

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held in the Capel Morris Centre on 25 January 2022

**Present:** Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Mrs Eves, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Mrs Ogun, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley, Sullivan, Walker, Williams and Winnett.

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Ms Dorrington, Ms Oyewusi and Smith

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington, Ms Oyewusi and Smith 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 except for Councillor Fuller declared an interest in item 12 as he is Chairman of the Football Club.

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2021

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that no further works had taken place and is not expecting anything to happen until the weather is more suitable for painting and staining etc. **Ongoing**

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

The matter of the lorries parking on this slip road is still an ongoing problem. No update received from the Community Safety Partnership Forum. However; this item has been added to the Highway Improvement Plan and the Clerk provided an update under item 6.

**Ongoing**

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

The Clerk reported that she had received some updates for two of the items in the HIP from KCC Highways as follows

Rochester Road – New Entrance (Sandpit) – upgraded signage ordered 7 January 2022 by KCC including the 20mph signs locally.

Blue Bell Hill Slip Road – KCC said that as there is an existing Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place that is sufficient and supersedes any other options for this problem, it is clear the lack of signage advising drivers of this prohibition is needed. To support the existing TRO and to allow for successful enforcement, signage will be installed. However due to KCC's budgets this cannot be ordered until April 2022. **Ongoing**

## **7. Bus Services**

**7.1 155 Bus Service** – Councillor Gledhill stated that Nu-Venture satisfactorily continued their evening service when there was a recent road closure of Bull Lane for emergency works. Nu-Venture are not stopping their evening service, the rumours are incorrect. **Ongoing**

**7.2 Free Tesco Bus Service** - Councillor Ludlow received a response from Tracey Crouch's office that they had not yet received any correspondence from Tesco. **Ongoing**

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

The Clerk reported that the installation of the gate has been put on hold until the early part of 2022. **Ongoing**

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

The concrete base had been put in and the bench will be erected in February. **Ongoing**

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

The Clerk reported that the Council is still waiting for the repairs to be carried out under warranty. The Streetlighting Contractor has chased the manufacturer. **Ongoing**

## **11. Request to use Ferryfield from North West Kent Dog Training Club**

The Clerk reported that a request has been received to use Ferryfield for an annual two-day obedience dog show, which is being held in the Rugby Club. The use would be from the afternoon of 22 July to 24 July 2022. The club have said that part of the recreation ground would be used for parking and some obedience competition rings, the area of use will be roped off, there will be security on the gate to the recreation ground at all times, cars will be stewarded to the agreed parking area and there will not be any overnight camping. After

discussion it was **Agreed** to permit the use of Ferryfield, the hire fee for two and a half days will be £212.50 and a deposit of £300 will be required. Permission will be subject to all the usual stipulations and the Parish Council reserves the right to cancel the event up to 24 hours before if it feels that weather is such that damage will be caused to the ground. **Closed**

## **12. 2022/23 Grass Maintenance Contract**

The Clerk reported that she has been unable to obtain the required three quotes as stipulated in the Financial Regulations as there are not many local companies who can provide the gang mowing service that is required to cut the recreation grounds. The current contractor (Contractor A) has provided a quote and there was a second company (Contractor B) who were invited to quote but at the time of this meeting had not responded. The Clerk had asked the current contractor for a quote for a 2- or 3-year contract and is waiting to hear back. There was a third (Contractor C) who only quoted for the pitch repairs and line marking.

The Clerk gave examples of the quote received from Contractor B in 2020 for comparison and assured members she is confident that the Council is receiving good value as their quote was considerably more previously.

Therefore; as there is no competition it is recommended that the Council agrees to waive point 11.i of its Financial Regulations which will enable the Council to agree the contract. After discussion it was **Agreed Unanimously** to waive point 11.i of its Financial Regulations. It was also **Agreed** that the Clerk will contact TMBC to see who they use for the gang mowing. It was further **Agreed** that if the company does provide an optional 2 or 3-year contract quote, that if the Clerk is happy with it then the Council authorises her to proceed with one of these options instead of the usual one-year contract.

Gang mowing and other grass cutting awarded to Contractor A

Grass enhancements awarded to Contractor A

Hedge cutting awarded to Contractor A

Pitch repairs, reinstatement of goal mouths and line marking awarded to Contractor C

**Closed**

## **13. Use of Eccles Recreation Ground for Queens Platinum Jubilee Community Celebrations on 4 June 2022.**

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from a resident to use Eccles Recreation Ground for the celebrations. She has provided a comprehensive proposal including Risk Assessment, Site Plan and all other information the Council would look to receive. The event would run from 1pm to 7pm with a 1.5hr set up and take down either side. There are plans for a stage, beer tent, stalls, face painting, a horse box catering unit, a picnic area and a designated dog walking area for members of the public to use. The event is being supported by the Bulls Licensee and Director of That's the Spirit Pub Company Ltd.

An appropriate level of Insurance and any Licenses will also be obtained by the organiser(s). After discussion the Council **Agreed** to the use as detailed in the proposal and the Clerk will deal with the finer details around the exact location of the stage etc and access arrangements on the day. Permission will be subject to all the usual stipulations and the Parish Council

reserves the right to cancel the event up to 24 hours before, if it feels that weather is such that damage will be caused to the ground. **Closed**

#### **14. Podkin Meadow – Proposed Wild Flower Area**

The Clerk informed members that following comments made by residents in Blue Bell Hill a number of months ago she had met on site with an Amenity Specialist to discuss the possibility of incorporating residents' suggestions for Wild Flowers. This had been attempted before by a previous contractor in a large area a few years ago but unfortunately it was unsuccessful. This time the suggestion from the specialist is that a smaller area is concentrated as this is easier to develop and has more of a visual impact. The proposed area is on the left by the main gate off of Warren Road as you enter Podkin Meadow which will give a nice burst of colour on entry. The cost is £2,213.19 and if successful it will become a self-sustaining wild flower area. After discussion it was **Agreed** that developing a wild flower area is tried one more time, however if it is unsuccessful this time then the Council will not attempt it again. **Closed**

#### **15. Any Other Correspondence**

There was no Any Other Correspondence

#### **16. Duration of Meeting**

7.53pm to 8.38pm