

Aylesford Parish Council

Policy and Resources Committee

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held via Zoom link on 7 July 2020

Present: Councillor Balcombe (Chairman) and Councillors Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker and Winnett.

In Attendance: Neil Harris (Clerk) and Melanie Randall (Assistant Clerk and Finance Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Beadle, Ms Papagno, and Wright.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Beadle (work commitment), Ms Papagno (work commitment) and Wright (personal commitment) were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

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

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 2020**

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. **Law and Order - CCTV in High Street, Aylesford**

The Clerk indicated that at the last meeting he had reported that he had obtained 2 quotes for the provision of CCTV in the High Street, Aylesford. These quotes varied from approximately £9300 to £10700 and included for the provision of a new laptop and an estimate of the cost of installation. It was **Agreed** that consideration of the installation of a CCTV camera in the High Street, Aylesford be deferred until all the local members were present at the meeting.

5. **KALC**

The Clerk had nothing to report to the committee.

6. **TMBC Parish Partnership Panel**

The Committee noted that the report of Councillor Shelley of the meeting of the TMBC Parish Partnership Panel held on 30 June 2020 was considered at the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 23 June 2020.

7. **Council Vacancies**

It was **Noted** that the current vacancies on the Council were as follows: -

Aylesford South - 1.

8. **Public Convenience Review – Aylesford Toilets**

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk attached to the Agenda which set out the latest position in respect of this matter and a transcript of the e mail sent to TMBC for which the Council were still awaiting a reply. It was **Agreed** to note the position and to await the reply from TMBC.

9. **Walderslade Baptist Church – Use of Village Hall Grant**

The Clerk reported that the Walderslade Baptist Church had received quotations for works needed to repair and repaint the external woodwork, windows and doors at the Church. This included scaffolding at the front for the high apex window. The quotation they wished to proceed with was from a local contractor and the total cost of the work was £2156. The Church have £2000 in their village hall grant which they would wish to use for this work and was also asking if the local members would be happy to make up the shortfall of £156 from their micro grants. If this was split across all Walderslade Members the cost would be £31.20 each. It was **Agreed** that the funds within the village hall grant budget be released and that the shortfall be met from the Walderslade Members Micro Grants with the exception of Councillor Shelley.

10. **Aylesford FC – Request for Micro Grant Support for Grass Seed**

The Clerk reported that currently Aylesford FC undertake the work for repairing the goalmouths at the Forstal Road pitches themselves rather than using the Council's contractor who does the work at the other sites. The cost to the Council if the contractor was to do the work would be £440. In the past the Club had made a request for micro grant support to pay for the grass seed and this had been agreed. They are seeking this support again and the cost of the seed is £209.99 which is less than half of the cost of a contractor. It was **Agreed** that cost of the seed at £209.99 be met from the Aylesford South and North members micro grants.

11. Aylesford Village Community Centre – Claim for Unpaid Water Charges

The Clerk reported that the AVCC have made a request to the Council for payment towards the cost of water and wastewater charges since the last payment made in 2012. The Council has always indicated that it was happy to pay its share of these charges and raised this issue with them on many occasions to get this matter resolved but the main problem was the failure of AVCC to produce any supporting paperwork. The Council has now in place a water meter and a system for current payments has been agreed by both parties. It was **Agreed** that the Council should seek to agree a resolution to this issue with AVCC and that the AVCC should provide the Council with copies of all of the relevant Bills with a view to any resolution being based on the existing agreement for current bills..

12. Review of Council Noticeboards, Map Boards and Seats

The Clerk reported that before Members could determine how they could take forward this review it would be necessary for the Clerk and the Maintenance Supervisor to undertake a full and detailed inspection of the noticeboards, map boards and seats owned or located on Parish land. The Clerk would then report back to committee at a future meeting.

13. Risk Assessments

The Clerk reported that it was a requirement for the Council to consider the Risk Assessments relevant to the services undertaken by the Council each year. This matter was to be reported at the end of the last financial year but due to the Coronavirus pandemic had been delayed until this meeting. A copy of all the Risk Assessments undertaken by the Clerk were attached to the Agenda. It was **Agreed** to accept the Risk Assessments for the periods 2019/20 and 2020/21 as submitted to the Committee.

14. Access to the Old Scout Hut (The Old Forge) at Mill Hall, Aylesford

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the normal consultation process for planning applications the Council had recently received an application for the development of a detached dwelling at this site being accessed by the public footpath running alongside the river. The land leading to this site was owned by the Council and it was surprising that the Council had not been consulted before this time regarding access. This matter had now been taken up with the developer and discussions had now started to take place. The matter of the access which the developer believes they have, would require the Council to seek legal advice and the Clerk reported that he had already had initial discussions with the Council's Solicitor.

The Clerk also informed the Committee that in the last few days the Environment Agency had submitted an objection to the application which could require further discussions between the applicant and TMBC. This could lead to the objection being withdrawn but

that would not preclude another application coming forward answering the issues raised by the Environment Agency.

It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should take legal advice from the Council's Solicitor Gulland's asking them to seek the evidence supporting the applicant's assertion that that they have right of access across the Council land together with an evaluation of such evidence. It was also noted that the applicant had offered to meet the Council's legal costs.

15. Tracey Crouch MP

The Chairman reported that the Parish's MP had recently stated on her facebook page that she had breast cancer. The Committee agreed to send her the Council's best wishes and wish her a speedy recovery.

16. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 8.20pm