

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Office, Aylesford on 30 May 2023

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

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Fuller and Ms Oyewusi.

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

a) Election of Chairman

There was one nomination for Chairman, Councillor Mrs Gadd who was duly elected as Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee.

b) Election of Vice Chairman

There was one nomination for Vice Chairman, Councillor Ms Dorrington who was duly elected as Vice Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors, Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Fuller and Ms Oyewusi were received, and the reason for absence agreed.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2023

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that works were due to restart in May, with Tunbury being the first location on the list. She has not received any updates from the contractor, however she will seek one to report back at the next meeting of this committee. **Ongoing**

6. 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 should have started. The Clerk was asked to contact Councillor Keers and copy in County Councillor Kennedy for an update. **Ongoing**
- b) **The Highway Improvement Plan**

Junction of Tunbury Avenue and Robin Hood Lane

The Clerk informed members that she contacted County Councillor Kennedy and had received some information from KCC regarding this junction which included the process and criteria for KCC to intervene at a location. This information was tabled to members and the Clerk asked them to digest it in preparation for the next meeting of this committee, where she will take any questions members have back to KCC for a response. **Ongoing**

Forstal Road, Aylesford

The Clerk informed the council that she had reported the parking and drainage issues to County Councillor Kennedy and KCC had responded to both queries. Concealed Entrance sign – KCC stated that unfortunately this type of signage is not a prescribed sign by the DfT, so they are unable to install one on the public highway. However one can be installed on private land, subject to the land owners permission. Aylesford Football Club have been informed. **Closed**

KCC had the drains attended to on 3 March 2023, 7 gullies were jetted and the results were 1 needs robotic root cutting, 2 are running freely, 3 are not flowing and there was 1 parked car on one of the drains meaning it couldn't be done. KCC will schedule the work in and hopefully this will improve the drainage of the surface water. If when the work is complete vehicles still park on the double yellow lines, they will be reported to parking enforcement team at TMBC and also the Police. If the Clerk receives any update, this will be given under Any Other Correspondence. **Closed**

7. Aylesford Cemetery Extension

The Monitoring Wells were installed in Ferryfield on 6 February 2023, Staff are continuing to take the weekly readings and submit them to the Cemetery Development Company. The Clerk reported that she is currently waiting for a quote from the EA for them to read the 252-page report and produce their report on if and how the Council can move this project

forwards. Early suggestions are that the proposed site will need to be raised in height by approx. 500mm meaning the council will need to source approx. 3,750 tonnes of topsoil. If the council has to buy it in at the average price of £30 per tonne, the cost of purchasing soil will be in the region of £112,500.

The Council may be able to obtain an exemption from the EA so it can 'import' soil from other construction sites who need to dispose of topsoil.

If this was to be permitted by the EA, then they may allow 300mm to be imported and the other 200mm to be topsoil, even then the cost would be in the region £45k or more.

The Clerk informed those present that there are approximately eight new spaces remaining in the cemetery and once they have been used it will be full.

There was a discussion around the next steps, and the overall cost this may be to the Parish and members agreed that it cannot consider paying over £100k to buy soil. Having already spent approx. £7k it was **Unanimously Resolved** that financially the Council cannot fund this and will not proceed with the Cemetery Extension. The Clerk was instructed to notify the Cemetery Development Company that it will not be proceeding to the next stage which is for the EA to produce their report. Once the spaces have been used the Cemetery will be closed to all new burials, it will of course continue to be maintained as it is currently. **Closed**

8. Climate Change and Environment Strategy for Aylesford Parish Council

The Action Plan developed by staff to keep track of current projects, projects that have been completed/implemented and future ideas for potential projects was tabled to members for comment. There were no comments on the Action Plan.

