

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Capel Morris Centre on 26 July 2022

Present: Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors, Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Mrs Ogun, Rillie, Sharp, Smith, Sullivan and Walker.

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Balcombe, Ms Oyewusi, Shelley, Williams and Winnett.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Balcombe, Ms Oyewusi, Shelley, Williams and Winnett 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 9 and 10 as he is the Chairman of the Aylesford Football Club and item 15 as he is a Trustee on the Aylesford Village Community Centre. He took no part in the discussion or decision.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2022

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that no painting work had been carried out since the last meeting of this committee due to the contractor's priority being the Parish Councils grass cutting.

Ongoing

5. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Agreed Action Plan was submitted to KCC on 30 April 2022.

- a) **Blue Bell Hill Slip Road** – no further update received

Ongoing

b) **Tunbury Avenue, Walderslade – near School** – the Chairman of the Council along with Councillors Mrs Eves, Shelley and Winnett and representatives from Kent Police and KCC met at the school on Wednesday 29th June 2022 to discuss the issue. A new innovative KCC led scheme to address these parking concerns will be implemented in September and has been approved by the Head Teacher and Governors. **Ongoing**

c) **The need for a Highway Improvement Plan**

The Clerk contacted KCC on 29 June 2022 for a full explanation, however as of this meeting she had not received a response. she particularly wanted to know how people report issues in the areas where the Parish Council does not have a Highway Improvement Plan. **Ongoing**

6. Bus Services

6.1 Bus Service

The Chairman of this Committee, the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Gledhill and the Clerk had a meeting with representatives from Burham and Wouldham Parish Council's on 13 July as a small working group. The meeting was intended to discuss the issue around the £620k that was to come from Trenport for improvements to the 155-bus service. Arriva's withdrawal of this particular service was also discussed and the fact that the £620k is now not available due to there not being a bus service. Burham PC are going to make enquiries around the legalities of the withdrawal by Trenport of the 620k and Wouldham are looking into various options for a bus service. Councillor Gledhill had a previous discussion with Norman Kemp who owns Nu-Venture and he would be willing to talk to the smaller working group that has been set up. A date will be agreed due course for Norman Kemp to attend and representatives on the working group will report back to their Council's on all discussions taking place within the group. The Clerk will ask TMBC for information concerning the £620k from the Peters Village development. **Ongoing**

7. Gap between Ferryfield and Rugby Club

Chestnut Paling is to be ordered; however, it is proving difficult to get the right height and to find a company with it in stock. **Ongoing**

8. Arch Lights on the Old Bridge Aylesford – Review

The Contractor was waiting for low tide, so they could access the lights on the old bridge and carry out their investigations. The Clerk reported that this has now taken place.

The arches on the side nearest the railway crossing – inline rectifier changed, had power and some light. However; half the strings are out, so they did not change the transformer as it would not make any difference, you would see exactly the same as you see now – half of the lights.

The arches on the other side, nearest Old Bridge Gardens – inline rectifiers and transformer changed, but still unable to get any of them working. Power tested and new parts tested, all working. Both sets of strings have completely gone, with no bulbs working at all.

Conclusion – the centre arch is the only arch fully working, albeit dull. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done to repair the existing lights to get them working again, the only option now is for the Council to look at and consider replacement lights if they would still like to see the Old Bridge lit up at Christmas. The Clerk explained that in July 2021 she obtained a quote to renew all the arch lights in case this was the eventual outcome. The quote was for £13,390.00. The Clerk suggested that she gets the quote refreshed as it has most probably increased due to rising costs in general, she has already asked the contractor for alternative options, because if the lights are replaced with the same, there will still be the issue of rising river levels which will submerge the transformer causing problems and faults over time. The Clerk informed the Committee if the Council agrees it would like to replace the lights, it does not have any available funds to do that in this financial year, due to other priorities, one being the replacement of the play equipment in Ferryfield. The Clerk will report back to this Committee once she has the options and costings. **Ongoing**

9. Request received from Aylesford Football Club

It was **Agreed** that Aylesford Football Club be permitted to use Forstal Recreation Ground on 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 August for their Summer Holiday Club from 9am to 3pm. The usual stipulations will apply, in that should the weather be such that damage is likely to be caused to the ground the Parish Council has the right to cancel the agreed use giving the club 24 hours' notice. Any damage that may occur to the ground is the responsibility of the club to rectify to the Councils complete satisfaction. **Closed**

10. Request Received from Aylesford Football Club

It was **Agreed** that Aylesford Football Club be permitted to use Forstal Recreation Ground for their Annual Tournament on the 3 and 4 September 2022. **Closed**

11. Tree Maintenance in Forstal Recreation Ground

It was **Agreed** to proceed with the Tree Maintenance required at Forstal Recreation Ground.

