

Aylesham Parish Council July 2020

Thursday 9th July 2020 at 19:00pm

Meeting held via Zoom, due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT THE NEXT FULL PARSH COUNCIL MEETING

1. Those Present

M. Townsend (Chair), Cllrs I. Thomas (Vice), B. Oliver, S. Bott, L. Prescott, V. Thomas, J. Pout, K. Sutcliffe, S. MacCallum. Clerk K. Razzell, Assistant Clerk D. Jenkins. A. Doggett (Bechange). Cllr L. Keen (DDC), Cllr S. Manion (KCC), 4 residents.

2. Apologies

B. Oliver – Working.

Apologies accepted by Council.

3. Declarations of Interest

I. Thomas, V. Thomas, B. Oliver – Aylesham HUB Limited.

M. Townsend – Aylesham & Snowdown Social Welfare Scheme

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 June 2020

It was proposed by I. Thomas and seconded by S. MacCallum and RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2020, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

4.2 Minute record 16.5 M. Townsend has made enquiries with the Cooperative Group regarding the car park at the rear of the store. They have confirmed that they will be in touch with the Parish Council to arrange a meeting. I. Thomas noted that all correspondence should only come from and to the Clerks. M. Townsend agreed and stated that this would happen.

4.3 Minute record 7.7 Aylesham & Snowdown Social Welfare Scheme statement was not discussed under item 16. J. Browning of West Faversham Community Association was supposed to attend this meeting (July) to give an update (at his request) but he has not attended.

4.4 Aylesham Former Sports Club “The Legion” minute record 5.1 Stewards House has now been demolished, and therefore nothing on the site now.

5. Public Representation Notified to Clerk in Advance of Meeting

Local Resident:

5.1 Could they have an update on the allotments?

Resolved: Clerk to email resident with an update.

5.2 The area in front of Aylesham Station is overgrown with lots of weeds.

Resolved: Clerk to report it to DDC, C. Woodgate & L. Keen to raise the matter with J. Forsyth of DDC. Resident to email Clerk photos of the station.

5.3 Resident gave thanks to the Parish Council for flying the St David's day flag, he heard other residents talking about how nice it was, he has also heard nothing but good things since writing the letter to have Feast Day flags flown in the Market Square.

5.4 Aylesham Village sign on Spinney Lane is an eyesore, and desperately needs updating.

5.5 The footpath to the Cemetery, the landowner has made contact and has agreed to a meeting with their solicitor present. The landowner is not Acton Farms. The Parish Council, DDC and KCC will be asked to attend the meeting should they wish.

6. District & County Councillor Reports

Linda Keen DDC:

6.1 Dover District Council meetings are at a minimum.

6.2 Dover District Council are in dire straits financially, anything that could affect Aylesham she will inform the Parish Council.

6.3 The Test & Trace service run by local areas they are trying to and centralise.

6.4 Cllr Keen offered help with the footpath to the Cemetery.

6.5 Cllr Keen has been involved in the Aspire Weight Loss Project with DDC, assisting with getting jittys cleaned, and thought Zoom meetings are great.

6.6 I. Thomas noted to Cllr Keen that there is a lot of dog mess around the village, a resident has contacted him about this. I. Thomas to send information to the Clerk to send to Cllr Keen to get something done.

6.7 L. Prescott highlighted that there is a sign on the road at the end of Spinney Lane with Ackholt and Aylesham Road that is damaged and needs replacing. Cllr Keen advised this was Kent County Council Highways.

6.8 S. Bott said she agrees with Cllr Keen regarding the test & trace. She asked what information DDC are getting about local infection rates. Cllr Keen advised to email DDC and also look on the Kentish Gazette who publish a link to the statistics.

Steve Manion KCC:

6.9 Cllr Manion sends regular updates to the Clerk.

6.10 Manston Airport – Flight plans show a southern route which all other Parish Councils are against.

6.11 Kent County Council has a consultation on amendments to the budget for 2020-2021 due to start on Monday 13th July, and close on 9th August 2020. Cllr Manion will give any updates regarding this.

6.12 M. Townsend noted to Cllr Manion that he was pleased to see Boulevard Courrieres had been partly resurfaced, and asked for Cllr Manion to keep working on Cooting Road.

Charles Woodgate DDC:

6.13 There is a £4.6 million financial shortfall for DDC with proposals to sell 1 million houses. Cllr Woodgate will keep the Parish Council updated.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Aylesham HUB Limited Letter: Aylesham HUB believe that with major changes taking place at the Aylesham Welfare site, the vulnerability of other services cutbacks following the crisis, and the ambition demonstrated by their consultation work, that there needs to be a “Big Discussion” involving all groups, and of course residents in Aylesham on how new and existing facilities should be organised and managed. Aylesham HUB carried out a major consultation last year to ascertain the priorities of the community. They have a lease in preparation with DDC for land on Station Field and are planning to move into the next phase of our project when the possibility reopens after lockdown.

