

Aylesford Parish Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held via Zoom link on 4 May 2021

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

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Acting Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Ms Dorrington, Hammond, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi and Williams

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington (personal commitment), Hammond (Unwell), Ludlow (work commitment), Williams (TMBC-Full Council Meeting) 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 other than that of Councillor Mrs Gadd who disclosed an interest in item 4.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 6 April 2021

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 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 Shelley proposed and Councillor Mrs Gadd Seconded and it was Agreed that 39 payments totalling £16,809.65 be made.

5. Law and Order – CCTV in the High Street

The Assistant Clerk reported that she had followed this up twice since the last meeting but has not received a response from the company. **Ongoing**

6. KALC

Councillor Shelley reported that the KALC Chairman Sarah Barker will be sending out a questionnaire to all Parish Councils to ask a series of questions. The questionnaire is in the process of being developed.

7. TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel Meeting

There had been no meeting of the TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel since the last meeting of this Committee.

8. Council Vacancies

It was Noted that the current Vacancies are
1 – Aylesford South

9. Public Convenience Review

The Acting Clerk reported that she had not received any further update since the last meeting of this committee. **Ongoing**

10. Purchase of New Pedestrian Mower

The Acting Clerk reported that the mower concerned has been repaired three times regarding the same issue and is now 8 years old so is no longer financially viable to repair. Three quotes were obtained for three different types of mower, a Husqvarna one for £778.00, a Kubota one for £812.00 and a Toro one for £940.00. It was **Agreed** to purchase the Kubota at £812.00.

11. TMBC – Y2Crew Summer Activity Programme – Grant Request

The decision on whether to give a grant for this purpose was deferred at the last meeting of this Committee as members wished to know how many children within Aylesford Parish attend these activities. The Acting Clerk obtained the numbers from TMBC and in 2018 and 2019 four children from within the Parish took part in 19/20 different types of activities over the course of the four-week programme. It was **Agreed** to give a grant of £500.00

12. Air Ambulance – Grant Request

The Council received a request for a donation of £300 towards the cost of the purchase of 2x Ventilators. A Grant of £300 was **Agreed** subject to there still being a need to raise money for this cause. The Acting Clerk will enquire with the Air Ambulance before raising the payment for that cause. If however they have raised the money required to purchase the Ventilators it was **Agreed** to still give the donation.

13. Financial Comparison

It was **Agreed** to note the Financial Comparison.

14. Meeting Calendar – May 2021 to May 2022

The Calendar of Meeting dates was **Agreed**.

15. Staffing Matters

The Minutes from the Staffing Committee Meeting dated 20 April 2021 were **Agreed**.

16. Any Other Business/Correspondence

Governments Welcome Back Fund

The Acting Clerk reported that she had received some information from TMBC about the ‘Governments Welcome Back Fund’ which is a fund to help support the safe return of High Streets. The fund can be spent to invest in street planting, parks, green spaces and seating areas to make high streets more welcoming. It was **Agreed** that the Acting Clerk put together a list of things that might meet the criteria for funding and submit it to TMBC, this will include amongst others; planters, the provision of upgrading the toilet that is owned by the Parish in Forstal Recreation Ground (inc. signage to direct people), bedding plants and hanging baskets. **Ongoing**

Possible Adoption of Aylesford Station

Councillor Shelley reported on a recent meeting he attended of the Kent Community Rail Partnership, for which he is now Deputy Chair. He asked members if it was worth investigating whether it would be possible to adopt Aylesford Station, members **Agreed** that it should be investigated further and suggested he liaise with Councillor Base who will follow up with TMBC where they are with the S106 monies regarding the Panettoni development as Aylesford Parish Council did suggest in its planning comments that various improvements were made to Aylesford Station should the Panettoni development proceed, one of which was measures for wheelchair access should be put in. **Ongoing**

17. Duration of meeting

7.30pm to 7.57pm