

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Policy and Resources Committee

### Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held via Zoom link on 6 October 2020

**Present:** Councillor Balcombe (Chairman) and Councillors Beadle, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan and Walker.

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Ms Dorrington, Ms Papagno, Williams, Winnett, and Wright.

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Ms Dorrington (personal commitment), Ms Papagno (personal commitment), Williams (personal commitment) Winnett (holiday) and Wright (unwell), were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

#### 2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests. The Clerk disclosed an interest in the item on the Council Office Door and took no part in the discussion and Melanie Randall the Assistant Clerk presented the item to Committee.

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 July 2020

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

The Clerk reported at the last meeting that two quotes had been obtained for the provision of CCTV in the High Street, Aylesford. These quotes varied from approximately £9300 to £10700 and included for the provision of a new laptop and an estimate of the cost of installation. At that meeting it was agreed that consideration of the installation of a CCTV camera in the High Street, Aylesford be deferred until all the local members were present at the meeting. The Clerk indicated that he was now looking at other options relating to CCTV which could reduce the cost. The Company offering this new option

are in the process of obtaining a demo camera which they would be placing at their office but it would be possible to access it to see the quality of the picture. The Clerk hoped that he would be in position to report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

#### **5. Tonbridge and Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter**

The Committee considered the Tonbridge and Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter for September, a copy of which was attached to the Agenda.

#### **6. KALC**

The Committee received the report of Councillor Shelley of the meeting KALC Area Committee held on 1 October 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 Clerk reported he had received a letter to the Council from TMBC reiterating their original offer to the Council from last year and did not refer to the proposal put to them from the Parish Council taking into account the special circumstances whereby the parish leased them the site for the toilets. This had been brought to their attention again and they were looking into it and would respond.

#### **10. Aylesford Village Community Centre – Claim for Unpaid Water Charges**

The Clerk reported that the invoice for the unpaid water charges in the sum of £2480.73 agreed with AVCC had been received and was in the process of being paid.

#### **11. Review of Council Noticeboards, Map Boards and Seats**

The Clerk reported that the process for installing the new Noticeboards and the work for the staining and repairs to the Map Boards and benches. The Council's small works grass contractor had agreed to undertake the work. The Clerk was now opening discussions with 3 companies to obtain 3 quotes for the new Aluminium Noticeboards.

## **12. Access to the Old Scout Hut (The Old Forge) at Mill Hall, Aylesford**

The Clerk reported that the planning application for this site had now been withdrawn to enable the applicant to have further discussions with the Environment Agency who had objected to the application. He also indicated that no evidence supporting the applicant's assertion that they have right of access across the Council land had been received but it was quite possible that this would not now be received until a further planning application was lodged..

## **13. Council Office Door**

The Assistant Clerk reported that the door at the Council Offices needed replacing and that she had obtained 3 quotes to do the work. The 3 quotes were from

Trade to Trade - £1494

Glaze-Tech Services Ltd - £4121.35

East Kent Windows and Doors - £1471

Additionally, she reported that only East Kent Windows and Doors had quoted in line with the specification. It was **Agreed** that East Kent Windows and Doors be appointed to replace the Council Office Door at a cost of £1471.

## **14. Blue Bell Hill Road Improvement Scheme**

The Committee considered the proposals submitted by Kent County Council setting out 3 options for improvements to the A229 Blue Bell Hill including the Lord Lees and Running Horse Roundabouts. It was felt that none of the options were ideal but that Option 2 was the best. It was also indicated a KCC Officer was doing an open presentation on these proposals for anyone to be able to listen. It was **Agreed** that KCC be informed that the Council favoured Option 2 unless anything came out of the briefing from the KCC Officer which changed that view and that the Clerk be authorised to make any necessary changes that arise.

## **14. Hedgehog Hospital**

The Clerk reported that Andrew Kennedy, a local borough Councillor, had made a request for financial support for a Hedgehog Hospital in Eccles. He had indicated that the cost of the scheme was £800 of which he was raising £200 and was asking if the local Ward Councillors or the Council itself were willing to make a contribution to the cost. He had also contacted the local County Councillor to see whether there was also some funding in his Members grant. It was **Agreed** that a contribution of £200 be made to the hedgehog hospital project being set up in Eccles to be funded jointly from the Micro Grants of Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Smith, Sullivan and Walker.

## **15. Duration of Meeting**

7.49pm to 8.25pm