Resolved: I. Thomas noted to Councillors that this was an introduction letter to the problems being seen in Aylesham. Aylesham HUB will be writing to the Clerk to request a closed meeting in the first instance between Aylesham HUB and Aylesham Parish Council.

7.2 Local Resident Email: Overgrown and littered jitty between Queens Road and Hyde Place. Overgrown and people are dumping rubbish there, including the roll carpet comes on.

Resolved: Clerk has reported this to Dover District Council.

7.3 Local Resident Email: It has come to my notice that the flagpole in the village is to be discussed by you in the near future. I would like to register my support as a resident, to what I understand is the current situation of raising the flags on the relevant Saints Days.

As a person of Irish/Scottish descent albeit born in the village, I am of the view that the current practice reflects the eclectic mix and indeed the proud heritage of our community

Resolved: Agenda Item 16.

8. Planning Applications

8.1 Dover District Council Planning Reference: 20/00600

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension

Location: 62 Milner Crescent, Aylesham CT3 3BJ

Resolved: No comments.

8.2 Dover District Council Planning Reference: 20/00513

Proposal: Erection of Front Porch (existing porch to be demolished)

Location: 5 The Crescent, Snowdown CT15 4JP

Resolved: No comments.

9. Grant Applications

None received.

10. Finance & Accounts

10.1 Full Council approval for Year End Accounts 2019/2020 (discussed & approved at Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee on 2nd July 2020).

Resolved: To approve, proposed by S. Bott, seconded K. Sutcliffe. All in favour.

10.2 Full Council approval for Quarter 1 (April – June) 2020/2021 Accounts (discussed & approved at Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee on 2nd July 2020)

Resolved: To approve, proposed by K. Sutcliffe, seconded S. Bott. All in favour.

10.3 The outlined expenditure requiring Parish Council approval:

- AJL Garden Services June 2020 Invoice £665.50
- Sequoia Tree Care invoice (6 dangerous trees) £480
- Asst Clerk D. Jenkins back pay 1st April – 30th June £144.26
- Clerk K. Razzell back pay 1st April – 30th June £163.02
- Kent County Playing Fields Association 2020/2021 Subscription £20
- Glasdon UK Limited (Bell Grove Memorial)
- Rialtas Business Solutions Limited (Software support, maintenance, training for one year) £148.80

Resolved: To Approve the above payments. Proposed I. Thomas, seconded S. Bott. All in favour.

11. Website

Councillors discussed the first draft of the new website:

11.1 S. Bott noted that the colours are not right, and that she could not read it. The green was too bright, does not print and therefore suggested dark green. She was stating this from a visually impaired perspective.

11.2 V. Thomas thought that a dark colour is uninviting and difficult to read the writing, therefore not suitable for the whole public.

11.3 M. Townsend said that a format is needed that can be read by all parties.

11.4 L. Prescott photos of the house with lake is not appropriate. Coal buckets need to be replaced by Market Square memorial. Photos of Aylesham District Workshop Trust are not needed. Have photos to show where the village is now.

11.5 J. Pout suggested that the layout needs to be crisper, and that there are issues with the colours and photos. The layout needs to look more professional and better to navigate.

11.6 I. Thomas said the boxes at the top are too big.

Resolved: Clerk to contact company to get a list of Parish Council websites that they have done in order for Councillors to get an idea of what they would like for the website.

Proposed by I. Thomas, seconded by V. Thomas. All in favour.

12. F.A.B (Footprints at Bechange) in a crisis

12.1 Bechange confirmed that they have enough money to keep the project afloat until the end of August.

Resolved. Bott suggested for Council to therefore discuss the project again at the August Full Parish Council meeting.

12.2 On a separate note, it was confirmed that Bechange will be working with Dover District Council, Your Leisure, NHS One You and Wellbeing People for The ASPIRE Project. ASPIRE supports those who are unemployed to reach a healthy weight and gain jobs in areas with high levels of unemployment and obesity. Bechange will be one of three ASPIRE hubs in southern England and become a focal point for delivering the programme in East Kent which will encourage people to grow their own food, eat healthily, lose weight and learn new skills.

13. Snowdown Village Signs

13.1 Third Snowdown village sign to be installed opposite Snowdown Colliery vehicular entrance, as advised by Kent County Council.

Resolved: Proposed to install sign, and pay half the costs (Cllr Manion is contributing the second half of the costs) £230.50 by I. Thomas, seconded V. Thomas. All in favour.

14. Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre

14.1 Parish Representative M. Townsend gave an update to Council to say that no meetings have been held. West Faversham Community Association have been carrying out work to Aylesham Leisure Centre by way of redoing the bar and kitchen, funding for these works have been obtained from various community groups. They hope to open on 1st September 2020. M. Townsend noted that he did not know how the Government announcement will affect them.

