

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

TUESDAY 4 MARCH 2014

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

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Present: Cllrs Gledhill (Chairman), Ambrose, Base, Balcombe, Elvy (part meeting), Mrs Gadd, Rillie, Smith, Tiller

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

Apologies: Cllrs Wright, Winnett, Mrs Brooks, Ms Hurley

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1. Apologies – Noted.

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

It was **agreed** to bring forward agenda item 18. Cllr Elvy's report on TMBC Standards Committee to this point of the meeting. Minuted in numerical order.

3. FASC Minutes of 25 February 2014

Attached at **Appendix A**. Proposed for accuracy and agreement to actions by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Tiller. **Agreed.**

Matters arising – There were no matters arising.

4. Accounts for Payment – Payment list attached at **Appendix B**. 21 payments totalling £11,386.69 were proposed for payment by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Tiller and **agreed.**

5. Law and Order

5.1 - CCTV – First of the two camera previously agreed has been ordered. Clerk is discussing with police the process for the siting of the cameras.

5.2 – Report from Meet the Commissioner and Chief Constable event – Wed 25 Feb – attended by Cllr Gledhill. Well attended but not many local residents apparent. Full report available from Cllr Gledhill.

6. New Eccles Car Park

Still awaiting contact from Trenport who have reported the delay is due to negotiations between Trenport and La Farge solicitors in respect of small area of land affected that was

not handed over to Trenport at the time of sale. Clerk anticipates there will be a need to apply for and extension of the original planning permission which runs out in August 2014.

Cllr Balcombe will discuss this delay with TMBC Officers to see if there is any assistance they can offer. **JB**

Due to the continuing delay in getting the car park installed, the Clerk asked for authority to carry out temporary repairs to the Belgrave Street rear access road – quote £680. The surface has deteriorated over the winter to the extent that residents are reluctant to use it and therefore parking in the surrounding roads. A more permanent solution is planned to be incorporated into the car park project. Proposed Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Balcombe. **Agreed. Clerk**

7. Council Policy on Further Allotment Site/Recreational Land

Land beyond Yoakley Land – Clerk awaiting contact from KCC to discuss.

8. Council Policy on Recreation Ground Use

Now new logo is completed, work commencing on signage for all Parish owned open spaces. **Agreed** there will be no reference to emergency police numbers on the signs. Just contact details for the Parish Council.

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

10. Flood Defences

Verbal report on meeting with the EA held on Tues 4 March. Attended by Cllrs Rillie, Balcombe, Mrs Gadd, the Clerk and two representatives (including Neil Gunn) of the Environment Agency. Members and the Clerk reported on a useful meeting which covered how the EA have dealt with recent flooding issues in Aylesford village and their plans and aspirations for the future. The Property Level Protection scheme has now been agreed and fully funded between the Environment Agency and KCC. Other plans include repairs to the stream retaining wall and the building of a bund on the boundary of the Hengist garden. The EA are likely to request Parish Council support in the development of these projects and in seeking residents agreement to them. Members felt these visual projects, subject to receipt of full details, would receive the support of the Parish Council.

The EA also have a ‘recovery budget’ which may be used to assist in the reinstatement of the towpath. This may be done by passing the funding over to Kent Public Rights of Way to carry out the work.

Members at the meeting also raised with the EA representatives the need for investigation into the drain into the river opposite the Brassey Centre which is causing regular road flooding and the Parish Council’s concerns relating to flood issues for the proposed new development on the Somerfield site.

11. Parish Council Website

Clerk is continuing his research into the development of the Council website to incorporate more community focus and links and expects to make a full report to the next P&R meeting.

12. Noticeboards

Remedial work completed in house.

13. Staffing

Melanie Randall has commenced work on a temporary contract.

14. Council Vacancies

Vacancies still exist as follows:

1 Walderslade; 4 Aylesford South; 1 Eccles.

15. Software Purchases

Digital Mapping Software from Pear Technology. Training for staff arranged.

Tree survey – Awaiting start date from Kent Turf Care.

Local Council Risk System – Purchased and use commenced

16. AVCC Lease

Clerk is now working on a set of rules for the operation of the car park and instructing the Council's solicitors on the renewal of the lease. Clerk also to write to the Secretary of State seeking consent to waive the requirement to obtain the best commercial value for the site.

Clerk

17. Van Purchase

Enquiries into new, ex-demonstrators and second hand vehicles. Clerk reported there are no ex demonstrators available in the type of vehicle required. Members also agreed that due to the careful maintenance by Lee of his vehicle it can be expected a new one will be retained for up to ten years and therefore the best value will be obtained from a brand new one. Clerk will continue to research the best value and finance deal for the preferred Toyota or Mitsubishi vehicle and was **authorised** to proceed with the purchase in consultation with Cllrs Balcombe and Gledhill.

Clerk

18. TMBC Standards Committee

Cllr Elvy reported that this is now a fully fledged committee of TMBC. They have endorsed the previous arrangements for complaints against Borough or Parish Councillors and have adopted the KCC Code of Conduct rather than NALC. The Clerk is in receipt of a copy of the standards.

In the event of a complaint against a Borough or Parish Councillor, the TMBC Chief Executive and an independent representative will decide if there is a case to be heard. If so, if the complaint is against a Borough Councillor, 5 Borough Councillors and 1 Parish

Councillors will consider it; if it is against a Parish Councillor 3 Borough Councillors and 3 Parish Councillors will consider it.

Declarations of Interest are now only required from Trade Union/Freemasons/Rotary Club members if they hold a position of Office.

Members thanked Cllr Elvy for his report and for his continued membership on this Committee.

19. TMBC Local Centres Fund Budget

Cllr Balcombe and the Clerk to inform the committee on how funds from this budget could be used for the Aylesford Village centre.

Cllr Balcombe and the Clerk reported on recent meetings held with representatives of local Aylesford village businesses to consider how they could apply for funding of up to £7500 from TMBC to support local business. They are looking at ways to raise awareness of the village and its businesses with improved signage, improved overall appearance and community events. Application needs to be made to TMBC to access this funding and the Clerk has offered assistance with completion of this.

Members agreed their overall support for this initiative led by local businesses and would assist wherever possible within policy boundaries relating to such things as the appropriate use of public open spaces. Cllr Mrs Gadd hoped community events could incorporate the use of the Community Centre. Cllr Base stated that implications for residents of the village also had to be considered if there were plans to hold events in the centre of the village, particularly if road closures were part of such plans.

20. Any Other Business/Correspondence

Aylesford Village TMBC Car Park – Proposed funding from Parish Council to increase spaces provision. Cllr Balcombe reported that he has resurrected this offer to TMBC who have agreed to look at the project again.

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