12. Tree Maintenance in Eccles Recreation Ground

It was **Agreed** to proceed with the Tree Maintenance required at Eccles Recreation Ground.

13. Tree Maintenance in Ferryfield

It was **Agreed** to proceed with the Tree Maintenance required at Ferryfield.

14. St. Marks Car Park – Eccles

The Clerk reported that the Height Barrier has been badly damaged and sought members decision on two options.

Option A – obtain a quote for repairs to be carried out.

Option B – obtain a quote to remove it and not repair it, leaving it off.

Option A was **Agreed**, the Clerk will obtain a quote and report to this Committee.

Ongoing

15. Bouncy Castles on Forstal Recreation Ground from hirers of the AVCC

The Clerk informed the Committee that the process for the Council granting permission for AVCC hirers who would like a bouncy castle on Forstal Recreation Ground as part of their party is that the AVCC give the hirer the Clerks email address to seek permission. Once the client makes contact the Clerk requires the date, times, type of event/party, proof of bouncy castle company Public Liability Insurance (which must be a minimum of £5m in order to comply with the Council’s own Insurance Policy) and Risk Assessment. Once all of that is received and the Clerk is satisfied it complies, she will then send the client the Councils form to complete and an invoice for a £25 fee which is the administration cost for checking the required documents etc. once that has been paid permission is granted. The process can be lengthy and not all documents are sent together and as the authorising of bouncy castle is not a priority the Clerk asks people to allow four weeks, anything less than that cannot be guaranteed there is enough time to deal with it.

The Clerk asked members to consider if they would like to keep to the current way of authorising bouncy castles or if they would like to make any changes.

It was **Agreed** that the Clerk continue with the current way, however after a lengthy discussion the following changes will also apply

1. All these rules will be applicable to anything hirers want to place on the Forstal Recreation Ground.
2. If a request is received with less than four weeks’ notice permission will be refused immediately.
3. The Clerk will prepare a list of ‘pre-approved’ bouncy castle companies who will be the only ones permitted on Council land. This will speed up the authorisation process as the Council will hold on file the companies Public Liability Insurance and Risk Assessment. They will also be aware of the requirements surrounding the opening of the height barrier. There will be no leniency around allowing others whom are not on the ‘pre-approved list’ onto the Recreation Ground.
4. An information/tick sheet will be prepared for the AVCC to give to those hirers who enquire about placing a bouncy castle (or any item) on the Recreation Ground.

Closed

16. Any Other Correspondence

16.1 Councillor Ludlow reported that he has been asked by an Eccles resident that he raise the continuing issue of speeding lorries through the village, those being the Sand Tipper Lorries (KKB Group) and Southern Water tankers. The resident reports they are coming through the village as early as 5am, however a Voluntary Traffic Management Scheme for the West Lake of Aylesford Quarry states drivers will comply with a voluntary speed of 20mph through the village, a maximum of 50 vehicle movements in and 50 out each day will be adhered to and 30 each way on Saturdays. Vehicle movement will be avoided during school drop off and pick up times, those being 8:15am to 09:00 and 15:00 to 16:15 unless absolutely necessary.

It was **Agreed** the Council will write to both Southern Water and the KKB Group to remind them of the voluntary agreement. Residents are again reminded that they need to obtain the vehicle registration number, which haulier it is and the exact time and date so the appropriate action can be taken and the driver spoken to.

16.2 Councillor Walker informed those present that St Peters & St Pauls Church Aylesford are organising a litter pick. They will be meeting at the Brassey Centre at 2pm on Saturday 30th July. All equipment will be provided and there will be tea and cake served afterwards.

17. Duration of Meeting

7.23pm to 8.21pm