14.2 I. Thomas gave concerns about how Aylesham & Snowdown Social Welfare Scheme signed off on West Faversham Community Association's presentation that they will receive 20% of gross income made but WFCA would have to make £30,000 every quarter to get 20% to cover the £6,000 quarterly utility bills, he queried how this will be achieved. M. Townsend confirmed that the A&SSWS have other sources of income for example rental income from the house and masts.

Resolved: Clerk to invite Chair of A&SSWS to a meeting. Proposed by I. Thomas, seconded L. Prescott. All in favour.

15. Car Park (Rear of Co-Operative Shop (Dorman Avenue North))

Resolved: Working group for this project: M. Townsend, I. Thomas and L. Prescott.

Proposed by L. Prescott, seconded I. Thomas. All in favour.

16. Policies (Maternity & Flag Flying)

Maternity Policy

16.1 Employees to be allowed up to 52 weeks (12 months) full pay (including Statutory Maternity Pay received from UK Government) if in at least 26 weeks continuous employment. Previously agreed at Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee meeting on 2nd July 2020.

Resolved: Full Council to accept and adopt Maternity Policy, proposed by I. Thomas, seconded V. Thomas. All in favour.

Flag Flying Policy

The Recreational & Facilities Committee put forward a Flag Policy to Full Council to ratify.

16.2 M. Townsend queried with Chair of the Committee L. Prescott if a Policy needed, to which he responded yes.

16.3 J. Pout asked how it differs from A Plain English Guide: Flying Flags 2012. I. Thomas said that the Government Guidance written in 2012 outlines what flags can be flown and at what times.

16.4 J. Pout noted to the Committee members that there was no schedule included in the Policy presented to Full Council, that the issue has been the Cross of Saint Patrick Flag, that no decision has been made on what flags and when, so how is it any different. I. Thomas noted that APC were not following Government Policy on flying flags which says to fly the Cross of Saint Patrick not the Irish Tricolour Flag. The Policy submitted to Full Council establishes the correct flags and when they should be flown. The Irish Tricolour Flag is for the Republic of Ireland, Saint Patrick is for the Saint who is celebrated.

16.5 K. Sutcliffe noted that St Patricks Day has never been political for Aylesham, it has been for the ancestors of the village who came from Ireland. Look at the main flags, orange is for Protestant, Catholic Green and the white brings everyone together. There is no legal requirement for a Policy, not every Parish Council has one.

16.6 J. Pout said ignoring politics, the Policy does not contribute to the Parish Council, without a schedule this Policy does not help.

16.7 I. Thomas noted that if you are in Northern Ireland the Tricolour Flag is not their flag and they do not fly it.

16.8 S. MacCallum said she had been confused at the Committee meeting held on 04/08/2020, for all politics to be put out the window, the community in Aylesham is supportive of every region, there are so many nationalities and the Parish Council should fly flags from every country if they wanted to, the Parish Council cannot be prejudiced.

16.9 V. Thomas said it was not political, it was about doing the right thing and what the Parish Council should be following (Government Policy).

16.10 J. Pout noted that the Pride flag cannot be flown as there is no flag pole on a building/or grounds of a building.

16.11 M. Townsend said policies can be reviewed every year.

16.12 I. Thomas said Section 2 of the Government Policy says St Patricks Day stipulates the Cross of Saint Patrick Flag. Flags could be flown every day, residents could do the same. He asked why there was animosity and had the other Councillors asked Dover District Council.

16.13 J. Pout said he was not criticising the Government advice, he was asking that we as a Parish Council can't fly the Pride flag in the current situation. J. Pout at this point left the meeting due to being over spoken by I. Thomas.

Proposals:

1. K. Sutcliffe - not to have or adopt the Flag Flying Policy, due to no justification for it and to carry on adhering to the Feast Flying Days previously agreed. Seconded by S. MacCallum. 3 voted in favour.
2. L. Prescott – to adopt Government Flag Flying Policy, seconded by I. Thomas. 3 voted in favour.

Resolved: Chair M. Townsend voted in favour to not have or adopt a Flag Flying Policy, motioned carried.

17. Aylesham Development

No updates.

18. Aylesham House

No updates.

19. Committee Updates

Recreational & Facilities Committee:

19.1 Three dangerous trees have been located in Spinney Woods, Sequoia Tree Care have been instructed to deal with these as soon as possible. L. Prescott to meet M. Townsend to show him the tree adjacent to Sharpak.

20. Next Meeting Date

20.1 Thursday 13th September 2020 19.00pm

20.2 Items for Next Agenda: Storage Shed, Company currently shielded, Clerk to check for an update.

21. AOB: For Information Only

None

Meeting Closed

Time 20.29pm