

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Commenced 8.00pm.**

**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Cllrs Balcombe (Chairman), Base, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Shelley, Smith Wright

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Winnett

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**1. Declarations of Interest**

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

**2. Apologies**

Apologies of Cllr Winnett due to family commitments, were noted and accepted.

**3. Accounts for Payment - Payment list attached at Appendix A**

44 payments totalling £ 30,148.46 were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Shelley and checked and seconded for payment by Cllr Elvy. **Agreed**

**4. Finance Advisory Sub Committee**

Ratification of the FASC meeting minutes held 28 August 2018 attached at **Appendix B**. Minutes were proposed as a correct record of the meeting and actions agreed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd. **Agreed**

There were no Matters Arising.

**5. Scout Hut Lease and Grant/Loan Application**

Clerk reported that the Scout Group had informed him of significant progress with the new scout hut project. They are being assisted by a Redrow with one of their employees acting as Project Manager and he in turn has negotiated several materials and equipment by donation or at cost. This has reduced their anticipated building costs to approximately £150,000 plus ground work costs. Clearance work of the site has begun.

They continue to fund raise and research grants available with the assistance of the Scouting Association's chief fund raiser. They also have the support of Tracey Crouch MP. The Parish Council has agreed a 99 year lease free of charge for the land and will meet the legal costs for the lease, approximately £1250. Their website shows the amount raised to date at approximately £43K and they have recently been successful in obtaining a grant of £10,000 from the Bernard Sunley Trust.

The Clerk has already advised the Group that their application to the Council for a grant of £25,000 and an interest free loan of £25,000 is considered by Members as too large an amount for the Council to commit to one project of this kind.

Members **agreed** they could not commit to making a grant and/or loan without further financial details from the Scout Group on the project – exact costs and funding already in place and committed. They suggested a meeting with Group representatives, local ward members, Tracey Crouch MP (if available) and the Clerk to discuss the whole project in detail and what further assistance would be appropriate for the Council. The Clerk was asked to set this up with the Scout Group. **Clerk**

## **6. Annual Reserve Allocation**

Clerk's report attached at **Appendix C** was discussed. The Clerk stated that the projects listed were not definite and could be amended or changed but they are listed as the current priorities and give an indication of the funding required. In fact Eccles Traffic Management Scheme could now be deleted following Kent Highways advice that the proposal for a 20mph scheme through the village could not be done by signage, thereby increasing the cost of a traffic management scheme to £60k minimum. Additionally the 40mph to 30mph proposal for Bull Lane at its junction with Pilgrims Way would be contrary to DfT guidance. The Clerk asked that Members consider how much additional funding they wished to raise for special projects over the next five years (Annual Reserve Fund Allocation). This in turn will then enable the Clerk to work out the precept level required.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Base, seconded Cllr Smith, that a financial strategy of a £10k ARFA increase above the inflation increase of £5k, be the aim based on an approximate 6.38% increase on precept for the next 5 years. After a vote of 8 for, 2 against, this was **agreed**. **Clerk**

## **7. Public Conveniences**

Clerk reported on the TMBC report attached at **Appendix D**. The Parish Council has been asked to initially respond to the following items which would relate to the public convenience in the Aylesford Village Square:

The value/need for this particular facility – The committee considered it was valued and needed.

The perceived level of use and whether this is local or wider use – The committee considered it is well used particularly by visitors to the village attracted by its historical interest and the new river path.

The condition of the current facilities – The committee considered the facilities to be in good condition.

Would the Parish Council be open to discussion regarding the potential transfer of these facilities to itself – Yes.

Clerk to respond to TMBC accordingly.

**Clerk**

## **8. Law and Order** - No report to this meeting.

**9. Rugby Club/Netball League** - No report to this meeting.

**10. Flood Defences** - No report to this meeting.

**11. Council Vacancies**

3 Aylesford South      1 Eccles      1 Blue Bell Hill

**12. KALC Meetings**

Cllr Shelley reported that he has received notification from KALC that as there is such concern from Parish Councils regarding the forthcoming consultation on the TMBC Draft Local Plan, they are proposing to run a workshop on assisting them to prepare their responses. To be held on 17 October. Cllr Shelley will pass full details to the Clerk. It was **agreed** Aylesford Parish Council should be represented and the Clerk will attend if possible. Any other interested Members should advise the Clerk. **Clerk**

**13. TMBC/ Parish Partnership Panel Meetings**

Next meeting 6 September. Cllr Shelley will attend.

**14. Community Warden – Office Space.**

CW Debbie Foreman has asked the Council to consider whether she can obtain access to the Parish Office as a base during non office opening hours. She is a welcome regular visitor during normal office hours but use during non office hours would require her holding keys and alarm fob. The Clerk suggested that he discuss with the Community Warden the support given by other Parish Councils to their Wardens before a decision is reached. **Agreed Clerk**

**15. Any Other Business/Correspondence**

15.1 – Cllr Smith reported that the Blue Bell Hill Village Hall now has a defibrillator which he would be pleased to show any interested Members at a mutually convenient time.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.47pm.