

Aylesford Parish Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 in the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, Aylesford

Present: Councillors Mrs Eves (Chair), Balcombe, Chapman, Mrs Gadd, Netzel, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan and Mrs Waters.

Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Miss Anderson, Mrs Birkbeck, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi and Williams 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 16 June 2026

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Any Matters Arising from the last Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Shelley proposed and Councillor Mrs Eves seconded and it was **Resolved** that 20 payments totalling £12,239.93 be made.

6. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

It was **Agreed** to note the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2026.

7. KALC and TMBC Parish Partnership Panel Meetings

Nothing to report as no meetings held since the last meeting of this committee.

The next Parish Partnership meeting is 27th August 2026.

Noted

8. Council Vacancies

The currently one vacancy for Aylesford South

Noted

9. To consider a Professionally Monitored Security System for the Parish Office

The Clerk reported that the burglar and fire alarms would need to be upgraded to enable the monitoring of the alarms by a professional call-out service that contacts the police or fire brigade on the Councils behalf if either are activated.

The Clerk is waiting for a price to upgrade the two systems and will report back to this committee.

Ongoing

10. Value for the Baroness LM281 ride on mower

The Clerk reported that the current value of the Baroness LM281 ride-on mower is currently £10,000.

The supplier has offered two options: a buyout of the existing machine or a straight swap for a Kubota GR2120s, which would be a suitable size for maintaining the cemetery should this work be brought back in-house. The Kubota GR2120s has a retail value of £12,979 plus VAT.

The Chair reminded members that due to unforeseen personal circumstances, the new member of staff who had been due to commence employment was no longer able to take up the post. As a result, further discussions will be required by the Staffing Committee regarding future staffing arrangements.

The Chair reiterated that the Baroness mower is no longer in use and will not be required even if a new member of staff is appointed. The Council is also continuing to pay for the service plan at a cost of £228.09 per quarter (£76.03 per month).

Members acknowledged that the machine is currently unused but expressed differing views on the most appropriate course of action at this stage. It was **Agreed** that no action be taken regarding the sale or exchange of the machine at present. The Clerk was asked to enquire whether a demonstration of the Kubota model is available and, if so to arrange a demonstration at the cemetery, as members were generally supportive of exploring the option of a straight swap before making a decision.

Ongoing

11. Staffing Committee Minutes

This item was inadvertently not considered during the meeting and will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Any Other Correspondence

A Councillor asked if the Clerk could look at insurance options for protection against water leaks. This was in relation to the recent water leak at Belgrave Street Eccles to the supply that serves the allotments. There are frequent leaks there, so it may be worthwhile looking at insurance options. The Clerk will report back in due course.

13. Duration of Meeting

7:48pm to 8:39pm