

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Capel Morris Centre, Aylesford on 22 November 2022

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

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Fuller.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillor Fuller 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 18 October 2022

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 October 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that no further works have been carried out.

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 has been an improvement on the number of lorries parking in this slip road and wondered if any Enforcement action has been carried out by Kent Police. The Clerk will make enquiries.

Ongoing

b) **Tunbury Avenue, Walderslade – near School** – the Mini Warden project is due to start in January 2023. See 5.c below for more information. **Ongoing**

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

Still no reply received from KCC regarding the question. However, the Clerk reported she had received a separate email from KCC stating they have the results of the survey carried out outside the School in Tunbury. KCC have designed a new Highway Improvement Plan template that they have asked Clerks to complete and use instead of the existing one. Members asked the Clerk to contact the KCC Member for some assistance in getting a reply to its question around the need for a Highway Improvement Plan before she completes the new form. **Ongoing**

6. Bus Services

6.1 Bus Service

The Chairman informed the committee that some Councillors and the Clerk attended a meeting with KCC that morning with representatives from Burham and Wouldham Parish Council's for an update on the current situation with the bus service.

Ongoing

7. Arch Lights on the Old Bridge Aylesford – Review

The Contractor has not had opportunity to refresh their quote for the replacement of the lights due to it being a busy time of year for them, they are however aiming to do this in the new year.

They have confirmed that it is possible to rewire the arch lights so that only the main arch is lit this year. The work will be done within the next two weeks and as low tide allows.

Ongoing

8. The Future of Aylesford Cemetery

The Clerk has contacted a company called The CDS Group who are listed on the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) website and are specialists in the development of new Cemeteries and extensions. The Clerk has submitted information of the proposed area to them, they have completed a desktop study and provided the Council with a site-specific proposal for the initial ground investigation works to determine if the proposed area will be suitable to extend into.

The work has been split into two parts,

Phase 1 – Intrusive Investigation – to drill sampler boreholes across the proposed area to assess the depth to groundwater and the nature of underlying soils. If a shallow water table is encountered then the Council will be advised to consider alternative sites. If the ground conditions are found to be favourable then Phase 2 would be needed – to undertake the detailed T2 Groundwater Risk Assessment and obtain a report.

It was Agreed to proceed with Phase 1 and the Clerk is authorised to proceed with Phase 2 if that is needed. The Clerk will report back when she has some more information once the investigation(s) have been carried out. **Ongoing**

9. Coronation Event on Eccles Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from an Eccles resident to hold a celebration of the Kings Coronation on Eccles Recreation Ground on Saturday 6 May 2023. The resident will provide a full and detailed plan of the event in the new year including risk assessments and insurance for the Council's further consideration. All she is seeking at the moment is permission to use the Recreation Ground on that day so she can start planning. It was **Agreed** to provisionally grant permission subject to receiving the above-mentioned plans and documents. **Closed**

10. Outside Table Tennis Table – Forstal Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation from TMBC that the table tennis table would be eligible for the S106 money that is available for this site. After discussion it was **Agreed** to proceed with installing the table tennis table on Forstal Recreation Ground using the S106 monies. The quote received was for a blue or green table, other colours were available at an additional cost, the Council **Agreed** it would like a blue one. **Closed**

11. New Height Barrier – Forstal Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that the height barrier at the top of the Recreation Ground was in need of replacement to something better. It is very old and extremely heavy to open and close. The Clerk enquired with TMBC if this could be funded using the available S106 monies for this site and they have confirmed it would be eligible. It was **Agreed** to proceed with the new height barrier and to fund it using the S106 monies. **Closed**

12. New and Improved Fencing for Forstal Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that the fencing that runs along the length of the Recreation Ground is in need of replacement as it is very old, doesn't look nice and is broken in several places. She has enquired with TMBC if the S106 money for this site can be used for new and enhanced fencing and they have confirmed this would be eligible. It was **Agreed** to proceed with the new fencing to be funded using the S106 monies for this site. **Closed**

13. 2023 Grass Maintenance

The Clerk reported that it was now time to review the grass maintenance for 2023. She reported that there had been some issues this year with one contractor so she had obtained a quote for the same work with a different contractor. After discussion it was **Agreed** the Clerk will invite the existing contractor (contractor B) in to the Parish Office to discuss the grass cutting schedule for next year before a decision is made on the way forward. The Chairman of the Council will also attend the discussion.

Three companies have been approached for quotes for various grass maintenance, (contractors A, B and C)

It was **Agreed** to retain contractor A for the Gang Mowing and various other grass cutting tasks around the Parish including hedge cutting and grass enhancements on the football pitches.

It was **Agreed** to award contractor B the Pitch Repairs, reinstatement of goal mouths and line marking of football pitches.

It was **Agreed** to defer a decision over the remaining grass maintenance until the next meeting of this committee on 13 December 2022. **Ongoing**

14. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk reported that dog waste is being emptied from the dog waste bags on to the table in the teenage shelter in Eccles Recreation Ground. the Maintenance Supervisor has cleared it four times in the last two weeks. The Chairman stated that this is not acceptable and if it continues the Council will look at removing either the whole shelter or if possible, just the table. The Clerk will monitor and report back if necessary.

15. Duration of Meeting

7.38pm to 8.34pm