

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2014

Commenced 8.15pm

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Gledhill (Chairman), Ambrose, Balcombe, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Tiller

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1. Declarations of Interest

Mr Harris and Mrs Collier declared an interest in item 13.4 below. Mr Harris gave Members information relating to salaries but neither took part in the discussion or decision.

2. Apologies

Cllrs: Base (holiday); Mrs Brooks (caring for elderly relative); Homewood (KCC business); Tiller (working).

Apologies and reasons were noted and accepted.

3. FASC Minutes 25 November 2014 –Attached at Appendix A

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Wright as a correct record of the meeting and recommendations accepted. **Agreed**

Matters Arising

7.3 – Proposal for P&R on 6 January 2015 to confirm precept figure for 2015/16 **agreed** for confirmation at Council on 16 December 2014.

4. Accounts for Payment – Payment list attached at Appendix B.

24 payments totalling £13163.46 were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Elvy and **agreed**.

5. Law and Order - No report to this meeting.

6. New Eccles Car Park

Council's solicitors in discussion with Trenport solicitors over lease. Quotes being sought for work to car park.

7. Council Policy on Recreation Ground Use

The Hollow recreation ground sign installed

Signs for Tunbury, Forstal Road, Eccles and Ferryfield ordered

8. Rugby Club/Netball League – No report to this meeting.

9. Flood Defences – The Clerk reported the earlier presentation from Colin Finch of Kent Rights of Way regarding the scheme proposed for the Medway Towpath. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a formal letter of support to KCC for the scheme and that he report back to the committee regarding the Council making a financial contribution to the scheme.

10. Parish Council Website

The new site is currently being updated with information before going live in the next few weeks.

Clerk has commenced taking Councillor's photographs for inclusion on the website.

11. Council Vacancies

1 Walderslade; 3 Aylesford South; 2 Eccles. Noted.

12. TMBC Local Centres Fund Budget

Progress report on works planned for Aylesford village centre using £7000 grant from TMBC.

New Christmas lights have been purchased and installed this week.

The sign at the entrance to the village will require planning permission. Clerk is in discussion with Kent Highways and local traders re preferred exact location and will then apply for permission.

13. Any Other Business/Correspondence

13.1 – Meeting Diary for 2015 has been circulated

13.2 – An expression of interest in **purchasing all or part of the land next to Laurie Gray Avenue (Pond Site)** which is owned by the Council, has been received. Members initial views were sought.

It was **agreed** that consideration could be given to the sale of a small area of the land based on a previous application to buy by the previous owners of the same property and that the Clerk report back on the details. It was further **agreed** that Members wished to retain the majority of the land.

13.3 – **Gate Pillar Damage** – Clerk reported that Countrystyle have offered £1800 towards the cost of rebuilding the damaged entrance wall pillar – total cost was £2400. It was **agreed** to accept this amount in full and final settlement. **Clerk**

13.4 – **NALC/SLCC 2015 National Salary Award** – Clerk reported that he had received notification that a 2.2% salary increase had been agreed. The Committee was reminded of the Staffing Committee decision on 28 October 2014 that the Council would implement this increase for salaries linked to the NALC/SLCC pay scales.

It was proposed by Cllr Elvy, seconded Cllr Gledhill that this increase in salary arising from the pay award be implemented for those whose salaries are linked to the NALC/SLCC pay scales with effect from 1 April 2015.

There was no change to the increases agreed on 28 October 2014 for the two maintenance staff as their salaries were not linked to the NALC/SLCC pay scales..

13.5 – **Winter Tree Work** – The Clerk has discussed with Kent Turf Care the next stage of the tree work required following the tree survey which took place earlier this year. Work will take place throughout the parish at a total cost of £4640 – **agreed**.

Cllr Gledhill asked that the Clerk look at additional works which may be required on Eccles recreation ground on trees overhanging Skinners Close. **Clerk**

13.6 – **Donation of Tree Whips** – Clerk reported that Kent Turf Care have offered to donate 120 tree whips of various species for planting around the parish. These were accepted with thanks and will be planted in house. They will mainly go on sites where damaged or unsafe trees have been removed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.48pm.