

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Policy & Resources Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Office, Aylesford on Tuesday 9 April 2024

**Present:** Councillors Sullivan (Chairman), Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Chapman, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith and Walker.

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Fuller, Hammond and Ms Oyewusi.

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Fuller, Hammond and Ms Oyewusi 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 5 February 2024

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes from the meeting held on 5 February 2024 be approved as a correct record and be signed.

#### 4. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Balcombe proposed and Councillor Mrs Gadd Seconded and it was **Resolved** that 52 payments totalling £21,357.75 be made.

#### 5. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

It was **Agreed** to note the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2024.

**Noted**

## **6. KALC**

Councillor Shelley informed those present that he is on the Making Space for Nature Committee and will be attending their meetings going forwards. **Noted**

## **7. TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel Meeting**

There was no update. The next two meetings are scheduled for 30 May 2024 and 29 August 2024. **Noted**

## **8. Council Vacancies**

There is one vacancy for Eccles Ward. **Noted**

## **9. Adoption of Aylesford Station**

The Clerk informed the Committee that the noticeboards had been put up and a councillor said that one had already suffered damage by way of a cigarette burn hole in the Perspex. Councillor Shelley will report this to the Kent Community Rail Partnership. **Ongoing**

## **10. Meeting Calendar 2024/25**

The Clerk explained the two options, one schedule is what the normal meeting dates would look like and the other is consolidated meetings whereby there are more meetings on one evening freeing up everyone's time. The Clerk stated she was looking at moving the Eccles meeting in September from the church hall to the school hall as the current hall is too small. With the Bushey Wood development, more public may start attending Council meetings, so the Council needs to ensure that there is adequate room. This does mean it is likely the meeting would have to be on a different evening to Tuesday as there is already a regular hirer. It was agreed Wednesday would be suitable with Thursday as a backup.

Members were asked which option they prefer, and it was **Unanimously Agreed** that the consolidated meeting dates would be more suitable. The Clerk will contact the school and once agreed will recirculate the meeting calendar. **Closed**

## **11. Any Other Correspondence**

The Clerk informed the committee that the latest information she has regarding Eccles possibly having its own Parish Council, is that a group of residents has been formed who will now need to go door-to-door asking people to sign the petition calling on TMBC to undertake a Governance Review. This will set out the proposed new precept, responsibilities, number of Councillors required and any legal implications there may be as a result of the newly formed Parish Council.

Once the review is complete and published and residents have the full facts there will be a formal referendum for Eccles residents to decide whether or not to proceed.

The Clerk reminded members that if they are asked any questions, they must direct them to TMBC as this falls within their responsibility therefore they are best placed to answer all queries.

**12. Duration of Meeting**

8.02pm to 8.23pm