

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Policy and Resources Committee

### Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held via Zoom link on 5 January 2021

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

**In Attendance:** Neil Harris (Clerk) and Melanie Randall (Assistant Clerk and Finance Officer)

**Apologies:** Councillor Hammond..

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillor Hammond (unwell) was received, and the reason for absence agreed.

#### 2. Declaration of Interests

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

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 December 2020

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Shelley proposed and Councillor Mrs Gadd seconded and it was **Agreed** that 22 payments totalling £19009.74 be made.

#### 5. Law and Order - CCTV in High Street, Aylesford

The Clerk reported that the Council had been informed by Q-Tec who are offering a new cheaper option for a CCTV camera that they had purchased the sim card for the camera and they were being pushed for a start date for the camera being used as a demo.

## 6. KALC

The Committee received the report of Councillor Shelley of the meeting of the KALC Area meeting held on 10 December 2020.

## 7. TMBC Parish Partnership Panel

There had been no meeting of the Panel since the last meeting of the Committee.

## 8. Council Vacancies

It was **Noted** that the current vacancies on the Council were as follows: -

Aylesford South - 1.

## 9. Public Convenience Review – Aylesford Toilets

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk on the proposal from TMBC to transfer the public conveniences in Aylesford village to the Council. It detailed the financial cost to the Council of £13372 a year which would put £3.11 a year on the Council Tax (Band D). Following careful consideration, it was **Agreed** that the Council would not take over the toilets as proposed by TMBC and that the Council should seek reinstatement of the site in accordance with the Lease Agreement.

## 10. Financial Outturn for 2020/21

The Clerk reported that the latest financial outturn figures for the financial year 2020/21 It was **Agreed** to note the report.

## 11. SLCC Membership

The Clerk reported that the Council's Membership of the SLCC was due for renewal at an annual cost of £289. It was **Agreed** to renew the membership of the SLCC.

## 12. Level of Fees and Charges

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk setting out the suggested charges for the Cemetery, Recreation Grounds and the Allotments. It was **Agreed** that there be no increase in charges in respect of the Cemetery and Recreation Grounds other than a new charge for Transfer of Name and no triple charge for Any further Inscription. It was **Further Agreed** that the 10% proposed increase in allotment charges for the year 2022/23 be approved as a means of reducing the gap in the expenditure over income received.

### 13. 2021/22 Budget – Precept Setting

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk setting out the details in respect of the budgets and the precept for the next financial year 2021/22. This year the Council is in the unfortunate position of having a reduction in its Council Tax Base. TMBC have informed the Council that this was as a result of a combination of factors, firstly anticipated growth in last year's figure didn't materialise (most likely due to work stopping this year), secondly there was an anticipation of an increase in council tax benefits resulting from pandemic related lay-offs and thirdly there is an expected reduction on collection rates due to the economic fallout of the pandemic. The Council Tax Base has reduced from 4383.69 this year to 4304.64 for next year. Therefore, the impact of this decrease means that next year if the Council retained its current Council Tax (Band D) the Council's current precept of £257800 would reduce to £253155. This is a reduction in precept of £4645.

It was **Agreed**

- (1) **To Recommend to Council:** That there be no increase in the Council Tax (Band D) and that it remain at £58.81 and that the precept be set at £253155, a reduction of £4645 as a result of the decrease in Council Tax base, and that this decrease be funded from an appropriate head within the earmarked reserves.
- (2) That the budgets as submitted to the Committee be approved.

### 14. TMBC Local Plan

The Chairman indicated that the Council had received an e mail from Trudy Dean Chairman of West Malling Parish Council with a draft letter to Tracey Crouch MP and Tom Tugendhat MP asking them to take up the issues regarding concerns re the TMBC Local Plan with Robert Jenrick MP, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, and seeking the Council's support for this letter. It was **Agreed** that the Council would add its support to this letter and that Trudy Dean be so informed.

### 15. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 8.30pm