

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Capel Morris Centre on 19 October 2021

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

**In Attendance:** Melanie Randall (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Rillie and Williams.

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Rillie and Williams 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. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 September 2021

It was Agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 September 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that the Forstal Road Play Area Resurfacing has been completed. The contractor said it would take about a week, however they completed it in two days on 11 and 12 October.

**Ongoing**

#### 5. Parking at the Upper Bell Slip Road

The matter of the lorries parking on this slip road is still an ongoing problem. The Clerk was asked to enquire if the suggested sign can be put up now that TMBC have met with Kent Police. Clerk to contact Councillor Kennedy and ask for this to be considered again.

**Ongoing**

## **6. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)**

The Clerk reported that she has received the Traffic Survey from Aylesford Football Club but has not had adequate time to go through it. There has also been no further communication from KCC regarding the plan, the Clerk was asked to follow this up and request an update.

**Ongoing**

## **7. Bus Services**

**7.1 155 Bus Service** – Councillor Ludlow asked if Nu-Venture could run this bus service instead of Arriva. Councillor Gledhill will follow this up with Nu-Venture and report back.

**Ongoing**

**7.2 Free Tesco Bus Service** - Councillor Ludlow reported that Theo from Tracey Crouch's office is still waiting for further communications from Tesco's. He will report back when he has more information. He has also noticed that the timetable for this service was still displayed in the bus stops.

**Ongoing**

## **8. Gap between Ferryfield and Rugby Club**

The Maintenance Supervisor has been to look at the gate and the Clerk will now purchase the items needed for installation.

**Ongoing**

## **9. KCC Members Grant Request from Councillor Kennedy**

£1,000 has been agreed for the purchase of a bench to go in Old Bridge Gardens and payment is expected within the next week.

**Ongoing**

## **10. Tunbury Changing Rooms**

The Clerk reported that the locks were changed on 6 October. A Face-to-face meeting recently took place between the club and members of the Parish Council to discuss the condition of the changing rooms. The Clerk reported on the meeting and that Real 60 were embarrassed it had been allowed to get in to the condition it was in and had requested another chance to rectify the issues. Representatives from Real 60 explained they have a Soccer School for 4–11-year-olds and training on Saturdays and matches on Sunday mornings. It is the 7–8-year-old age group who use Tunbury Recreation Ground and the Changing Rooms. They reiterated that they do not need changing rooms as such just a toilet and somewhere to store the balls and goals. The Parish Council understands that, but stressed that using it as storage does not stop it being looked after and cleaned. After discussion it was **Agreed** to continue to allow Real 60 use of the Changing Rooms on a trial until the end of the current football season at which time it will be reassessed. The Parish Council will carry out regular checks and will keep one of the keys back so that the building can be locked by the Parish if the same situation arises again, or there are any other issues. Real 60 will be given 48 hours' notice to enable them to remove their belongings. The Council requests that anything not related to football must be removed from the Changing rooms. All it asks is that it is kept in a clean condition, is treated with respect and any issues reported to the office at their earliest

convenience. The Clerk will reiterate the Councils points and expectations to Real 60 and allocate the club two keys. **Closed**

### **11. Aylesford Football Club Request**

The Football Club have requested to use Forstal Recreation Ground on 27 and 28 October 8am to 4pm for their half term holiday club. The request was **Agreed**. **Closed**

### **12. Floodlights in Old Bridge Gardens**

Concerns have been raised regarding the floodlights that shine onto the Old Bridge. The concern was that they are extremely bright, so as a temporary measure the Clerk instructed the contractor to turn them both off. The Clerk reported that column number 118 (same side as the Chequers) has a fault and needs a part, which is covered by warranty. Column number 124 (the other side of the bridge) was covered in overgrowth so the Council had it cut back. The contractor has suggested there may be some scope to angle the lights down a bit which might be enough to take the brightness away that the lights are causing. Therefore; after discussion it was **Agreed** to proceed with the repairs under warranty and to instruct the contractor to try and angle them down. If the lights cannot be angled down any further, not enough or they can but it doesn't work then the Clerk will look at another option.

**Ongoing**

### **13. Aylesford Bulls Rugby Club**

The Clerk reported that the club have requested to use Ferryfield for parking on 7 November 2021 (750 vehicles max) for a mini festival, and 6 February 2022 and 27 March 2022 for additional parking for the mini's (200 vehicles max). It was **Agreed** to grant permission to all dates requested which would be subject to the usual conditions regarding the weather and any damage caused to the recreation ground will be the responsibility of the Rugby Club to rectify. The Parish Council reserves the right to withdraw its permission up to 48 hours before the above dates if the weather forecast is such that severe damage will likely be caused to the ground. In this situation the Rugby Club are responsible for finding alternative parking.

**Closed**

### **14. Any Other Business**

The Clerk reported that she ordered the part for the see-saw in Eccles on 8 October and there is currently an 8-10-week lead time for installation.

Councillor Mrs Gadd reported that the residents of Aylesford Village would like to put on an Aylesford Christmas Market on Saturday 4 December in Aylesford High Street. KCC refused the road closure request to shut the High Street due to the bus companies complaining the closure would cause too much disruption to the service. The only suitable solution was to hold it in the Parish Council's private car park. The Council is supportive of the event and the location.

The Clerk reported that the path that runs through the Eccles Recreation Ground has recently been resurfaced by KCC. The Clerk had continued to ask KCC to do this work for just over a year. A resident from Eccles came to the Parish Office to say thank you for getting the work done and keeping the pressure on KCC.

**18. Duration of Meeting**

7.57pm to 8.35pm