meeting would be of much benefit due to the results of the Traffic Analysis, however after discussion the Council feels that it is important to meet to discuss the problems around the School particularly as they feel the survey was carried out in the wrong place on the road.

The Council feels very strongly that changes should be considered to prevent an accident, not consider those changes after an accident has happened.

The Council also feels that there may be some confusion over what the issues are and where they are especially as it is someone different at KCC dealing with the Highway Improvement Plan now than there was at the beginning.

It was **Agreed** the Clerk will contact KCC and request a meeting to discuss the issues and to clarify exactly where the problems are. Borough Councillor Keers will be invited to attend the meeting as well. **Ongoing**

6. Bus Services

A Councillor reported that the school service is continuing to thrive. The current twice weekly service into Maidstone is also doing very well. **Ongoing**

7. Aylesford Cemetery Extension

The Clerk reported that the Monitoring Wells were installed in Ferryfield on 6 February 2023 and Staff are taking the weekly readings and submitting them to the Cemetery Development Company. **Ongoing**

8. Climate Change and Environment Strategy for Aylesford Parish Council

After discussion it was **Agreed** the document needs to be shorter ideally no more than one A4 page and kept local and realistic to things the Parish Council could potentially achieve. It was further **Agreed** that the working group agreed at the previous meeting be a small sub-committee formed of Councillor's Shelley, Sharp and Ludlow. The Clerk will also attend any

meetings of the working group where workload allows. The group will meet as soon as possible to discuss the document and agree a final draft to submit back to this Committee.

Ongoing

9. Climate Change Forum

It was **Agreed** to note the Notes from the meeting held on 30 January 2023. **Noted**

10. Request received from Aylesford Rugby Club to use Ferryfield for parking

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from the Rugby Club to use Ferryfield for parking on 25 March 2023 as they are hosting the Under 11's Kent Mini Rugby Festival. It is anticipated that approx. 500 vehicles will need to be parked throughout the day.

After discussion it was **Agreed** to permit the use subject to the usual stipulations that the Parish reserves the right to withdraw permission up to 48 hours before the planned use if the weather is such that severe damage will be caused to the ground or if bad weather is forecast on the date in question. Should these circumstances occur then the club will be responsible for sourcing additional parking elsewhere.

Any damage caused to the ground/surrounding area the club will be responsible for repairing to an acceptable standard. The height barrier will not be opened and the gate to the recreation ground must be always manned.

Closed

11. Ferryfield Play Area – Vandalism to the Hammock

The Clerk reported that the Hammock is being persistently vandalised. It has had three small repairs where nuts, bolts and screws were needed and has been completely replaced once as recently as November 2022. However it has now been vandalised again and the Clerk has requested members consider removal of the item, to look at alternative options that can be fixed to the existing frames so as not to have to remove the item completely out of the safety surfacing. It was **Agreed** that the item be removed while the Clerk researches what other options (if any) are available and reports back.

Ongoing

12. Forstal Road Car Park

The Clerk reported that there are several issues with the parish Car Park in the afternoons with those doing the school pick up parking in there. This has been ongoing for quite some time but is slowly getting worse.

The problems are.

1. NHS Pain Clinic – is on 2.30 to 4.30 on a certain day of the week. Patients cannot park, they are in pain and have low mobility. They have walking sticks, frames and wheelchairs and should be able to park in the car park but are unable to. They should be able to park in here and attend their clinic.
2. Children run through the car park ahead of their adults in amongst parked cars and cars that are manoeuvring. This is an accident waiting to happen.
3. In the grass cutting season the Maintenance Supervisor has to wait up the road if he has the mower on the trailer as he simply cannot get in here and unload due to the

amount of activity in here at school pick up times. Once they have started to leave, he comes in. This is not fair on staff who have been working all day and need to unload and put away the equipment.

4. The Parish Office avoids holding meetings in the office between 2.15pm and 3.15pm as those attending will not be able to park.
5. The Aylesford Pre school are also affected because those picking up children from there at 3pm have great difficulty parking as well.
6. Some are starting to arrive at 2pm, school doesn't end until 3pm.

The Clerk reminded members that this is a private car park for use of those using this site, so going to the Community Centre, the Play Area, the Recreation Ground, the Pre-School, or the Parish Council. It is not here for people to park here and go off site, there are signs in the car park that state it is Private.

There are no issues with the morning drop off.

After discussion it was **Agreed** that the Clerk will write a letter addressed to the parents/carers informing them that unfortunately they are no longer permitted to park in the Council's private car park in the afternoons explaining why. She will also speak to the Headmaster in advance to inform him of the Council's decision and to request if they could kindly email the letter out or if they think it would be better for the Council to print a copy for each child for the school to give to each child. She will also ask him if he can attend one afternoon to watch how chaotic it can be in here.

13. Request to move the meeting of this Committee from 23 May 2023 to the 30 May 2023.

The Clerk asked members to consider moving the meeting to a week later as she will be on annual leave. It was Agreed to move the meeting from 23 May 2023 to the 30 May 2023.

Closed

14. Damage to Ragstone Wall in Forstal Road Car Park

The Clerk referred to the printed photos supplied to members that the wall on the Bush Pub car park side has come down, possibly been hit by a vehicle. This in turn made the Ragstone Wall on the Council's side unsafe and emergency works were needed to remove three quarters of the height of the wall, which was done first thing the following morning. The wall needs to be rebuilt and the Clerk is in the process of obtaining advice and a quote. She will report back to members in due course.

Noted

15. Any Other Correspondence

There was no Other Correspondence.

16. Duration of Meeting

7.41pm to 8.35pm