

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Capel Morris Centre on 27 July 2021

**Present:** Councillor Balcombe (Chairman) and Councillors Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Ludlow, Mrs Papagno, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Williams, Winnett and Wright.

**In Attendance:** Melanie Randall (Acting Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors Ms Oyewusi and Walker.

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Ms Oyewusi (unwell), Walker (personal) were received, and the reason for absence agreed.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests, other than Councillor Fuller disclosed an interest in item 10, 18 and 19 as he is the Chairman of the Aylesford Football Club. He took no part in the discussion or decision.

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2021

It was Agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. Small Works Programme

No further works have been completed since reporting to the last meeting of this Committee. The proposed completion dates will not be met due to grass cutting taking priority. Therefore, an extension has been **Agreed**. Acting Clerk to continue to monitor progress. **Ongoing**

#### 5. Parking at the Upper Bell Slip Road

The matter of the lorries parking on this slip road is still an ongoing problem. Acting Clerk has asked KCC Councillor Kennedy if the authority could put up a sign to deter the lorries from parking there. Acting Clerk will report back once a response is received. **Ongoing**

## **6. Highway Improvement Plan**

The agreed plan was submitted to KCC on 30 April, there has not been any correspondence received since. **Ongoing**

## **7. Bus Services**

**7.1 155 Bus Service** – No further correspondence has been received. **Ongoing**

**7.2 Free Tesco Bus Service** - Councillor Ludlow informed the Council that the Service run by Arriva which is substituted by Tesco ceased on 17 July 2021. He put a post on social media about the withdrawal of the service and has received six pieces of correspondence from residents who rely on this service. There was some discussion around various suggestions on how people could get their food shopping, for example online, friends or family and the local convenience shop. The Acting Clerk contacted Tesco for an explanation and was informed that the service was underused and there is a suitable alternative in the area which delivers comprehensive coverage against their route. However, the Acting Clerk pointed out to them that there is not a bus service covering Burham, Wouldham or Eccles to Tesco. It was suggested that Councillor Ludlow write to the MP Tracey Crouch to express his concern over the withdrawal of this service. **Ongoing**

## **8. Container of Eccles Recreation Ground**

The Acting Clerk reported that she had now received a response. the container would be 20ft in size and would house things like clothing, bedding, self-care items and dried non-perishable foods. It would be used for storage only and no vehicular access would be required. After discussion it was unanimously **Agreed** to **refuse** the request, as it would not be appropriate to have on the recreation ground. There were concerns around vermin, debris, food items, break-ins and vandalism. The Council reiterated that it is a public recreation ground and should be used as such and if this request were to be agreed then the Council find it difficult to refuse future requests from others. It was pointed out that there is a food bank run from the Brassey Centre via St. Peter and St Pauls Church, there is also one in Larkfield and one in Walderslade. It was suggested that the resident team up with them as they may well have storage. **Closed**

## **9. Gap between Ferryfield and Rugby Club**

Councillor's Balcombe and Mrs Gadd reported that they have not had chance to go and review this issue. **Ongoing**

## **10. Aylesford Football Club – need more space for growing waiting list of children**

The Acting Clerk has had initial discussions with Aylesford Football Club (AFC) regarding sharing the pitch at Ferryfield. A few potential issues cropped up immediately like, who would be the overall decision maker, who would be responsible for pitch repairs AFC, K Sports or both equally, who would call off games in bad weather to protect the pitch, the container for storage which belongs to K Sports. The Acting Clerk sought permission to continue the discussions with AFC and if she feels this may work then she will arrange a meeting with all relevant parties for further discussions. **Ongoing**

### **11. Electric Car Charging Points**

The Acting Clerk reported that she had made continued with the initial application for funding for both Forstal Road Car Park and Tunbury Hall Car Park. However, she explained that she does not think the Forstal Road car park will meet all of the criteria it must meet to be eligible for the funding. Tunbury is slightly different and has more chance of being successful. Despite the Council previously agreeing at the last meeting of this committee to go ahead with the application for funding at both sites, after some discussion around the criteria for successful application and match funding not being available from the Parish Council it was **Agreed** not to proceed with either site at the moment. **Closed**

### **12. Old Bridge Gardens Improvements**

There was a discussion around potential improvements to Old Bridge Gardens however it was decided to leave it as it is because many people enjoy sitting on the grass with picnics looking at the view of the river and old bridge.