There was a general discussion and the council agreed it would like to consider planting trees in Tunbury Recreation Ground. the Clerk will speak to the councils tree surgeon to see if he will meet herself and Councillors Shelley and Sharp on site to discuss what types of trees would be best suited where. Borough Councillor Keers will also be invited to attend. While this is being arranged Councillors Shelley and Sharp will walk round the site to get an idea of where trees could be planted. **Ongoing**

9. Climate Change Forum

It was **Agreed** to note the Notes from the meeting held on 26 April 2023, attended by Councillors Shelley and Sharp and to also note the Notes of the West Malling Climate Change meeting which Councillor Shelley attended, held on 20 April 2023. **Noted**

10. Damage to Ragstone Wall

The Clerk confirmed the Council's Solicitor had written to the relevant parties and the landlord of the Bush Public House had been to the office to inform her that they were in the process of obtaining quotes for the repair. Members asked if the Clerk could enquire with the solicitor if there is or could be a completion date put on the works due to the risk of damage to users of its site. the Clerk will make enquiries and report back. **Ongoing**

11. Request from Aylesford Football Club

A request has been received from Aylesford Football Club to host a Community Fun Day on Forstal Recreation Ground, which will include the pavilion and 3G pitch. The proposed date is Saturday 17 June 2023 from mid-day to 4.30pm. There will be live music, stall holders, bouncy castle, food vendors, ice cream van and a charity football match from 3-4.30pm on the 3G pitch. People will be encouraged to walk and the Deacon Trading Estate will be approached about using their site for parking facilities. The football club will provide parking marshals to man the area. They have also spoken to the community centre regarding their bookings and they have confirmed they have no bookings that will clash and to help ensure there is less likelihood of parking problems they have agreed not to take any bookings. It was **Resolved** to permit the use of Forstal Recreation Ground, subject to all relevant insurances and risk assessments being provided. The Council reserves the right to withdraw its permission up to 48 hours before the event if weather conditions are such that damage would be caused to the ground. Any damage that may occur as a result of the event is the responsibility of the organiser to repair/rectify to the Councils complete satisfaction. No vehicles will be permitted onto the recreation ground.

12. Possibility of CCTV at Tunbury Recreation Ground

After discussion it was **Resolved** not to proceed any further with considering to install CCTV at Tunbury Recreation Ground. The Clerk will raise the issues with Borough Councillor Keers to see if this location fits the criteria for one of TMBC's mobile cameras to be installed. **Closed**

13. Metal Coronation Sign for Coronation Gardens

It was **Resolved** for the Clerk to obtain a quote to have the plastic Coronation sign made into a metal one for the gates on Coronation Gardens. **Ongoing**

14. Request received from Aylesford Football Club

A request was received from Aylesford Football Club seeking permission to put a path in from the 3G car park, round the edge of the pitch and on to the 3G, which will be located on the current leased land. The path will be a width of 1.6m with wooden edging and have a type 1 base. This will allow better access for all players especially those with disabilities and will also encourage people to use the 3G parking area and/or the permitted parking along the Forstal Road as this car park is very underused at the moment due to there not being a direct way in to the 3G pitch. All players are parking in the Parish car park which is putting extra pressure on the site. The path will be installed, funded and maintained by Aylesford Football Club.

It was **Resolved** to permit the installation of the path. **Closed**

15. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk informed the committee that Aylesford Football Club would like to take over the maintenance and planting of the Council's planters, including the purchase of the plants/flowers, which the Clerk has agreed to. There is one planter by the old bridge, Aylesford (railway line side), 3 to the side of Bluebell Estates and 2 on the grass area owned by KCC opposite the entrance to the Parish Office. In recognition they would like to put a small plaque on each planter stating they are maintained by Aylesford Football Club, which the Clerk also agreed to. Members asked the Clerk to thank the Football Club for their generous offer.

Damage to Bluebell Hill Planter

A Councillor raised that one of the planters was recently hit by a foreign lorry trying to manoeuvre and has completely broken the planter. The Clerk stated that she was aware of the incident but had not had opportunity to arrange for the planters removal as it will need a contractor with a machine to go and remove it, for which she needs to obtain a quote.

16. Duration of Meeting

7.46pm to 8.42pm