

Aylesford Parish Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held via in the Capel Morris Centre on Tuesday 6 July 2021

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

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Acting Clerk)

Others: Borough and County Councillor Kennedy

Apologies: Councillors Base, Hammond, Oyewusi.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Base (personal), Hammond (unwell) and Oyewusi (unwell), 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 last meeting held on 1 June 2021

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Accounts for Payment

The Council considered the Payment Schedule attached to the Agenda and Councillor Balcombe proposed and Councillor Sullivan Seconded and it was Agreed that 56 payments totalling £22,554.86 be made.

5. Law and Order

5.1 CCTV in High Street – Councillor Williams informed the Committee that the shop owner in the High Street had recently started to experience theft and anti-social behaviour again. He also reported that some windows in both the Hengist and The Chequers had been smashed. The Acting Clerk informed the committee that the demonstration of the proposed camera is taking place tomorrow and she will report back to this committee. It was suggested that it be ensured that the quality of the images would be submissible in court. The Acting Clerk will contact Inspector Elizabeth Jones to find out what the quality of the images should be. **Ongoing**

5.2 Police Report – June Police Report received and noted. The Acting Clerk informed those present that there was a youth on a horse and trap riding round Forstal Recreation Ground recently, she asked him to leave which he did do straight away. She also had a report from a resident that youths were riding motorbikes at the back of Yoakley Land terrorising the residents of Unwin Close. The Acting Clerk did report both these incidents to the PCSO who said the Police had received reports about the horse and trap but not about the motorbikes. He stressed that it is really important that residents take the time to report issues.

6. KALC

Councillor Shelley reported that there had not been a meeting since the last meeting of this committee to report on.

7. TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel Meeting

There had been no meeting of the TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel since the last meeting of this Committee as they cannot find a venue large enough to use.

8. Council Vacancies

It was Noted that the current Vacancies are

1 – Aylesford South and there is one application pending approval at Full Council on 20 July 2021.

9. Public Convenience Review

The Acting Clerk reported that TMBC have informed her that their Surveyor has discussed the work with the building control team and are meeting with a contractor on site this week with a view of obtaining a cost estimate. **Ongoing**

10. The Governments Welcome Back Fund

The Acting Clerk reported that the Parish Council's bid for funding had been successful. £9,500 - £10,000 was applied for and the Parish Council has been awarded £4,500. This is to be spent on things like planters, plants and hanging baskets and repairs of benches. The grant is designed to make improvements to the local High Streets within the Parishes to make them more welcoming therefore attracting more visitors to local businesses. The next step is that the Parish Council will need to sign a Service Level Agreement with TMBC which will follow as soon as possible.

There were two items that TMBC said do not meet the criteria of the grant and they were the refurbishment of the Parish Council owned single public toilet, which is located on the end of the community centre building by the play area (£2,500 - £3,000 was requested) and two new benches for Old Bridge Gardens (£2,500 was requested). Councillor Kennedy offered to use his County Councillors grant to purchase the two benches if the parish Council would still like to. **Ongoing**

11. S106 monies from the Pea Field site for the enhancement of Leybourne Lakes

The Acting Clerk reported that she submitted the Parish Councils views that it disagrees with using the S106 money so far away from the development site and has asked if there are any other areas the money could be used for enhancement or indeed the development of a new park/garden. TMBC responded that the only contribution being sought for the enhancement of existing open spaces in connection with this development is in respect of parks and gardens. **Ongoing**

12. KCC – Covid Recovery Grant

Councillor Kennedy started by thanking the Council for allowing him to come and explain the grant. Each County Councillor has been awarded £6,000 to support businesses recovering as we come out of the restrictions. They must use it within their ward and it must be spent by the end of December. He is thinking of having a Business & Community weekend held locally where local businesses, small and big can have a stall for free and promote themselves. There will be a heated marquee as the provisional month for the event is October (exact date to be confirmed).

Councillor Kennedy explained that the grant cannot be paid to himself personally but it can to a Parish Council or business and he asked if the Parish could agree in principle to have the money paid to them from which they will pay the invoices. It was **Agreed** in principle to assist subject to various questions being satisfactorily answered around the VAT and insurance. Acting Clerk to make some enquiries and report back to the next meeting of this committee. **Ongoing**

13. Eccles 'Wish List' to be sent to TMBC in preparation for the proposed Bushy Wood Development

Councillor Ludlow reported that he had asked residents on the Eccles Action Group what residents want with regards to improvements as a result of this development if it were to go through. He gave some examples like a relief road for the HGV's, bus

improvements, a new doctors surgery, a community centre, car park and allotments. Councillor Ludlow said there was a lot more on the list which he will circulate to the committee within a couple of days. Some suggestions are not suitable but once a wish list is developed and agreed a meeting with Trenport will be arranged. **Ongoing**

14. RBLI Base Camp

Councillor Balcombe explained that he has received an update from the Director of Living, they are currently recruiting staff but do not expect to be open before August. It was mentioned that the grass has been cut at the front of the building and also in the play area. Further updates to the Parish office should be made weekly. **Ongoing**

15. Aylesford Football Club

The Council has received a request to fundraise towards the proposed 3G Pitch, to take place on Forstal Road Recreation Ground on 18 July 2021. The activities will be things like Bubble Football and a bike ride of 10 laps round the perimeter of pitches 2 and 3. There may also be various runs such as 5km, 4km and 2.5km. All necessary copies of public liability insurance and risk assessments will be required as normal. Providing these are received it was **Agreed** to grant permission. **Closed**

16. Finance Advisory Sub Committee – to receive the recommendation within

The recommendation from the Finance Sub Committee on page 2, point 5 for the amendment to the wording in the Financial Regulations were **Agreed** at this committee as a recommendation to Council on 20 July 2021.

17. BCTec Ltd – Contract Renewal

It was **Agreed** to accept a new 3-year contract for the Councils IT services, such as computer maintenance, support and hosted services. It was noted that there is a slight increase in the hourly rate from £50 to £52. **Closed**

18. Live Streaming of Parish Council Meetings

Councillor Ludlow reported that the main benefit to live streaming is that it would allow residents to connect with the Parish Council easier. The issues would be the broadband connection speed in the office – would it be fast enough to support live streaming without there being too much lagging. After short discussion it was **Agreed** that this be postponed for a while due to the office being over stretched with the current staffing situation. It was suggested that Councillors do a video of their areas if they want to showing residents what the Parish is responsible for then it can be uploaded to its Facebook page. **Closed**

19. Any Other Business/Correspondence

Aylesford Pre-School, Sports Day

The Acting Clerk informed the committee that the Aylesford Pre-School would like to have a little sports day for the children on Wednesday 14 July 2021 from 9am to 11.30am. The committee had no issue with this.

Thank You letter received from the Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance

The Acting Clerk informed the committee that a thank you letter had been received for the recent £300 donation the Council made.

20. Duration of meeting

7.55pm to 8.59pm