

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 26 MAY 2015
Parish Office – 7.30pm
AGENDA

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- 1. Election of Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Declarations of Interests**

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

- 1. General Highway Report**
- 2. Eccles Highway Matters**
- 3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

Milestone – Delay in KCC removing stone and delivering to stonemason.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project

New Quotation received from the Council's contractor taking into account the additional requirements of English Heritage in the sum of £29920. The original quotation was £27617. However in addition to these costs there is a requirement from English Heritage that there is an Archaeological watching brief during the works and the cost of this would be a minimum of £3700 rising to an unspecified amount depending what is found and whether a further archaeologist is required and how much post excavation work is required. I would suggest that it would not be unreasonable to budget about twice the minimum at £7500. The total cost of the scheme has therefore increased to £37500 without any other issues, which could increase costs further, being raised by English Heritage as the Scheduled Monument Consent application is processed.

It is recommended that before a final decision to proceed is made that the Clerk should report to the Policy and Resources Committee on the Councils current financial commitments and

the level of funds available to the Council to ensure that those funds are allocated to schemes which are both good value for money and meeting the aspirations of the community. In the meantime the Clerk will ensure that any appropriate work required to this scheme such as preparing a draft scheduled monument consent application is prepared so that if agreed the scheme can be moved forward quickly.

4.2 – Flooding: Opposite Brassey Centre - Work awaited.

4.3 – Rochester Road speed humps to be re-profiled by Kent Highways. Work to be programmed and will require the road to be closed. Date awaited.

4.4 - Aylesford Village Square

1. Design site meeting held. The scheme and estimated cost is expected in late June.
2. BT broadband box in Square – BT have now agreed to resite. Exact position awaited

4.5 – A20 between Larkfield and Aylesford – Joint initiative between Ditton, E Malling & Larkfield and Aylesford Parish Councils re traffic flow problem agreed to request a meeting TMBC

4.6 – A20/Hall Road/Quarry Wood Junction – Major traffic disruption caused by water link on Sat 25 to Mon 27 April. Response from Kent Highways to Parish Council's concerns attached at **Appendix A**

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

6. Public Footpaths

Walderslade – Local Members reported the boundary fence of 27 Sheraton Court has been repositioned out of alignment on the public footpath (between Oaks Dene and Sheraton Court) which goes down to MR441, taking up about 2ft of the path incorrectly. Clerk has investigated and reported as found to Kent Public Rights of Way. Response from Kent PROW indicated that the path is not a public right of way and therefore there was nothing they could do.

7. Lighting

Bull Lane – Upgrade project to allow lights to be adopted by Kent Highways. Awaiting confirmation of completion.

KCC Safe and Sensible Lighting Policy – Clerk writing to Kent Highways re future policy in particular relating to Walsham Road as per resident's presentation to Council on 19 May.

8. Car Parks

Expansion of TMBC Aylesford Bridge car park. Parish Council's agreement to proceeding with this scheme advised to TMBC. Awaiting an update regarding costs from TMBC

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

Local history signs – Clerk looking at methods of updating historical content of original signs before contacting potential suppliers..

2. The Hollow

Minor surfacing repair under swings required before it gets any worse. Quote received from Wicksteed - £1000. One other quote awaited. Request for Committee to authorise Clerk to accept best value quotation so work can proceed as soon as possible.

3. Ferryfield

In house repair required to pedestrian gate wall beside main gates.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Redundant tennis courts - Project work commenced on 27 April. Work progressing. Short delay due to awaiting galvanised fittings.

5. Allotments

Aylesford new numbers still to be installed

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Skateboard park replacement – Project completed and well received. Bench to be installed. It is suggested that a plaque is provided with the following words:

“The new skateboard park was provided by Aylesford Parish Council in May 2015”

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Toddlers equipment gate repair required – quote awaited

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

Mystery of new padlock installation being investigated.

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Pet Service - 12 July 2015

Big Lunch – 7 June 2015

13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge)

Tidy up of area including gate staining carried out in house.

14. Yoakley Land

Work on a long term plan and strategy for the area as a whole being considered by the Clerk for further discussion with Members at a future meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

Local members have requested the installation of bollards at two entrances to the woodlands – Tunbury Avenue entrance – locking bollard and Walderslade Road/Impton Lane entrance – solid concrete bollard. Clerk has written to KCC PROW team who have indicated that they will supply a lockable bollard but that the Parish Council will need to install it. This work can be done in house at the same time as the other concrete bollard which the Parish Council will have to fund.

16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds

17. Podkin Meadow

18. Christmas Lighting

Following the site meeting with Gala Lights the following proposals are in hand for Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade.

Aylesford

Additional decoration on the lamppost in Forstal Road £485 – ordered.

Blue Bell Hill

At the last meeting a proposal for a Christmas lights scheme for Blue Bell Hill where there was 8 lighting decorations provided 4 in Maidstone Road and 4 in Robin Hood Lane, the locations of which have been agreed with the local members was reported. The cost of providing these decorations and installing and taking them down in the first year was £5620. The cost of installing and taking down these lights each year would be £1100 from 2016 onwards.

Before making a decision it was felt that an alternative scheme of installing lights in the trees outside the Church in Robin Hood Lane should also be considered. The contractor advises that the large tree to the front could be dressed with lights and the cost would be £3875. This would be a one off cost as the lights would remain in the tree.

Walderslade

Lighting of tree at the junction of Tunbury Avenue and Catkin Close £1955 – ordered.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence