

**Aylesham Parish Council September 2019**  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019, at 19:00pm  
Aylesham House, Dorman Avenue South, Aylesham.

**SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT THE NEXT FULL PARSH COUNCIL MEETING**

<b>1. Those Present</b>
M. Townsend (Chair), B. Morgan (Vice Chair), Cllrs L. Prescott, B. Oliver, K. Sutcliffe, I. Thomas. Parish Clerk K. Razzell, Cllr L. Keen (DDC), Cllr S. Manion (KCC).
<b>2. Apologies</b>
C. Price, D. Jenkins (Assistant Clerk), Cllr P. Walker (DDC), Cllr C. Woodgate (DDC)
<b>3. General Declarations of Interest</b>
Pecuniary and Other Significant and Voluntary interests, where applicable, will be made and recorded against each relevant agenda item. Each member will declare their interest and act in accordance with Standing Orders when a relevant item on the Agenda is discussed.
L. Prescott – Roses Tea Room & Thrift Shop CIC. K. Sutcliffe – Aylesham Heritage

<b>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising:</b>
August 2019 – I. Thomas was not present but noted as being. Resolved to be correct - proposed by K. Sutcliffe, seconded by B. Oliver. All in favour.

<b>5. Public Representation Notified to Clerk in Advance of Meeting:</b>
<u>Aylesham Primary School Head Teacher</u> Matthew Harper attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Councillors as the new Head Teacher of the school. He is currently getting to know the children, and is keen to work with the community. If there is any community projects they can support, he would be happy to discuss them. He noted there are many changes ahead for the school who have already had an increase in numbers, including pupils coming back to the school. Instead of there being a PTA there will be Friends of Aylesham Primary School which is due to be set up in the coming months which will oversee fundraisers and have regular meetings.  <u>Thomas Johnstone Jnr</u> Is requesting the support of the Parish Council for installing a footpath from Aylesham to Aylesham Cemetery. A family within the village contacted Mr Johnstone after their grandchild attempted to walk to the Cemetery, and also elderly residents wishing to go there on their mobility scooters – both scenarios at the moment are very dangerous due to there being no footpath, which there is a very strong case for. The landowner need to be confirmed, and there will be costs involved. A petition may need to be started to help an application for a current Public Right of Way to be diverted. Clerk to add to next Agenda, T. Johnstone to email correspondence/update Clerk on matters.  <u>Local Business Owner – Mr Pratheepan</u> Mr Pratheepan noted to Council he is a small business owner (Londis, Cornwallis Avenue), who has employed 5 local people. He has bought 65 Cornwallis Avenue which was a barbers but has since been closed for 3 years. Mr Pratheepan and his brother in law have submitted a planning application to convert the former barbers into a fried chicken shop, which Aylesham Parish Council recently submitted objections to. Mr Pratheepan wished to note to Councillors: Traffic – he does now know why there would be more traffic as most of the people parking there

are neighbours. It is not a new building, he is opening a closed shop which will employ more people. More litter bins are needed and if he obtains planning permission he will put an extra bin outside. He keeps the Londis area clean and tidy, they will also take responsibility for cleaning outside of the chicken shop. Opening times will be until 10-10.30pm. The extractor used will be quiet. People/residents want this and it will be convenient for people.

*M. Townsend noted that people vote with their feet, and feels there is room within the market. Aylesham Parish Council have made concerns about the parking and other matters as they are issues we have to highlight. Mr Pratheepan said speeding along Cornwallis is bad. M. Townsend thanked Mr Pratheepan for coming to the meeting.*

## 6. District & County Councillor Reports

### Outline

#### **Steve Manion (KCC)**

- The Government is committed to leaving the EU by 31 October. Kent's position as the gateway to Europe means that the UK's readiness for a no-deal scenario strongly relies on Kent's readiness. To this end, Kent County Council, working with its partners has taken responsible and timely actions to prepare for all eventualities, including a potential no-deal scenario. Kent has well-developed plans to ensure we minimise disruption to Kent's residents and businesses. Kent's no-deal plans have been in place since March 2019. They were prepared, if required, ahead of the previous no-deal deadline (31 March and 12 April 2019). Through close collaborative working with the Department for Transport and Kent Resilience Forum, they have a well-thought through, sensible and practical plan, "Operation Brock", ready to go live at short notice. This will manage potential disruption and delay at the ports, enable Kent to hold up to 12,000 goods vehicles and, for the first time, keep all Kent roads open at all times. Should the 12,000 capacity be exceeded, the plan necessitates HGVs bound for mainland Europe to be held outside of the county. Kent is in a strong position to ensure the County Council can meet its statutory obligations, that Kent's public services continue, communities are kept moving, and businesses can continue to trade. The new Prime Minister and Cabinet have taken a proactive and intensive approach to no-deal planning and we have welcomed the increased pace as we approach 31 October. This is evidenced by the new public information campaign 'Get Ready for Brexit' and the funding for recruitment and training of significant numbers of new Customs Officers. In addition, Government has provided funding for local authority preparations and Kent County Council has recently received substantial funding from both the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and from the Department for Transport. This has enabled the Kent highways to carry out crucial improvements to Kent's local road network, particularly focused around the route corridors to Dover, Folkestone and Manston. The Kent Resilience Forum has also received additional funding from Government which recognise the importance of our County and our key trading hubs. The Government's committed funding is directly helping to ensure Kent County Council and the county of Kent have the infrastructure and plans for a no-deal Brexit. For more information, and to continue reading please visit:  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s92050/Item%207%20-%20Brexit.pdf>
- Kent County Council Leader Paul Carter has announced he is stepping down after 14 years as Leader and will leave his position on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Buses – Cllr Manion has picked up a lot on social media on this matter, especially regarding buses used by children to get to and from school. Cllr Manion stated he was on the case, and will even get Cabinet Members involved.
- Cllr Manion was asked again by Council about the resurfacing of Cooting Road, Highways

had responded to him saying that it is monitored twice a year by stewards and is on KCC'S "Wish List".

**Linda Keen (DDC)**

- Community Led Housing and Self Build – an informal drop in is to be held at Sunshine Café on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October for residents to attend and find out more information.
- DDC are considering moving the management of Council Houses from East Kent Housing to perhaps take in-house, a possible partnership with other Councils.
- Applications from organisations for Section 106 contributions from the additional 150 houses to be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Aylesham Garden Village News to give more information on this.
- Persimmon Homes Public Meeting was useful. Letters will be sent to residents.

## **7. Correspondence**

**Local Resident – Email highlighting pot holes in the Dorman Avenue North Car Park.**

Clerk to obtain quotes.

**Aylesham Carnival – Requesting use of marquee for their event on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September, and also for owners of fairground ride to stay overnight on the Friday.**

Resolved: Clerk to contact Events at DDC to obtain their consent. Council in agreement to loan the marquee, but in future there will be a Hire Agreement in place for use of equipment. Hire agreement to be organised by Recreational & Facilities Committee.

Proposed by B. Morgan, seconded by B. Oliver. All in favour.

**Invitation to Chair to attend the Carnival with a guest.**

Resolved: M. Townsend and guest to attend during the day, no dietary requirements were confirmed.

**Dover District Council – Community Led Housing & Self Build**

Resolved: DDC to attend October meeting to speak on this.

**Roses Tea Room & Thrift Shop CIC – Petition regarding fence & position of the fence**

Council noted for the petition organiser to please contact the Clerk directly to discuss this further. Position of the fence was discussed under a Closed Section of the meeting due to legal matters.

**Local Resident – Memorial Tree**

Council previously noted to perhaps form a memorial garden.

Resolved: Matter to be discussed as an item Agenda in October.

## **8. Planning Applications:**

**Planning Committee Meeting to be arranged for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

## **9. Grant Applications:**

No Grant Applications submitted for the September meeting.

## **10. FINANCE & ACCOUNTS (monthly reconciliations and accounts always available to view)**

The outlined expenditure approval – **Resolved: To approve, proposed by K. Sutcliffe, seconded by B. Morgan. All in favour. Clerk to raise cheques accordingly.**

- Clerk Expenses – Postage £11.20
- Astra UK – Removal of asbestos floor tiles at Aylesham House £1,482.00
- Dover District Council – Emptying of Skate Park litter bins for one year £179.26

## **11. Speed Calming Measures**

No update to report this month, awaiting Kent County Council.

## **12. Spinney Woods**

There is a broken fence on the boundary of Spinney Wood, the Recreational & Facilities Committee has obtained a quote to repair this from Fencing Services (Chris Punyer).

Council has previously discussed obtaining an Audit for the woods, discussions were held on coppicing. B. Morgan noted she has contact details of a company in Ramsgate for this. Clerks to contact White Cliffs. Item to be included into the Budget for 2020/2021.

**Resolved:** Proposed by B. Morgan, seconded by L. Prescott. All in favour.

## **13. Co-Opt Two New Councillors**

Four applicants applied for the two Councillor vacancies recently advertised for Co-Option. It was felt by Council that all the candidates had a lot to offer the Parish Council. Council accepted to Co-Opt two new Councillors Valerie Thomas and Susan Bott.

