

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held via Zoom link on 23 February 2021

Present: Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ms Oyewusi, Ms Papagno, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker, Winnett and Wright.

In Attendance: Neil Harris (Clerk), Melanie Randall (Assistant Clerk and Finance Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Base, Ms Dorrington, Hammond and Williams .

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Base (TMBC Meeting), Ms Dorrington (Unwell), Hammond (TMBC Meeting) and Williams (TMBC Meeting) 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 26 January 2021

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Aylesford Village Square

The Clerk reported that the trees had been planted in the square today. KCC have indicated that the pavement works should be undertaken in April. It was indicated that the village were looking to have a Christmas Tree this year and it was **Agreed** that the provision of a Christmas Tree in the village for this year be investigated.

5. Traffic Speed and the new Sandpit Entrance on Rochester Road Aylesford

The Clerk reported that it had been indicated by County Officers that KCC have no plans for work at this site and that it should be included in Parish Highway Improvement Plan which Aylesford had not set up. Councillor Rillie reported that the Quarry had started working on their new entrance road which had resulted in the footpaths being closed and people walking along Rochester Road to access the footpath network further along that road. Following this Councillor Rillie met up with the Quarry owners on site and a temporary alternative route was agreed, which was subsequently endorsed by KCC Public Rights of Way, and came into operation on the weekend of 6/7 February. It appears that the new temporary footpath seems to be working effectively.

Discussion ensued on the KCC referring to a Highway Improvement Plan and it was Agreed that the Clerk report back on the details of a Highway Improvement Plan to the committee.

6. Parking at the Upper Bell Slip Road

The Clerk reported that the matter of the lorries parking on the A229 at the bottom of the slip road potentially blocking the emergency access down this redundant slip road and the actions of the parked drivers has been taken up by Borough Councillor Kennedy with the KCC Cabinet Member and the enforcement team at TMBC. It appears that KCC and TMBC are saying that the other Council are responsible. Councillor Kennedy has now ensured that the TMBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review Enforcement at TMBC this year.

7. A20 London Road , Aylesford Roundabout Consultation

The Clerk reported that KCC were undertaking a public consultation on their roundabout proposal for the A20 junction with Hall Road and the Quarry Wood Industrial Estate. A copy of the consultation document was attached to the Agenda. It was **Agreed** that consideration of this consultation paper be deferred to the Planning Committee on 2 March.

8. 155 Bus Service

The Clerk reported that he had asked KCC for the current position with regard to the new 155 Bus Service and was still awaiting a reply. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk continue to pursue KCC for a response.

9. Medway Valley Line Kent Community Rail Partnership

The Committee received the report of Councillor Shelley of the meeting of the Rail Partnership held on 28 January 2021.

Linked in with the Panattoni application there was an opportunity to have improvements to the station at Aylesford and ideas included various floral pots, a look at the access

arrangements and a secure bike stand. The Chairman of the Council indicated that this matter would be discussed at Joint Parish Council Meeting next week.

10. Vision Zero: The Road Safety Strategy for Kent 2021 – 2026

The Clerk reported that the Council was being consulted by KCC on their road safety strategy document a copy of which was attached to the Agenda. It was **Agreed** that consideration of this document be deferred to the Planning Committee on 2 March and that the Clerk would prepare a briefing paper for Members to consider. The Chairman of the Council also indicated that he would raise this issue at the Joint Parish Meeting next Tuesday.

11. Provision of Salt Bins in Eccles

The Clerk reported that last week with the snow a few local residents complained to KCC about the fact that there are no salt bins in the village of Eccles. This matter was taken up with KCC and they arranged for hand salting to take place at a number of junctions and around the shop in Eccles. The Clerk will be meeting up with the Highways Steward in the next few weeks to discuss where KCC could locate salt bins in the village.

12. Forstal Road Recreation Ground Play Area

The Clerk reported that the Chairman was still undertaking his review and the Chairman expected a revised job specification to be drawn up shortly and that the Clerk would go out to seek quotes from all of the original companies on the new specification.

13. Use of Ferryfield by Rugby Club

The Clerk reported that the Rugby Club had written to the Council indicating they have always offered a reduced summer programme and would hope to be able to offer this again in 2021. In anticipation of what they expect could be higher demand than normal, the Rugby Club were asking if they could extend the use of Ferryfield into July on a Sunday morning 10-12 for the younger age groups of under 6 to under 13's if they wished to continue. This would be a one-off request for 2021 only but believe it would offer a safe covid secure environment to return to exercise and rugby – the rugby rules are slightly different from 1st June to Mid-August as they are not allowed to play or train using the contact elements of the game. This means that the session will be more based on fitness, ball control and most importantly offer the players a place to socialise outside of school but still with safety high on the agenda.

It was **Agreed** that the request from the Rugby Club to continue using the Ferryfield until the end of July for their Sunday Morning training between 10 -12 be approved.

14. Request from Aylesford Football Club to extend use of Forstal Road Recreation Ground

The Council has received a request from Aylesford Football Club that with the reintroduction of grassroots sport from 29 March, and having missed so much football this year that use of the Forstal Road Recreation Ground be extended to the end of June and early July.

The Football Club are also considering purchasing 2 Portable goals thereby allowing more flexibility in the use of the pitches and to replace existing damaged goals. If Members are happy to consider the approval of this in principle, this would allow the Officers an opportunity to resolve some minor issues relating to the tethering of these to the containers where they would be located.

It was **Agreed** that

- (1) The request from the Aylesford Football Club to extend the use of the Forstal Road Recreation Ground by the Club until the end of June and early July be approved
- (2) The, subject to the Officers being satisfied with the tethering arrangements for the portable goals, the request for the use of portable goals on the pitches at the Forstal Road Recreation Ground be approved.

14. Works Reporting Programme

Councillor Shelley requested a tool for the reporting of all works to Members be developed and that this is regularly reported. The Clerk indicated that he would develop this programme and ensure that this reported to Members. It was **Agreed** that it be noted that the Clerk would develop the reporting programme for works and ensure that it is reported to Members.

15. Public Access to Meetings

Councillor Shelley asked whether the dates for our meetings could be published on the notice boards including how members of the public could access these meetings particularly those held on Zoom. The Clerk indicated that he would ensure that this happens. It was **Agreed** to note that the Clerk would ensure that the dates for future meetings and all of the access arrangements to these meetings are not just placed on the website but on the notice boards as well.

Discussion also ensued on the possibility of Council meetings being broadcast via YouTube. It was Agreed that the Councillor Ludlow and the Clerk look at this and report back to Members in due course.

15. Allotments

Councillor Mrs Gadd reported that with the support of the local MP Tracey Crouch the St Peters School from within the village now had an allotment in the allotment gardens at Aylesford. They were also being supported by Gallagher's who had supplied the wood and the topsoil for the allotment. The Assistant Clerk indicated that she was continuing to allocate the vacant plots from the waiting list and when over the allotment gardens later this week would take pictures for placing on the website and Council Facebook page..

16. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 8.30pm