

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2016
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Gledhill (Chariman), Base, Mrs Gadd, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Ambrose, Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Hammond, Homewood, Ms Neimer, Walker

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1. Declarations of Interest

Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk, declared an interest in item 5. as her family carry out the gatekeeping and cleaner roles. She took no part in the discussion.

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

2. Apologies

The following apologies were noted and reason accepted.

Cllrs Ambrose (personal engagement), Balcombe (personal engagement), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Ms Dorrington (care of elderly friend), Elvy (family illness), Hammond (TMBC meeting), Homewood (KCC meeting), Ms Neimer (personal engagement), Walker (TMBC meeting).

3. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 23 February 2016 attached at **Appendix A**. Accuracy and recommendations proposed for agreement by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Gledhill. **Agreed**

Matters Arising

Eccles Hall Grant – Application received for grant payment of £195 towards new windows received from Eccles Hall Treasurer. **Agreed Clerk**

4. Accounts for Payment

Payment list attached at **Appendix B**. 42 payments totalling £15502.80 were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Gledhill. **Agreed**

5. Gatekeeper and Cleaner Rates for 2016/17

Currently £5.50 per day and £8 per hour respectively. Rates did not increase last year. It was proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd that the rates be increased to £6.00 per day and £10 per hour (2 hours per week) respectively. **Agreed**

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

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

8. Flood Defences

Cllr Rillie reported the resignation of one of the village flood wardens. Vacancy to be advertised on the Council's website and local notice boards. **Clerk**

9. Council Vacancies

Current vacancies: 2 Aylesford South 1 Eccles

10. KCC Mobile Libraries Future

Clerk's report attached at **Appendix C**. Members **agreed** they had no comments to make on the proposals.

11. External Audit

The Clerk reported that previously the Audit Commission appointed the External Auditor for the Council. With the abolition of the Audit Commission a new body for smaller authorities, Audit Appointments Ltd, has been set up to make those appointments. This new body has been established at NALC and SLCC amongst others. However, this is now an option for Parish Councils to opt out of this scheme and appoint their own External Auditor. It was **agreed** not to opt out of the scheme for the appointment of the External Auditor.

12. KCC Electoral Arrangements

The original proposal from the Boundary Commission to change the boundaries of Malling North East to exclude part of Ditton Parish, has been rejected by the Commission. Therefore the Malling North East Division will remain the same.

13. Replacement for Small Van

A number of small repairs have recently been carried out on the second van and the Clerk advised Members that it would now be appropriate to consider its replacement. He sought authority to look at both purchasing and leasing options – **agreed**. The Clerk will research and report back to P&R with a view to replacing the van in the new financial year 2016/17.

14. Any Other Business/Correspondence

14.1 - Mill Hall Open Space – The Clerk reported on the recent tree works which have taken place both as part of our tree maintenance schedule and in order to provide better lighting on the Old Bridge. The clearance has resulted in some exposure of neighbouring properties and it has been proposed that some replanting should take place. Contractor has suggested two or three 3 – 3.5m high Malus (crabapple) trees which will provide colour throughout most of the year, will grow to approximately 7m and are appropriate for the site. Total cost to provide three trees and plant - £425. Cllr Base offered to fund this from his microgrant. **Agreed**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.35pm.