

Aylesford Parish Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Office, Aylesford on Tuesday 7 January 2025

Present: Councillor Sullivan (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Chapman, Craig, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Sharp, Smith and Walker.
Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Ludlow, 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 3 December 2024

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes from the meeting held on 3 December 2024 be approved as a correct record and be signed.

4. Any Matters Arising from the last Minutes

The Clerk informed the Committee that KCC had already sent the invoice for item 13, however as the work hasn't been completed, she has told them to let her know once it is done and she will process the invoice following the usual payment process.

5. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Balcombe proposed and Councillor Craig Seconded and it was **Resolved** that 25 payments totalling £20,279.07 be made.

It was noted there was an extra payments run on the 18th December 2024 of 23 payments totalling £13,005.92. These went through the usual checking and signing process which was carried out by Councillors Balcombe and Mrs Gadd.

6. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

It was Agreed to note the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2024.

7. KALC

There was no update

Noted

8. TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel Meeting

There was no update.

Noted

9. Council Vacancies

There is one vacancy for Eccles Ward.

Noted

10. Membership Renewal for the Campaign to Protect Rural England

It was **Resolved** to renew the annual membership at a cost of £60.00.

Closed

11. Annual Maintenance Contract Renewal for all Annual Safety Tests

The Clerk reported that the renewal cost is £1,597.58, last year it was £1,558.60 so an increase of 2.5% (or £38.98). It was **Resolved** to proceed with the renewal.

Closed

12. 2025/26 Budget – Precept Setting

To consider 12.1 and 12.2 together

12.1 Request from TMBC to help fund the Anti-Social Behaviour Team

12.2 To consider the proposed budgets in the attached report(s) for the 2025/26 financial year and to agree the proposed Precept.

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had received a letter from TMBC, dated 11 December 2024 about its Anti-Social Behaviour Team, which they had for six months last year between March and September 2024, working day and night shifts between Wednesday and Sunday financed by TMBC. They had the power to request name and address, seize alcohol, deal with begging and stop a moving vehicle. The letter states that the feedback received has been very positive with the team engaging with young people, local businesses and Parish Councils to understand hot spot areas for ASB. The Clerk stated that she has not received any communication from the team although a Councillor informed the committee there was an issue with bikes being stolen in Aylesford High Street that resulted in the use of this team.

In the letter it says having the Anti-Social Behaviour Team resulted in there being a high-profile visible impact throughout the Borough. TMBC would like to continue this service in 2025 and are looking in the direction of Parish Council's to help them fund it. The Parish Council is therefore being asked if it would consider giving

financial help of £1 or £2 per resident as it sets its budgets for 2025/26 to ensure TMBC can continue to provide this vital ASB deterrent.

The Clerk informed the committee that if members were minded to include this request within its Precept it would result in a 6.84% increase or an extra £4.60 per household per year for a Band D property.

Without the ASB provision the proposed Precept increase would be 3.03% or an extra £2.04 per household per year for a Band D property.

The Vice Chairman stated that its important members note that the Chairman and the Clerk have worked extremely hard at keeping the increase in Precept to a minimum.

The decisions are

12.1 Request from TMBC to help fund the Anti-Social Behaviour Team

After discussion it was **Unanimously Resolved** not to raise any funding for the TMBC Anti-Social Behaviour Team as it was strongly felt the required increase in Precept would be unacceptable for residents.

12.2 To consider the proposed budgets in the attached report(s) for the 2025/26 financial year and to agree the proposed Precept.

The suggested Precept for 2025/26 is £318,394.89, an annual increase of £12,418.23, or £2.04 per Band D property. The annual cost for a Band D property based on the suggested Precept would be £69.32 and the percentage increase would be 3.03%.

It was **Unanimously Resolved** to recommend to Council that the Precept be set at £318,394.89.

13. Any Other Correspondence

There was no other correspondence.

14. Duration of Meeting

7:31pm to 7:50pm