

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Meeting of the Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held at Aylesford Football Club, Aylesford on Tuesday 14 November 2023

**Present:** Councillors Sullivan (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Chapman, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Mrs Ogun, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Smith and Walker.

**In Attendance :** Mrs Randall (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Councillors, Beadle, Mrs Birkbeck, Mrs Eves, Hammond and Borough Councillors Davis and Williams.

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#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Beadle, Mrs Birkbeck, Mrs Eves, Hammond and Borough Councillors Davis and Williams were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

#### **2. 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.

#### **3. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman informed those present that himself along with the Clerk and Councillors Mrs Birkbeck and Ms Dorrington attended the Armistice Day Service at the RBLI on Friday 10 November 2023, then in the afternoon he was invited by Panattoni to the official opening of the new link road, which included a trip round the site in a mini bus. The Chairman attended Remembrance Sunday along with the Clerk and Councillors Balcombe, Gledhill and Rillie. Councillor Hammond also attended the Armistice Day Service and Remembrance Sunday in his capacity as Deputy Mayor.

#### **4. Adjournment of the meeting to allow Public Participation.**

There were no members of public present.

## 4.2 Police Report

There was no representation from Kent Police.

## 5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 19 September 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Balcombe and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Gadd that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 19 September 2023 be **approved** as a correct record and signed, subject to the following amendments:

Those present to include Councillors Sharp and Hammond and apologies to include Mrs Gadd. The removal of Chapman from those present.

## 6. Any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no Matters Arising.

## 7. To Receive and Note the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee

- a) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee on 3 October 2023. There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee on 7 November 2023 (draft), subject to the minute for item 6 and 7 being swapped around as it was the PPP Meeting Councillor Shelley was not able to attend. There were no matters arising.

## 8. To Receive and Note the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee

- a) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee on 26 September 2023. There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee on 17 October 2023 (draft). There were no matters arising.

## 9. To Receive and Note the Minutes of the Planning Committee

- a) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 19 September 2023 There were no matters arising.
- b) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 3 October 2023. There were no matters arising.
- c) It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 7 November 2023 (draft). There were no matters arising.

## **10. To Receive the Report of the County Councillor**

There was no County Councillor present, and no report was provided.

## **11. To Receive the Report of the Borough Councillor(s)**

See attached report at Appendix A written by the Borough Councillors for Aylesford North and North Downs Ward. **Noted**

## **12. 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 15 payments totaling £8,920.93 be made.

## **13. Council Vacancies**

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

## **14. Decisions taken under S101 Delegated Authority**

No decisions have been taken under S101 Delegated Authority. **Noted**

## **15. Consider Any Other Items of Correspondence**

A member raised a few concerns around the new TMBC Planning system 'Agile'

- Concerning the time, it will take to fully implement the new system, a suggested 6-12 months.
- Having trouble accessing some planning applications and other members agreed they too have had some difficulty.
- Concerned that not all the information is on the planning portal, which could mean members are making errors when agreeing on their comment back to TMBC. These errors could be blamed on the Parish Council by residents. It was explained that the Parish Council can only make a comment based on the information provided to them via the TMBC planning portal.

The Clerk will raise these concerns with Borough Councillor Dave Davis and will report back to members via email for quickness as the next meeting of Full Council is not until 16 January 2024.

## **16. Duration of Meeting**

7.35pm to 8.03pm

**REPORT TO AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for  
Aylesford North and North Downs Ward  
Councillors Dave Davis Alex McDermott and Roger Dalton**

**BUSHEY WOOD APPLICATION**

Both Roger and Dave attended the Bushey Wood Appeal Inquiry on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Days before the Inquiry National Highways removed their objections to the application. This was the reason that Area 3, after notification of the appeal, indicated that had the application come before that committee, it would have been refused. Thus, at the enquiry TMBC, as a council, had no reason to refuse the application.

The consensus amongst the public attending from Eccles and us was that the inspector gave everybody every opportunity to present their cases.

Given the position of TMBC's planning officers, set out above, it would be wise for everybody to prepare for the worst, that the application is approved, though that is not a forgone conclusion.

If the inspector grants the appeal, then the road system and the general layout of the development will be set, and the detail will need to be worked out in several later planning applications.

The indication given by Trenport's barristers was that there was a lot of detail to be decided and that Trenport were more than willing to listen on the requirements of the village. The route to do this, is to take those requirements to the planning officers at TMBC, who will be the formal negotiators with Trenport. This is what Roger and Dave did with Peters Village.

This is a time when we all need to be looking at village assets such as village halls, parking places, allotments, sport facilities and much more so that we can constructively work for the best long-term interest of Eccles and the surrounding villages.

**AGILE**

For about 30 years, TMBC have done all their background work on the Idox/Uniform program that has served us well. It has been the key administration program for planning, housing, waste and much else.

The time has come to move on, and a new program is coming in called Agile. This is a quantum leap forward equivalent to moving from a Sinclair or a BBC Microcomputer of the 1980's to a modern laptop.

A mass of new background computer proforma and processes need to be produced to marry up the new program with TMBC's well understood ways of working.

The first department to move over is planning and they started the move on 28<sup>th</sup> September when Uniform ceased and completed it by 3 October when Planning on Agile went live.

There were the inevitable teething troubles and there will be others. Critically for you if you find if things are wrong or not working then feed back to us.

Even with these teething problems the system is showing great promise and will be excellent when it is fully up and running.

Only planning is going across at present. The first few lists of planning applications have gone out and decisions and enforcements will follow.

Your Clerk raised one issue. The list of applications was for information only not for action. We clarified that. The list is for information and the Parish Council can reply to any application as a non-statutory consultee, as of right. The normal time scales for replies apply. In cases where you are a statutory consultee, a formal letter will be addressed to the PC as an action addressee. The statutory times for your action start as at the date of that letter.

In conclusion, Agile has been and is being delivered for planning. There will be a time for reflection and learning and then other departments will move across. We will keep you informed of progress.

### **NURSERY ROCHESTER ROAD AYLESFORD**

We reported to your last two meetings on planning application TM/23/01072/FL. Proposed change of use of land, on Rochester Road, Aylesford, from a nurse (plants) to mixed equestrian and a holiday park comprising 7 mobile homes, 4 serviced camper van places and a recreational area.

We regret to inform you that the planning officer leading on this case has left TMBC and a new case officer has been appointed. It is for each case officer to come to their conclusion on the application which will be subsequently ratified by senior planning officers.

We have been back to TMBC planners and reiterated that if officers were minded to approve this application, that we wanted it called into Area 3 and that has been accepted.

We must now wait for this case to be decided and on that decision, we must wait for any subsequent enforcement action for the whole site.

### **REVIEW OF CHARGING AT TMBC CAR PARKS**

As part of a wider review of car parks across the Borough by the Community and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee, it was recommended to go out to consultation on the charging for the use of many of the TMBC car parks such as the Aylesford Bailey Bridge Car Parks. This was confirmed at the October Cabinet meeting. The consultation should be run sometime between the end of November and early spring.

There are pros and cons on this proposal for our residents and businesses.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS IN PROGRESS**

**LAND REAR OF MACKENDERS LANE ECCLES AYLESFORD KENT**

No further progress to report

**LAND ON FORMER SCOUT CAMP WARREN ROAD**

No further progress to report.