

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2017
Commenced 8.25pm

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Balcombe (Chairman), Base, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Jones, Mrs Phibbs, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Hammond, Homewood

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1. Declarations of Interest

Mrs Collier declared an interest in item 12. as a family member undertakes the gatekeeping and cleaning. She took no part in the discussion.

2. Apologies

Apologies as follows were noted and reasons given accepted:

Cllrs Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative); Hammond (working), Homewood (KCC meeting).

3. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 24 January 2017 – Attached at **Appendix A**. Noted and all recommendations **agreed**.

Matters Arising

Page 1, Items 3 and 5. Thanks have been received from the **RBLI for donations** towards garden furniture and concerts.

Page 2, Item 8. **Bank Authorisation and Future Charges**.

Metro Bank – Clerk is arranging a further meeting with the Metro representative to start proceedings for the transfer of the Council’s current account.

Signatories: Clerk required agreement of the authorised signatories on behalf of the Council to be passed to Metro Bank. Signatories will be required to present identification and sample signatures. Clerk will endeavour to arrange this in the office at a mutually convenient time. The following councillors were nominated as signatories:

Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Gadd, Elvy, Gledhill, Shelley, Base

This list is amended from the current signatories with Nat West with the addition of Cllrs Shelley and Base, and deletion of Cllr Mrs Brooks and Nigel Tiller.

Reserves: Clerk reported that he is proceeding with the research for reallocation of Council reserves and will report to next FASC at the end of February.

4. Accounts for Payment

The payment list attached at **Appendix B** – 46 payments totalling £58,782.36, were proposed for payment by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Elvy and **agreed**.

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

6. Rugby Club/Netball League – No report to this meeting.

7. Flood Defences – No report to this meeting.

8. Council Vacancies

3 Aylesford South.

9. Forstal Recreation Ground Entrance/The Bush Wall

Wall repair work completed to a high standard.

10. Parish Office

Office Lighting Upgrade – Majority of work completed.

11. Tunbury Hall – No report to this meeting.

12. Gatekeeper and Cleaner 2017/18 Pay Rate

Self employed basis. Current rates £6 per day and £10 per hour (2 hours a week) respectively which were increased at the beginning of 2016/17. It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Winnett, that these rates should remain unchanged in 2017/18. **Agreed**

13. Aylesford Allotments Water Supply

The main pipe down the track inside the allotments has been replaced and has solved the first leak identified - £1660. Unfortunately a further leak has been identified in the recreation ground under the Alien play equipment in the pipe which goes under the road to the allotments. South East Water have identified and repaired main problem but a very slight leakage is still apparent from the meter. Further investigation and repair will incur considerable costs in comparison with the actual cost of the water lost to this minor leak and it was **agreed** it would not be good value to undertake further investigation/repair at this stage. The meter will be regularly monitored by Council staff and if an increased loss of water becomes apparent the situation will be revisited.

14. Section 137 Donation

Request from Eccles Pop In Group for donation towards coach outing.
Last donation February 2014 - £520 for coach trip. Members **agreed** in principle to support this request with local Eccles members microgrants subject to receipt of quotations for the cost of coach hire this summer. **Clerk**

15. Any Other Business/Correspondence

15.1 – **Great British Spring Clean** – March 3rd to 5th 2017. Details available from www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk. Advertised on Parish website and noticeboards.

15.2 – **Downsmail** – Request for a website link. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

15.3 – KALC – Donation offer of a **defibrillator** and cabinet from Kent Fire and Rescue. Parish Council to cover installation, running and maintenance costs. It was **agreed** to accept the offer with exact siting to be considered further. Cllr Mrs Phibbs stated the one in Eccles at the Red Bull incurs electricity costs of £19 per year. She also offered to contact the contractor who installed the two in Eccles. **Clerk/Phibbs**

15.4 – Tracey Crouch MP will be running another **Pensioners Fayre** at Ditton TA Centre on 26 May 2017. Noted. APC can advertise on noticeboards and website.

15.5 – Cllr Elvy reported on his recent **TMBC Standards Committee** attendance. Clarification was given on Declarations of Interest requirements. Pecuniary declarations are only required for councillors themselves, their partners and immediate family members. Declarations regarding neighbours or acquaintances are only required where there is a clear identifiable interest. If the Councillor believes they have an interest in the situation being considered, they can make a statement but then must leave. Declarations regarding working

for a company are not required unless the councillor is an owner or major shareholder in said company. In all instances of discussing an interest a councillor must leave the meeting and take no part in the discussion.

The Clerk clarified that a good rule of thumb for declaring an interest is to consider whether an outside member of the general public, knowing all the facts, would consider a councillor's interest was likely to influence any decision to be taken.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.55pm.