

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

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

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

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

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

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Ludlow, 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 February 2023

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

#### 4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that works are due to restart as soon as the weather allows. **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 is due to start imminently. **Ongoing**

b) **The Highway Improvement Plan**

The Chairman of the Council and Borough Councillor Keers had a Teams meeting

with KCC to address the recent Traffic Analysis report that was carried out in Tunbury Avenue Walderslade in October 2022. KCC reiterated that the report does not indicate a need for any Highway Improvements at this location as the traffic is complying with the 30mph speed limit. The Parish Council will continue to complete the Highway Improvement Plan for now as a means to keep track of the improvements it would like KCC to act upon, but it will not be providing any funding. **Ongoing**

## **6. Bus Services**

A Councillor reported that the service continues to thrive. The Clerk asked members to consider removing this item from the agenda as it now only seems to be updates, there is nothing the Council is required to make a decision about. It was **Agreed** to remove this item as updates can be given under Any Other Correspondence. **Closed**

## **7. Aylesford Cemetery Extension**

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

## **8. Climate Change and Environment Strategy for Aylesford Parish Council**

The Clerk informed the committee that she has received a further document from Councillor Sharp but regrets she has not had opportunity to review it before the meeting. It was **Agreed** to discuss this at the next meeting of this committee. **Ongoing**

## **9. Climate Change Forum**

No update received. **Noted**

## **10. Ferryfield Play Area – Vandalism to the Hammock**

The Clerk reported that she met with the contractor to discuss what other items could be put in the Hammocks place making use of the existing frame. Unfortunately there isn't anything suitable to put in its place that wouldn't require the safety surfacing to be disturbed. The Hammock has been removed as have the remaining moving parts so just the frame remains in place. After discussion it was **Agreed** not to replace it. **Closed**

## **11. Damage to Ragstone Wall in Forstal Road Car Park**

The Chairman of the Council informed the committee that somebody from the Conservation Team based at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is coming out for a site meeting week commencing 27 March to look at the wall and to provide the Council with further advice regarding if the wall is in the Conservation Area or not. The Clerk has been having discussions with a Structural Engineer, the Councils Solicitor, and a Party Wall Surveyor.

Once the Chairman and the Clerk have all the information regarding the recommended next steps to be taken, they will report back to members. **Noted**

## **12. Repairs to goal area of the MUGA on Forstal Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that the goal area of mesh fencing on the MUGA in Forstal Recreation Ground is broken. Repairs are not possible, so three new panels are required.

The quote to received is for £1,216.67 (net), this includes the removal and disposal of the old mesh fencing. It was **Agreed** to proceed with the work. **Closed**

## **13. Beekeeping on Aylesford Allotments**

Permission was granted in March 2022 for an allotment holder to place one beehive on the allotment for a trial period of six-months, which the allotment holder had until December 2022 to action this but failed to do so. The request has now been submitted again and members are asked to consider granting permission on the same bases as previously agreed, subject to the Clerk receiving the relevant risk assessment and insurance documents from the plot holder.

It was **Agreed** to grant permission, but this must be actioned by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. As this is the second time bringing this to committee, it was **Agreed** that if the plot holder fails to have the beehive in place by the above date permission will not be granted again.

**Closed**

## **14. Tree maintenance on Forstal Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that some maintenance work is needed to the trees and shrubbery around the edges of the 3G pitch to tidy the area up, which can then be handed over to the Aylesford Football Club to maintain as this area now falls within their leased land.

The quote received is for £2,105.00. It was **Agreed** to proceed with the work. **Closed**

## **15. 3G Pitch Light Up Celebration 6pm to 9pm on Friday 14 April 2023**

A request has been received from the Aylesford Football Club to hold this celebration and to use the car park. There will be an ice cream van on site, one or two food vendors who will be placed on the grass by the pavilion so as not to take up valuable parking spaces. There will also be entertainment such as a balloon modeller and possibly a music supplier. The football club have discussed this with the community centre who has confirmed that they do not have any bookings that evening and have agreed not to take any for that night.

The Clerk informed the committee that should permission be granted she would request the insurance documents and food safety certificates of the vendors and any other relevant documents to ensure that everything complies with the Councils own insurance policy.

There was some concern around parking and the football club will be asked to do their best to manage this by providing people to man this.

It was **Agreed** to grant permission subject to the above.

**Closed**

**16. Any Other Correspondence**

There was no Other Correspondence.

**17. Duration of Meeting**

7.42pm to 8.12pm