

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Parish Council Offices, Aylesford on Tuesday 4 June 2024

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**Present:** Councillor Mrs Gadd (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Gledhill, Hammond, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan and Walker.

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Chapman, Craig, Fuller and Ludlow.

#### 1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

##### a) Election of Chairman

There was one nomination for Chairman, Councillor Mrs Gadd who was duly elected as Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee.

##### b) Election of Vice Chairman

There was one nomination for Vice Chairman, Councillor Ms Dorrington who was duly elected as Vice Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Chapman, Craig, Fuller and Ludlow were received, and the reason for absence agreed.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

#### 4. To Agree the Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 April 2024

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 April 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 5. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

There were no matters arising.

## 6. Small Works Programme

There was no further update.

**Ongoing**

## 7. Minibus Trip around Parish

The minibus trip was discussed, and those who attended commented that they found it useful. It was **Agreed** the Clerk will obtain quotes for various enhancements and/or repairs that were raised during the trip and report back to this committee in due course for members to consider whether to proceed or not.

**Ongoing**

## 8. Eccles Car Park – White Lining

The Clerk reported that she had obtained one quote for £950.00 which is the minimum charge. Other companies she has called are all around the same amount as they seem to have a minimum charge. It was **Resolved** to proceed with the quote.

**Ongoing**

## 9. Tunbury Car Park – White Lining

The Clerk reported that she had obtained one quote for £950.00 which is the minimum charge. Other companies she has called are all around the same amount as they seem to have a minimum charge. It was **Resolved** to proceed with the quote.

**Ongoing**

## 10. Metal Coronation sign for Coronation Gardens

The Clerk informed the committee that she has managed to obtain a quote of £1,350 (net). The gates cannot be removed from site due to it being used for the school, so all modifications will have to be made onsite. The contractor would need to park immediately alongside the gate, which is not possible due to it being a single width road, so they would have to park inside Coronation Gardens. They would remove the existing dates and Queens cipher and replace with the Kings cipher and new dates previously cut to the exact size required as measured by Council staff. It would then be painted.

After discussion it was **Resolved** not to proceed with this project as members felt that as it was called Coronation Gardens for the Queen's Coronation, it should remain as it is and there was concern that it could be seen as disrespectful to the late Queen Elizabeth. **Closed**

## 11. Proposed Exhumation and Reburial to Aylesford Cemetery

The Clerk explained that the office had received correspondence suggesting that an Exhumation of a coffin may be taking place from a location within Aylesford to Aylesford Cemetery. The resident concerned is currently going through the legal process and has completed the required form for the Ministry of Justice. The Clerk reminded members that the council previously agreed to stop the pre-purchase or reservation of burial plots, instead they are allocated at the time of the need. There are currently only a few new burial plots available and as there must be a Notice put in the local press for a period of 90 days it is

possible all the graves will be taken before the Exhumation can legally take place. The deceased person in question was an Aylesford resident for many years and had done a lot for the community and it was her wishes to be laid to rest in Aylesford, a place she loved. Members were asked to consider waiving this rule to allow a grave space to be left for this reburial, should it be given approval by the Ministry of Justice. After discussion it was **Resolved** to allow a grave space to be kept, but a time limit will need to be put on it, which was agreed as 31 December 2024. **Closed**

## **12. Any Other Correspondence**

The Notes from the Climate Change Forum meeting held on 23 April 2024 were noted.

The Notes from the Making Space for Nature meeting held on 2 May 2024 were noted.

The Clerk informed the committee that the solar panels for the Parish Office are scheduled to be installed on 12 June 2024.

A Councillor reminded members that the Bluebell Hill Village Fete is on Saturday 8 June 2024.

## **13. Duration of Meeting**

7:48pm to 8:50pm