

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015
Commenced 8.05pm

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MINUTES

Present: Cllr Gledhill (Chairman), Ambrose, Base, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Elvy, Hammond, Homewood

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1. Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members' Interest.

2. Apologies

Apologies as follows were noted and reasons accepted. Cllrs Balcombe (ill), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Elvy (personal), Hammond (working), Homewood (KCC meeting).

3. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 24 November 2015. Attached at **Appendix A**. These were **agreed** as a true record and the recommendations **agreed**.

There were no Matters Arising

4. Accounts for Payment

Payment list attached at **Appendix B**. 36 payments totalling £43,080.44 as listed were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Gledhill. **Agreed**.

A late payment of £156.00 to Holtwood Farm Shop – Christmas Trees – was checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Gledhill. **Agreed**

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

6. Rugby Club/Netball League

Aylesford Rugby Club – Racetrack. Clerk reported that Gallaghers have requested agreement to lay a drain on the racetrack from their premises at Coldharbour down to Hall

Road as their current Kent Highway drain is blocked. They have received permission to link into the Southern Water drain just off Hall Road. Clerk has met on site with Gallaghers representatives. Due to the very muddy condition of this area for walkers, he discussed with them the installation of a surfaced pathway down the racetrack as part of the reinstatement if authority is granted for the drain and they have agreed to consider this. Clerk was authorised to continue negotiations on this basis.

7. **Flood Defences** – No report to this meeting.

8. **Council Vacancies**

8.1 - Current vacancies: 2 Aylesford South 1 Eccles

8.2 – Clerk to report to a future meeting of the Committee on a social inclusion policy

9. **TMBC Future Funding Implications**

The Clerk asked that Members start to consider the potential effects of likely future cuts in funding for Parish Councils from TMBC following report to Council on 17 November by Borough Councillor Base. The Clerk will present more precise details on the proposed 2016/17 budget to the next P&R meeting on 6 January 2016 together with an up to date Development Budget. It is not anticipated that there would be an immediate loss of TMBC funding but Members were aware that in the long term there could be implications for the Parish Council's precept.

10. **Any Other Business/Correspondence**

10.1 - 2016 Calendar of Meetings attached at **Appendix C. Agreed.**

10.2 – Renewal of SLCC Membership for 2016. This is a useful organisation which is of great use to the Clerk for research and information. Continued membership subscription - £235.00 **Agreed.** **Clerk**

10.3 – On-line Parish Councils Liaison.

The Clerk reported that following on from the recent large number of emails circulating between local Parish Councils regarding the proposal by TMBC to merge its Planning Committees, a suggestion had come forward to set up an on-line group for Parish Councils to communicate particularly in relation to their dealings with TMBC. The Clerk stated that in principle this could be an effective measure of sharing best practice and information on general matters rather than limiting it to dealings with TMBC. However there had been one incidence of miscommunication which showed the failings of this type of communication tool.

There are already in existence groups which provide a liaison between the two levels of councils such as KALC and the TMBC Parish Partnership Panel. Aylesford PC has always had a good relationship with TMBC with no major problems with communication and would wish to ensure this is continued. It was **agreed** that Members would prefer to maintain the status quo and not enter into the proposed on-line group as currently being proposed.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.30pm