

Aylesford Parish Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Office, Aylesford on Tuesday 5 March 2024

Present: Councillors Sullivan (Chairman), Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Chapman, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Sharp, Smith and Walker.

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Ms Oyewusi, Shelley and Walker.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi and Shelley were received, and the reasons 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 last meeting held on 13 February 2024

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes from the meeting held on 13 February 2024 be approved as a correct record and be signed.

4. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Balcombe proposed and Councillor Mrs Gadd Seconded and it was **Resolved** that 35 payments totalling £186,610.10 be made.

5. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

It was **Agreed** to note the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2024 and to recommend to Council that the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31 March 2024 be approved. **Agreed**

6. KALC

There was no update

Noted

7. TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel Meeting

There was no update.

Noted

8. Council Vacancies

There is one vacancy for Eccles Ward.

Noted

9. Adoption of Aylesford Station

The Clerk informed the Committee that the noticeboards had still not been erected by Southeastern staff.

Ongoing

10. Allotment Fees 2025/26

The Clerk informed the committee that the questionnaire was resent to those who had not responded, and another seven responses were received, totalling 37. The results were shared with the Committee and all 37 responses indicated that people would prefer to pay the higher fee and keep the water supply.

After discussion it was **Resolved** to apply the higher fees for 2025/26.

QUESTIONNAIRE – ALLOTMENT RENT – replies as at 29th February 2024

- Pay the higher increase and KEEP the water supply **37 YES.**
- Pay the smaller increase and LOSE the water supply **NONE**
- Do you have a Water Butt on your Plot **YES 23 NO 11**
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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- Not viable without water
- Little excessive increase – warn holders about leaving water on
- I can do without grass cutting but can't do without water.
- If we have a hosepipe ban, can we still fill up our waterbutts.
- Water is essential for growth.
- It's a significant increase. I'm not sure how not having water can work.
- How can we grow without water?
- Why still such a projected increase without water
- Losing water would be a nightmare.
- It is not practicable in any way to have no water supply.
- Would give up if the price increases.
- I thought they were going to build on them anyway
- How much longer will the allotments be there anyway

Please complete and return by 29th February 2024 to: Admin@aylesfordparishcouncil.org.uk
We thank you for your time.

11. Staffing Committee Minutes

It was Resolved to Note the Minutes.

Closed

12. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk informed members there is a new Beat Officer for Aylesford, PC Connor Davies.

The Clerk read out a Thank You card the office received from a 9-year-old resident, thanking the Parish Council for the new play equipment in The Hollow. The Clerk will write back to her.

13. Duration of Meeting

7.36pm to 8.45pm