

Aylesford Parish Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held via in the Capel Morris Centre on Tuesday 5 October 2021

Present: Councillor Shelley (Chairman) and Councillors Ms Dorrington, Fuller, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Smith, Sullivan, Winnett and Walker.

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Ludlow, Mrs Papagno and Williams.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Ludlow, Mrs Papagno and Williams were received, and the reasons 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 7 September 2021

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 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 Mrs Gadd proposed and Councillor Sullivan Seconded and it was **Agreed** that 32 payments totalling £16884.89 be made.

5. Finance Advisory Sub Committee

It was **Agreed** to note the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2021.

6. Law and Order

6.1 CCTV in the High Street, Aylesford

The Clerk reported that she has completed the application form and submitted it to KCC who have asked a series of questions and she is in the process of answering them.

Ongoing

6.2 Police Report

The Committee noted the September report as attached to the agenda.

7. KALC

There had been no meeting since the last meeting of this committee. The Chairman reported that Sarah Barker (Chairman of KALC) had to resign with immediate effect due to Kings Hill Parish Council deciding not to renew their subscription to KALC. Sarah is a Kings Hill Parish Councillor and no Councillor of any Parish Council can be a member of the KALC Area Committee.

Noted

8. TMBC/Parish Partnership Panel Meeting

There had been no meeting since the last meeting of this committee.

9. Council Vacancies

It was Noted that the current Vacancies are
2 – Walderslade

10. Public Convenience Review

The Clerk reported that she has still not received any further updates from TMBC despite continuing to ask for an update since 2 July.

Ongoing

11. The Governments Welcome Back Fund

The Clerk asked the committee if they would like one of the planters put in Eccles near the Eccles Village sign as well as the planned one on the grass at the entrance to Aylesford village. It was Agreed to apply to KCC to put one in Eccles as well.

Ongoing

12. RBLI Base Camp

The Clerk reported that she wrote to the RBLI to express the Councils views over the reported reduced opening hours and had received the following response. *There had been times when the play area was closed due to staff numbers, however going forward it will be open from 08:30 to 17:00 (approx.) weekdays and 09:00 to 17:00 weekends. We are unable to give a clear timeline on the café in Base Camp reopening at present.* The Clerk reported that Thomas Foreman the Head of Housing and Communities from the RBLI has said he will keep her informed.

Ongoing

13. Adoption of Aylesford Station

The Chairman reported that there has not been much activity and he will pursue this with South Eastern. **Ongoing**

14. Risk Assessment 2021/22

The Clerk went through the Action Plans identified when carrying out the annual Risk Assessment, a copy of which were attached to the agenda. It was **Agreed** to recommend to Council to accept the Risk Assessment for 2021/22.

15. County Councillor Kennedy's request to the Parish Council regarding a Community Grant Application on behalf of Eccles Village.

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Councillor Kennedy referring to a resident's request to install a mini library shed either on the Eccles Recreation Ground or by the existing telephone box on Bull Lane by the football field. Councillor Kennedy informed the resident that he would be happy to support a grant for this project but unfortunately one of the rules of the grant is that KCC cannot pay money to an individual, so suggested that the Parish Council finance, purchase and install the item and then claim the grant for reimbursement. The Parish by making the purchase would make it responsible for the items repair and aftercare. After discussion it was **Agreed** the Parish Council did not wish to have that responsibility. In addition, the Parish Council:

- should not be claiming a grant on behalf of a third party.
- cannot pay an individual either like KCC cannot.

The Parish Council has recently agreed a policy that does not allow the placement of containers, sheds, buildings, benches or structures of any kind on its Recreation Grounds, Open Spaces, Gardens or Land. Therefore, in order to comply with the policy, it was **Agreed** that this application be **Refused** for the placement of the library shed on the Eccles Recreation Ground and for claiming the KCC grant. **Closed**

16. Councillor Kennedy's request regarding lamp post poppies being purchased to put up around the Parish ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Kennedy had asked if the Parish Council would like to apply for a grant for 100 lamp post poppies to put up in the Parish. It was **Agreed** that it would apply for them if they are to be sued in Walderslade and the Parish is not responsible for putting them up. If Councillor Kennedy confirms they can be purchased for Walderslade, then the Clerk will complete the application form. **Closed**

17. New Savings Account(s)

The Clerk reported that the level of funds in the Council's Nationwide Instant Access Savings Account are such that an additional savings account is required in order to ensure every penny is protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme

(FSCS). She suggested that the Council consider opening a Business Reserve account with NatWest, which is instant access. However, she explained that a NatWest Current account is required with which to run the Reserve account. After discussion it was **Agreed** the Clerk proceed with opening the accounts required with NatWest.

Closed

18. Any Other Business/Correspondence

The Clerk informed the Council that the Aylesford Football Club had recently won two awards and Councillor Fuller (Chairman of Aylesford Football Club) confirmed they were for Grassroots Club of the year and Grassroots Project of the year. Members congratulated him and the club.

20. Duration of meeting

7.34pm to 8.30pm