The Acting Clerk informed the Council that she had received further correspondence from the complainant she reported at the last meeting. The Council reviewed and discussed the complaint and issues that have been brought up and agreed with their previous views that the work carried out was needed, that all procedures had been adhered to including obtaining planning permission. It was therefore **Agreed** that the Council has given the complainant all the information necessary and has nothing further to add. **Closed**

### **13. Podkin Meadow Improvements**

There was a short discussion and the Acting Clerk pointed out that this will be discussed further when it is time to review the maintenance of all the recreation grounds and open spaces later on in the year. **Closed**

### **14. Parking Issues – Tunbury Avenue, between Oaks Dene and the corner of Woodbury Road.**

The Acting Clerk has asked TMBC if there could be yellow lines put in at the above location and TMBC have said they will look at adding it to the Borough Parking Action Plan. Acting Clerk to report back if she has any further information. **Closed**

### **15. Tunbury Car Park – White Lines**

The Acting Clerk reported that the white lines in the car park need refreshing and she has obtained one quote for £590 excluding vat. However, as this work has not been budgeted for in this financial year it was **Agreed** not to proceed at the moment. Acting Clerk to review this in early 2022. **Closed**

### **16. Aylesford Big Lunch**

The Big Lunch did not go ahead as originally planned and a revised date of Sunday 12 September has been requested. It was **Agreed** to grant permission for the use of Old Bridge Gardens for this much-loved community event. **Closed**

### **17. Aylesford Football Club – Summer Holiday Club**

A request has been received to use the Forstal Road Recreation Ground on the following dates 4/8, 5/8, 11/8, 12/8, 18/8 and 19/8 for their summer holiday club for the children. It was **Agreed** to grant permission. **Closed**

### **18. Aylesford Football Club Tournament**

A request has been received to use the unused piece of land at the top of Forstal Road Recreation Ground for parking to help alleviate any congestion and parking issues there may be during the tournament. The football club would be responsible for levelling an area within the site and making it safe. However, a sign will be put up stating something like ‘uneven surface, park here at your own risk. The Parish Council and Aylesford Football Club accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to vehicles, persons or possessions however caused’. The Football Club would also be required to reinstate the bund that is currently in front of the gate at the end of the weekend. **Closed**

### **19. Cemetery Litter Bins**

The Acting Clerk reported that there are ongoing issues with the amount and type of waste being put in the cemetery litter bins. They are being filled to the top with soil, stone, slate and metal flower holders, which should not be put in there. All of this type of waste should be taken down to the big Countrystyle bin at the main gate. Signs have been put on each side of the bins stating that due to health and safety please do not put the above items in this bin, but it is still continuing. The bin bags are too heavy for the Supervisor to lift out and are likely to be more than the permitted 25kg, so they have to be half emptied by hand. Going back a number of years there were wheelie bins in the Cemetery that were wheeled down to the main gates for bin emptying days. It was **Agreed** the Acting Clerk make enquiries with Countrystyle and implement whatever changes are needed. **Closed**

### **20. Allotment Committee Development**

The Acting Clerk reported on the initial idea that an allotment committee be set up and to trial it in Aylesford first. She sought permission for the Council to pay for the hall hire for the first meeting to help get it off the ground. There would be a lot to discuss particularly around the roles of the Council and the committee. It was **Agreed** to progress with this and that the Council will pay for the hall hire. Acting Clerk to report back with updates. **Ongoing**

### **21. Any Other Business**

The Acting Clerk reported that she had applied to Councillor Kennedy for a £500 grant to fund a bench or maybe a picnic table in Old Bridge Gardens where one was removed several years ago and was not replaced. **Ongoing**

On behalf of Councillor Walkers absence Councillor Shelley invited members on a walk with the Merlin group. Anyone wishing to take the offer up should contact Councillor Walker.

**Closed**

### **18. Duration of Meeting**

7.49pm to 8.55pm