

Aylesford Parish Council

Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 January 2020 at the Aylesford Football Club Pavilion, Aylesford.

Present: Councillors Balcombe (in the Chair) and Councillors Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ms Papagno, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker and Williams

In Attendance: Mr Harris (Clerk) and Mrs Randall (Assistant Clerk and Finance Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, and Wright

1. **Declarations of Interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members' Interests**

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

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Beadle (work commitment), Ms Dorrington (unwell), Ludlow (personal commitment), Ms Oyewusi (work commitment), Rillie (unwell), and Wright (personal commitment) were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

3. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced that he had recently given an interview on KMTV regarding the Council's position on the planning application by Gladman's at the White Post Field.

4. **Adjournment of the Meeting to allow for Public Participation**

Members of the public from local businesses namely The Hengist and the small convenience store in the High Street within Aylesford raised their concerns regarding recent instances of crime in the village including 2 recent incidents of vehicle damage in the village car park, a case of burglary in the shop and an instance of non-payment at the

Hengist. Their particular concern was the lack of police presence in the village and failure to curb the increasing crime issues within the village.

The Council agreed about their concerns but was aware that the local PCSO covered the whole of the Parish and Ditton as well as being seconded to other areas such as Tonbridge. The Council **Agreed** that the Clerk write to Chief Inspector Steenhuis and the Police and Crime Commissioner including copying in the local MP regarding these concerns and issues and seeking information on what action could be taken and also to ask if they would be willing to meet up with the Parish to discuss these concerns.

5. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 November 2019**

It was proposed by Councillor Balcombe and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gadd that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19 November 2019 be **approved** as a correct record and signed.

6. **Matters Arising from the previous minutes**

There were no Matters Arising.

7. **Policy and Resources Committee Minutes**

Policy and Resources – 3 December 2019

There were no matters arising

Policy and Resources – 7 January 2020

Minute 14 – Level of Fees and Charges

It was **Agreed** that that the level of fees and charges for the Cemetery, Use of Council Land and Allotments as set out on the attached sheets to the Council agenda be approved.

Minute 15 – Budget 2020

It was **Agreed** that the level of precept for 2020/21 be set at £257800 and noted that the Council Tax be £58.81 (Band D).

8. **Environmental Services Committee Minutes**

Environmental Services – 26 November 2019

There were no matters arising

Environmental Services – 17 December 2019

There were no matters arising

9. Planning Committee Minutes

Planning – 3 December 2019

There were no matters arising.

Planning – 11 December 2019

There were no matters arising.

Planning – 7 January 2020

Minute 7 - TM/19/02841/FL – Application from Lidl to build a Supermarket on the old Kia site, London Road, Ditton.

TM/19/02900/FL – Application to build 9 Apartments and associated parking at Cobdown Lodge, 540 London Road, Ditton.

The Committee had agreed that due to the need to submit comments on these applications before the end of the month that this meeting would need to consider whether they wished to comment on these applications. The Clerk reported on the details of these applications and it was **Agreed** to comment to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on each as follows:-

Planning Application TM/19/02900/FL – Application to build 9 Apartments and associated parking at Cobdown Lodge, 540 London Road, Ditton.

Whilst this application is outside of the Parish Council area the Council believes that this application has a direct impact on the Parish and its residents. Therefore, having given careful consideration to this application the Council would wish to see it refused on the following grounds:-

- (1) This development significantly increases the traffic movements from this site onto an already over capacity A20 near to one of its most significant congestion points at the Ditton Crossroads.
- (2) That the junction proposals to allow access and egress in both directions to this site would not work and would cause significant problems at a critical point within a key junction (congestion hot spot) on the A20 strategic route.
- (3) That the increased traffic movements would only make worse the air quality in this area which is already designated an AQMA suffering from poor air quality.

Planning Application TM/19/02841/FL – Application from Lidl to build a Supermarket on the old Kia site, London Road, Ditton.

Whilst this application is outside of the Parish Council area the Council believes that this application has a direct impact on the Parish and its residents. Therefore, having given careful consideration to this application the Council would wish to see it refused on the following grounds:-

- (1) This site whilst remaining retail changes from a site with limited car movements, car showrooms, to a supermarket with significantly more traffic movements onto an already over capacity A20 between two of its most significant congestion points at the Ditton Crossroads and the junction with New Hythe Lane.
- (2) That the increased traffic movements would only make worse the air quality in this area which is already designated an AQMA suffering from poor air quality.

10. To Receive the Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Homewood was not present.

11. To Receive the Report of the Borough Councillors

Councillor Williams indicated that he had received a number of complaints from residents regarding a party held at the Aylesford Community Centre last Friday including noise, use of bad language in the Play Area where adults from the party were drinking and smashed glass in the play area. He indicated that this was not the first instance and therefore he had written to the Community Centre asking them for their comments. The Council also expressed their concern regarding this incident and its impact on the community and it was **Agreed** that the Council should ask to meet the Community Centre to discuss these concerns and that Councillors Balcombe, Sullivan, Williams and the Clerk represent the Council.

12. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Shelley proposed and Councillor Mrs Gadd seconded and it was **Agreed** that 18 payments totalling £1828.15 be made.

13. Any Other Correspondence

There was no other correspondence

14. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 8.25pm