

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 3 JULY 2018
Commenced 8.00pm

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Balcombe (Chairman), Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Shelley, Smith

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs Walker, Winnett, Wright

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1. Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members' Interests.

2. Apologies

Apologies and reasons were note and accepted as follows: Cllrs Walker (TMBC business), Winnett (family commitment), Wright (holiday).

3. Accounts for Payment

Payment list attached at **Appendix A** – 37 payments totalling £18650.99 – were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Shelley, checked and seconded for payment by Cllr Elvy. **Agreed**

4. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

Ratification of the FASC meeting minutes held 26 June 2018 attached at **Appendix B** and decisions taken. Cllr Balcombe proposed these minutes as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd and it was **agreed** that the decisions taken should be implemented.

4.1 - Matters Arising

Hall Grants – St Albans Church Hall, Blue Bell Hill - The Clerk reported that St Albans Church Hall have requested £2970 for flooring refurbishment from their grant allocation. **Agreed**

5. Adoption of New Model Standing Orders – Distributed to all Members and attached at **Appendix C** to the bound copy of these minutes. Clerk reported these were based on the latest NALC recommendations. It was **agreed** these should be adopted and forwarded to Council for ratification. **Council**

6. Request from Aylesford Scout Group relating to new Scout Hut

The Clerk reported on his meeting with representatives of the Aylesford Scout Group. The Group appear to now be actively moving forward in respect of business and fund raising activities, including grant applications, the support of Tracey Crouch MP and have received formal planning permission from TMBC. Anticipated cost of the project is approximately £350,000. The Group have now made a formal request to the Parish Council for the following assistance:

1. Formal agreement to the lease of the land for a 99 year period at a peppercorn rent. Likely legal costs to be borne by the Parish Council - £1250. Parish Council solicitor has already been approached. **Agreed**
2. A grant of £25,000
3. An interest free loan of £25,000

Discussion took place on the items above. Members were fully supportive of the Scout Group's aims having agreed to the free lease of the land, meeting the legal costs of such lease, use of the recreation ground free of charge for their fun day. However they considered both the amounts requested were too excessive for the Council to agree. They further considered that they would wish to see more progress with other grant applications and fund raising which would confirm that the project will definitely proceed before reaching a decision on the amounts that could be offered as a grant and/or loan. **Clerk**

Cllr Ludlow volunteered to assist the Group with information regarding crowd funding and on-line fund raising if required. Clerk to forward Cllr Ludlow's details to the Group. **Clerk**

7. 2018/19 Budget – Earmarked Reserves Funding Allocations

The Clerk distributed to Members a paper on Earmarked Reserves for 2018-19 and Special Projects Programme – attached at **Appendix D** to the bound copy of these minutes.

Referring to the Special Projects Programme the Clerk stated that Member might wish to add the Eccles Traffic Management Scheme and a donation to the Aylesford Scout Group Hut project. Members **agreed** unanimously to add Eccles Traffic Management Scheme and the programme as submitted.

Members further agreed that the three joint priorities should be: Eccles Traffic Management Scheme (speed limit reductions in Bull Lane); Aylesford Village Scheme (Village Square enhancement); Ferryfield Play Area Phase 1 (Replacement of existing wooden play equipment). The Committee also noted that ETMS and AVS were dependant on agreement of design and costings with other authorities which would have a major bearing on whether the projects can go ahead. FFPA Phase 1 is in the Parish Council's control but will take time to agree design and costings with a selected contractor.

The Clerk was authorised to pursue progress with these three projects with immediate effect. **Clerk**

It was further **agreed** to increase funding to the Play Surface Replacement Programme by £10,000 as there were likely to be increasing safety issues regarding surfacing on all play equipment sites around the Parish. **Clerk**

Regarding the Earmarked Reserves, Cllr Ludlow queried whether the £100,000 Contingency Fund could be reduced to £75,000 thus releasing £25,000 towards Special Projects. It was **agreed** to retain the £100,000 at the present time.

The Clerk asked Members to consider the figures available to increase the Annual Reserve Allocation over the next five years based on increases in the precept from 2% to 8.51%. It was **agreed** to defer this decision to the next P&R meeting when Member will have had further opportunity to consider the figures .

Clerk P&R

6. Law and Order - No report to this meeting.

7. Rugby Club/Netball League - No report to this meeting.

8. Flood Defences – No report to this meeting.

9. Council Vacancies

3 Aylesford South 1 Eccles 1 Blue Bell Hill

10. KALC Meetings – No report to this meeting

11. TMBC/ Parish Partnership Panel Meetings – Cllr Shelley’s report on meeting attended 14 June was distributed to all Members and attached at **Appendix E** to the bound copy of these minutes. Noted and Cllr Shelley was thanked for his attendance and report.

12. Closed Session – Report from the Staffing Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2018.

Confidential Closed Session Minute attached to the bound copy of these minutes.

13. Any Other Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.45pm.