



AYLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of Council Year 2024-2025

Aylesham Parish Council welcomed Cllr Vizor in May and Cllr Airey via co-option in October 2024 following the resignation of Cllr Garrity.

Recreational & Facilities Committee

The Aylesham & Snowdown Garden Competition was relaunched after a number of years absence. It was a great success, bringing the community together to celebrate beautiful and creative green spaces.

The Committee installed a children's trim trail at Snowdown Recreational Field, providing a fantastic piece of equipment for families, a picnic bench was also installed for families to use this important open space. In addition, we were fortunate to secure a grant from the National Lottery, enabling us to install outdoor gym equipment at Snowdown Recreational Field. The new equipment has been positively welcomed by residents.

A new Heritage Information Sign is being created to be installed at Dover District Council owned park on Central Boulevard. The sign will inform residents of the significance of the road names within this area of development, preserving the rich history of our area.

Groundworks at the Christmas tree area that have been planned this year, and due to shortly commence. These works will ensure the space remains well-maintained and attractive throughout the year.

Planning, Environment & Transport Committee

We enlisted Planning Consultant Alison Eardley to support us in developing a Parish Priorities Statement, and to assist in engaging with Axis Land Partnerships Ltd, landowner representatives for 'Aylesham South' regarding the Outline planning application.

A successful public engagement event was held to help shape the Parish Priorities Statement.

The Committee recommended that Council object to the sale of the former Youth and Leisure Centre site, which when reviewed by Full Council lead to an application to register the site as an Asset of Community Value.



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We have initiated discussions with Network Rail regarding a future application for the 'Access for All Scheme', to seek vital accessibility improvements at Aylesham and Snowdown Stations'.

Engagement with Stagecoach has been ongoing to address transport issues in the Parish, including discussions around the DRT bus service

Full Council

We continue to work with the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership to maintain and manage Spinney Wood, ensuring its long-term sustainability and accessibility.

Following prolonged discussions with the Co-Op, we undertook a major maintenance project on the Parish Council freehold section of the car park, including resurfacing, directional arrows, and a height barrier. Enquiries are ongoing with Southern Housing regarding clearing the overgrown land at the rear.

Aylesham House has undergone significant refurbishment to bring it up to modern standards, allowing the Parish Council offices to shortly re-open, while maintaining space for Aylesham Heritage Centre downstairs.

We had for the fifth year in a row achieved successful internal and external audits, reflecting our sound internal systems and operations, ensuring accountability, transparency, good governance and financial management.

The Council continues to liaise with outside organisations to address issues raised by residents.

We have worked with Kent County Council to design and shortly install new and additional street lighting on Dorman Avenue South. The street lighting is at full cost to the Parish Council, with Kent County Council then adopting and maintaining the scheme thereafter.

We are actively working towards implementing a 20mph speed limit across the Parish and introducing traffic calming measures in Cornwallis Avenue.



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We have joined Dover District Council's Climate and Nature Forum with neighbouring Town Councils to contribute to environmental initiatives.

Regular meetings with Dover District Council Project Officer continue regarding existing developments, including the long-awaited implementation of allotments on Ratling Road, which remain in Dover District Council's hands.

The new lighting scheme for the Market Square was unfortunately put on hold due to legal matters with Dover District Council however we are finally hoping after many years that this project will proceed within 2025-2026.

Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee

A total of £7,397.77 was awarded in Grants throughout the year to various local community organisations. We encourage applications each year from organisations and Officers are here to support applicants throughout the application process as it is vital that the Committee receive all supporting documentation in full detail.

£6,000 of Section 137 monies was awarded to Bechange to continue funding their vital weekly drop-in sessions for residents that enable them to seek assistance on matters such as completing forms, applying for Universal Credit to advocacy to appeal for benefits or supporting beneficiaries to reduce debt.

Charitable donations in the sum of £1,000 each were given to Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex and Deal Dover District Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Committee reviewed and recommended to Full Council to adopt may Policies throughout the year ranging from ones pertaining to employment, Biodiversity and the new Model Financial Regulations.

The Committee at each quarterly meeting scrutinised the Council's accounts, and budget.