

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Capel Morris Centre on 28 September 2021

Present: Councillor Mrs Gadd (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Base, Ms Dorrington, Gledhill, Rillie, Smith, Sullivan and Winnett.

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Fuller, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi, Mrs Papagno, Shelley, Walker and Williams.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Fuller, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi, Mrs Papagno, Shelley, Walker 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 24 August 2021

It was Agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 August 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Small Works Programme

The Clerk reported that the map has been replaced in the map board in Podkin Meadow by a local printing company Imagink. The A-Frame board that is located in the Eccles Village shop has been disposed of due to it being broken. The white metal bollards had been repainted white by the Aylesford Football Club intern. The new piece of fitness equipment had been installed in Tunbury recreation Ground. No further painting works have been completed since reporting to the last meeting of this Committee. **Ongoing**

5. Parking at the Upper Bell Slip Road

The matter of the lorries parking on this slip road is still an ongoing problem. Police have been spotted in the slip road. **Ongoing**

6. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Clerk reported that she is waiting for the Traffic Survey from the Aylesford Football Club and will report back once received. **Ongoing**

7. Bus Services

7.1 155 Bus Service – Councillor Gledhill reported that he had written to Dan Bruce Transport Manager for Public Transport at KCC who shares the Parish Councils frustrations regarding the new service. Current usage is at 60% and there is no certainty over Government funding. More certainty is needed on future use as the impact of Covid continues to have implications on this service. Councillor Gledhill will continue to pursue this and report back when relevant. **Ongoing**

7.2 Free Tesco Bus Service - Councillor Ludlow gave an update to the Clerk for this meeting. Theo from Tracey Crouch's office is still waiting for further communications from Tesco's. He will report back when he has more information. **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

The Clerk reported that the original application for £500 is now an application for £1000 as there is a separate pot of money Councillor Kennedy has access to. The application form has been completed and submitted. **Ongoing**

10. Tunbury Changing Rooms

The Clerk reported that as instructed she has arranged to have the locks changed and this is due to take place on 6 October. Real 60 have been informed this is going to happen and the Chairman called to have a discussion with the Clerk about the issues. He has stated the club only need to store 2 goals and a few balls; they don't need a changing room. A face-to-face meeting will be arranged for as soon as possible. **Ongoing**

11. Proposed Policy for the placement of containers, and other such items/buildings on Council Land.

The Policy was **Agreed** subject to the following additional words to be inserted 'including but not limited to'. It was **Agreed** to recommend to Full Council that this Policy be adopted. **Closed**

12. Tree works needed in Podkin Meadow

The Clerk informed the Committee that there are two dead Ash trees and one large dead Sweet Chestnut that the tree surgeon has recommended be felled. It was **Agreed** to go ahead with this work. **Closed**

13. Tree works needed in Parish Office Car Park

The Clerk informed the Committee that it has been recommended that the two London Plane trees located between the Parish Office and the Aylesford Football Club Pavilion on Forstal Recreation Ground are felled to ground level because the roots on the one nearest the pavilion are pushing up the Football Clubs path and the car park causing a trip hazard. The other one is recommended to be felled as it will soon do the same and it will have to be felled anyway when further drainage works are carried out. Assuming the 3G Pitch goes ahead then 20 trees will be planted on this site as part of the project. It was **Agreed** to proceed with the works. **Closed**

14. Ferryfield Gates

The Clerk enquired if longer serving members know of any reason why only one gate is opened at Ferryfield. There were no reasons the Council were aware of, so it was **Agreed** that both gates should be opened every day once the last of the repairs are carried out to the gates. The Clerk will inform the gatekeeper. **Closed**

15. Noticeboard Update

The Clerk reported that there are three more noticeboards to be installed, in Tea Pot Lane, The Avenue and Eccles Recreation Ground. She suggested that the one that was purchased for Tea Pot Lane be put in the Aylesford Allotments instead. The newly formed allotment committee asked if they could have one and the one in Tea Pot Lane was frequently abused by the school children waiting for the bus. It was **Agreed** to put it in the Aylesford Allotments. **Closed**

16. Forstal Recreation Ground Resurfacing

The play area needs to be resurfaced and the company have indicated that due to the rise in the costs of materials they need to amend their quote. The quote previously agreed was £16,722.00 and the increased quote is £18,394.20, a 10% increase at £1,672.20.

The Clerk informed the Committee that while she understands the cost of materials may have increased, she has expressed the Councils disappointment to the contractor at this increase as this work should have been completed several months ago. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk try to negotiate on the increase but has the authority to accept the quote. **Closed**

18. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 8.07pm