**Resolved:** Proposed by K. Sutcliffe, seconded by B. Oliver. All in favour. I. Thomas left the room whilst the discussion and vote took place.

## **14. Parish Council Maintenance Contractor**

Councillors discussed employing someone to carry out maintenance of the play parks, to do weekly inspections amongst other duties, it was felt a lot needs to be done around the village. Clerks to look into this matter further.

**Resolved:** Proposed by B. Oliver, seconded by I. Thomas. All in favour.

## **15. CCTV – Market Square**

Council to obtain a progress update from Dover District Council at the next Aylesham Update meeting that is to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019. M. Townsend noted that a pot of £10,000 from developer's contributions had been set aside for this.

## **16. Play Parks**

- Areas of land within the village had previously been presented to Councillors earlier in the year (March) play parks, allotments. Clerk has chased on a regular basis for an update on progress, this will be given at the DDC Aylesham Update meeting,
- Cripps Close play park – it is felt that this is in a poor condition, and unsafe. Clerk has been obtaining quotes to remove the current equipment. If this proceeds residents must be made aware that there are future plans to replace/re-design the play park.
- Skate Park – Further vandalism has taken place, the tops of both of the picnic benches have been either burnt by what looks like a disposable bbq, and the other has a plank of wood

on the top missing. Council will look to replace these once CCTV has been installed, lead time for this is 6-8 weeks.

#### **16. Aylesham Development**

- No DDC Aylesham Update meeting was held in August.
- The rest of this item was discussed under a closed section, due to legal matters.

#### **17. Aylesham House**

- Floor tiles that were found to contain asbestos have been safely removed.
- After removing the flooring, the room was inspected by local contractors as damp is believed to be in the walls and flooring. Quotes have been obtained for the repairs.
- Due to the recent issues within Aylesham House, Aylesham Heritage Centre have temporarily moved to Bechange, until the repairs are complete.
- Clerk K. Razzell Salary (annual increase for April 2019/March 2020 and increase of hours to 19) this had previously been voted to be put on hold until September 2019. K. Razzell noted that she did not wish for the back pay to be paid to her. B. Morgan suggested time in lieu to be given instead for the difference/extra hours, this will be reported to M. Townsend and B. Morgan, as she did not wish the K. Razzell to lose out. Salary scales for Clerks had recently changed, it was proposed for K. Razzell to be placed onto the new salary scale 20 to £13.15 per hour (from £12.81 per hour) and for her hours to be increased from 18 to 19 hours effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. K. Razzell hours to be reviewed again in the future. Proposed by B. Morgan, seconded by I. Thomas. All in favour.
- Parish Council ID Badges – Councillors who have not sent in new photos, to send them to the Clerks as soon as possible.

#### **17. Committees Update**

##### **Recreational & Facilities Committee**

- Picnic benches for the Market Square have been voted to proceed after permission was granted from DDC. Two benches will be ordered from Glasdon UK Limited at a cost of £1,291.46, Clerks awaiting quotes for contractors to install them.
- War Memorial – has been chipped. Clerks to contact Cantuaria Stonemasons.

##### **Aylesham District Community Workshop Trust**

- B. Morgan was unable to attend the most recent meeting and will feedback in October.

##### **Community Safety Issues in Aylesham**

- A meeting was arranged by District Councillor Peter Walker which multi agencies were invited to that included schools, KCC, DDC, Pie Factory, APC, Aylesham District Community Workshop, CSU. Around 20 people attended and discussed issues which trigger anti-social behaviour and drug use in the village. Aylesham is a wonderful place, but matters need to be addressed and more meetings will take place. It was challenged at the meeting that the crime rate is low, however people do not report matters to the Police, they do not feel supported or are afraid to. B. Morgan gave factual examples to the attendees. The matter of the former Aylesham Sports Club (The Legion) on Burgess Road was highlighted as a possible safeguarding issue, as there are children as young as 11/12 going in. Residents need to be aware that when reporting it can be anonymous. The biggest mistake was taking away the youth club, children need a place to hang out, play pool. B. Morgan noted she is happy to work with the group that will be set up.

<b>18. Next Meeting</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 19.00pm – VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED. <b><i>Items For Next Agenda Footpath to Cemetery, Memorial Garden.</i></b> Extra – Ordinary Meeting to be held Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September before Planning, VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED. Finance, Audit and Personnel Committee Meeting scheduled for 7 <sup>th</sup> October – to be confirmed.

<b>19. AOB: For Information Only</b>
None

<b>Meeting Closed</b>
Time 21.30