

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sports Committee

held on

Wednesday 15 July 2026

in the Parish Office

at 3pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Gadd (Chair), Miss Anderson, Balcombe, Mrs Eves, Sharp, Smith and Sullivan.

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1. Election of Chair

Mrs Joyce Gadd was elected as Chair

2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

4. James Fuller on behalf of Aylesford Football Club to update or request the following

4.1 - Update on Changing Rooms Application

There is still no decision, James has asked TMBC several times for a determination date, but they cannot provide one, this is not acceptable.

The Clerk has emailed the planning officer as well requesting an expected determination date. There are no toilet facilities at the 3G pitch so children (and adults) are using the woods as a toilet as they don't want to walk all the way down to the pavilion. The committee advised James he needs to engage the local Borough Councillors at TMBC such as Roger Dalton and Dave Davies for some help, as while the Parish Council can continue to ask TMBC for a determination date there is nothing they can physically do to help. He is to copy the Clerk in on his correspondence.

James stated the Bridle Path won't be affected by the proposed changing rooms.

4.2 - Request permission to install security fencing round the 3G pitch, which will include the area of leased land

James advised that the proposed 6ft fencing requested by Aylesford Football Club is not currently included within the planning application for the new changing rooms. Members noted the plan attached at Appendix A (not to scale), which shows the approximate location of the proposed fencing (pink line, drawn by the Clerk for the sake of clarity in the minutes) and the fencing already included within the planning application (yellow line, drawn by Aylesford Football Club). It was noted that the fencing included within the planning application cannot be installed until planning permission has been determined.

James advised that vegetation from Yoakley Woods is growing through the existing fence and causing issues around the 3G pitch. The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council had previously funded works of approximately £2,000 to clear the trees and shrubs around the perimeter of the 3G pitch, with the intention that, once complete, this area of unused land adjacent to Waitrose would fall within Aylesford Football Club's leased area and be maintained by the Club. There is a gap between the 3G pitch fence and the fence to Yoakley Woods which falls within their lease, so it would be assumed they would maintain the overgrowth coming through the fence. The Clerk confirmed that the Club is welcome to cut back any overgrowth where it becomes a nuisance.

Members expressed disappointment that the area had not been maintained as anticipated. James commented that the extent of the work was more than the Club could reasonably manage. Members suggested that the Club consider appointing a contractor, as the Parish Council does when necessary, to keep the area in an acceptable condition. James acknowledged the suggestion and commented that, while the proposed new fence should reduce the amount of vegetation encroaching onto the site, members pointed out that some ongoing maintenance would still be required.

James stated the installation of the fencing won't affect the Bridle Path.

James believes this piece of fencing was previously agreed by the Parish Council, so he was asked to provide the date of the relevant meeting before the next meeting on the 4th August so the Clerk can review the minutes.

4.3 - Request permission to install a new path from the 3G car park to the spectator area

This request is to install a path from the 3G car park to the spectator area; the justification is to ensure people no longer damage the recreation ground grass walking that way around in the winter months. It would be a more logical route and would encourage users to park at the 3G car park more often.

James believes this new path was previously agreed by the Parish Council, so he was asked to provide the date of the relevant meeting before the next meeting on the 4th August so the Clerk can review the minutes.

4.4 - Request permission to erect a covered seating area on the 3G site

The plan is to provide a covered seating area for elderly spectators and parents having nowhere to sit and given the sun exposure on that side of the pitch this will help provide cover on hotter days.

James believes the covered seating area was previously agreed by the Parish Council, so he was asked to provide the date of the relevant meeting before the next meeting on the 4th August so the Clerk can review the minutes.

4.5 - To seek the views of the Parish Council on installing a vehicular access gate to Yoakley land to replace the one that was removed for the 3G pitch build

When the 3G pitch was built the vehicular access gate to Yoakley Woods in the top left-hand corner (if you were walking up to the 3G) had to be removed to accommodate the pitch. It was agreed that if the Parish Council wanted a gate reinstated then the football club would fund it because the gate would still be there if the 3G Pitch wasn't built. Some members felt it should be the Parish Councils responsibility to put a gate back so this will need further discussion if the Council does decide it would like a gate to be installed.

6. Any Other Business

James was asked to leave the room at 15:55pm as a Councillor had a concern they wished to raise. The concern was a vexatious resident previously encountered and ensuring that the Parish Council adheres to its own rules, the law and remains clear and transparent in its process of decision making on this subject as James is a Parish Councillor, Chairman of the Aylesford Football Club and Chairman of the Aylesford Village Community Centre. The concerns were accepted by those present.

James returned to the meeting at 16:00.

Proposed Car Park Extension

The current proposed extension slightly goes over onto Aylesford Parish Councils land which is not within the current leased land.

Enforcements

The Clerk asked if there was any update on the two enforcement cases the Football Club currently have, one for the failure to plant trees by a certain date which was a planning condition of the 3G pitch project and one for the unauthorised use of the 3G pitch floodlights past a certain

time. The trees have now been planted but the enforcement has not come through on Cases Closed yet.

The Football Club put in a section 73 variation to vary the times of use and James said he has very recently been told the floodlight use will be put forward for approval, but he has not received anything official yet.

7. Duration of Meeting

15:00 to 16:10

