

Aylesford Parish Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Office, Aylesford on Tuesday 13 February 2024

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

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Ms Oyewusi, and Walker.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Ms Oyewusi and Walker 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 9 January 2024

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes from the meeting held on 9 January 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 32 payments totalling £17,907.53 be made.

5. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

It was **Agreed** to note the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024.

Noted

6. KALC

Councillor Shelley gave a brief update, he was asked by KALC if he could attend a 'Making Space for Nature' meeting, of which he has attended two, Councillor Sharp also attended one of them. **Noted**

7. TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel Meeting

The meeting on the 8 February was replaced with an information session on 'Agile' TMBC's new system which currently hosts their planning. This was covered in Any Other Correspondence of the Planning Meeting on 13 February 2024. **Noted**

8. Council Vacancies

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

9. Adoption of Aylesford Station

There has not been any further progress with regards to the noticeboards being installed. The Clerk will enquire with South Eastern if they have any idea when the installation is likely to happen. **Ongoing**

10. Allotment Fees 2025/26

The Clerk informed the committee that the questionnaire went out to all 82 allotment holders, 30 responded all stating they would pay the higher charge and keep the water. The clerk stated that they could now either make a decision on the charge for 2025/26 or resend the questionnaire to those who haven't responded giving them another opportunity to have their say. After discussion it was **Agreed** that the questionnaire will be sent to allotment holders again with a two-week deadline. The results will be taken to the next meeting of this committee on 5 March, where a decision will be made based on the responses and comments received.

Some comments made so far include.

- Not viable without water
- Warn holders about not leaving water on
- How can we grow without water
- Why still such a projected increase without water
- Losing water would be a nightmare
- If we have a hosepipe ban, can we still fill up our water butts

Ongoing

11. Any Other Correspondence

The Clerk informed members that the CCTV on the lighting column in the Parish Council's car park keeps going off at random times. Possible cause is the Wi-Fi dropping out. It is unlikely to be a supply issue as the light stays on. QTEC have looked at it and said one way round it is for those cameras to have a direct connection, which would involve digging a trench from the lighting column to the Parish Office and connecting the cameras straight into the Router.

Some suggestions from members were to speak to BT and ask if we can have a new router as this might help with the connection and/or Wi-Fi extenders.

The Clerk also stated she is waiting for a report from QTEC which will explain more fully what the problem is. She will report back once she has spoken to BT and has some additional information for members.

A Councillor informed members that the Aylesford Christmas Market AGM is on Wednesday 21 February, starting at 6.30pm in the Parish Office if anyone would like to attend. She also asked if making a financial contribution to the Christmas Market can be put on the next Finance Agenda for discussion. It was **Agreed** this item can be added to the next Finance Agenda.

A Councillor asked when the Clerk will be sending out some dates for the Mini-Bus Trip around the Parish. The Clerk said she was going to send them out early March for a May trip but is happy to do it this week if members would prefer. It was **Agreed** the Clerk will send a choice of dates within the next fortnight.

Councillor Chapman informed members that he has been monitoring the level crossing in Aylesford on behalf of Tracey Crouch, who is now talking to Southeastern.

15. Duration of Meeting

7.42pm to 8.16pm