

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Parish Council Offices, Aylesford on Tuesday 8 October 2024

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**Present:** Councillor Mrs Gadd (Chairman) and Councillors, Balcombe, Mrs Birkbeck, Craig, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Gledhill, Ludlow, Mrs Ogun, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan and Walker.  
Melanie Randall (Clerk to the Council)

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Chapman, Hammond, Ms Oyewusi, and Sharp were received, and the reason for absence agreed.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

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

#### 3. To Agree the Minutes of the last meeting held on 3 September 2024

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

There were no matters arising.

#### 5. Small Works Programme

The painting/staining around the Parish has now been completed.

**Closed**

#### 6. Outdoor Gym Equipment in Forstal Recreation Ground

The Clerk explained and advised that the Council should consider removing this equipment on health and safety grounds while it decides what to replace it with.

Two quotes were obtained for the removal of the equipment.

Company A = £1,850.00 + vat to cut off at ground level, remove, dispose and soil and seed.

Or option 2 £2,450.00 + vat to completely remove the items including digging out the foundations/bases to each piece, dispose and soil and seed.

Company B - £1,995.00 + vat to cut off at ground level, remove, dispose and soil and seed.  
Or option 2 £3,245.00 + vat to completely remove the items including digging out the foundations/bases to each piece, dispose and soil and seed.

It was **Resolved** that the equipment should not be removed yet, but the piece that has the highest risk should be chained up so it is taken out of action while the Clerk obtains prices for new Gym Equipment and other options that could be considered.

The equipment will be monitored, and the Clerk will report back to committee in due course once she has some quotes for replacement items or if the items deteriorate quicker than expected.

## **7. Annual Playground Inspection Report – All Sites**

The Clerk reported that the recent annual playground inspection report has highlighted several issues with a lot of the equipment. While none of it needs to be removed or taken out of action immediately as there is no danger using the items the Council does need to consider that within the next 5-6 years it is quite possible that it will all need replacing including the safety surfacing. Ferryfield will not need doing as that has just been completed. There are several grants the Council can apply for, but some of this will no doubt need to be funded through the Precept.

**Noted**

## **8. Any Other Correspondence**

There was no Other Correspondence

## **9. Duration of Meeting**

7:38pm to 8:08pm