

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2014**  
**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Cllrs Tiller (Chairman), Ambrose, Balcombe, Base, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Rillie, Smith

**In attendance:** Mr Harris, Clerk    Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk

**Apologies:** Cllrs Gledhill, Ms Hurley, Wright, Mrs Brooks

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**1. Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

**2. Apologies for absence** – Noted.

**A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS**

**1. General Highway Report** - No report to this meeting.

**2. Eccles Highway Matters**

Proposed new zebra crossing for Bull Lane – No report to this meeting.

**3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

Jubilee Bench – Layby opposite the Lower Bell – Awaiting installation

**4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project – Gala Lighting are still researching an appropriate style of lights. When a suitable style has been selected by Gala and the Parish Council, it will be forwarded to English Heritage for approval. Clerk is now in possession of information on tarmac depths on the bridge surface.

4.2 – Flooding:

Hall Road/Station Road junction – Works planned by Kent Highways within the next 6 weeks

Opposite Brassey Centre - Kent Highways intended to carry out works during level crossing closure but as this was postponed alternative arrangements have to be made for road closure.

Sedley Close – This site has recently started flooding. Kent Highways are aware.

4.3 – Village centre – Incidents of parking on brick paved area. Reported to TMBC Parking Enforcement.

**5. Walderslade Highway Matters** – No report to this meeting.

**6. Public Footpaths** – No report to this meeting.

## **7. Lighting**

7.1 – Bull Lane - Awaiting maintenance responsibility acceptance from Kent Highways following upgrading. Lights counted and information passed to Kent Highways who are now reviewing the matter.

7.2 – Teapot Lane – Awaiting maintenance responsibility acceptance from Kent Highways following upgrading. Lights counted and information passed to Kent Highways who are now reviewing the matter.

7.3 - Potential upgrade/adoption lighting scheme. Rochester Road/Powell Close/Unwin Close. Not to be pursued until Bull Lane and Teapot Lane administration matters are completed.

7.4 – Report on Kent Highways part night lighting. Clerk reported on the criteria for exemption from the part night lighting scheme being introduced by Kent highways – attached at **Appendix A**.

Individual's complaints to the Parish Council re lights going out at midnight in their roads have been passed to Kent Highways.

7.5 – Parish lights faults reported:

Old Bridge Gardens and end of Old Bridge – 2 lights day burning

Salisbury Road, Kits Coty – One light out, 2 others day burning

Eccles car park – One light out

Forstal Road – Two lights out

Rochester Road – One light day burning

The Hawthorns – One light day burning

Mackenders Lane/Close/Green – Various columns flickering

Mount Pleasant – Day burner to be reported

## **8. Car Parks**

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – Decision on whether to resurrect Parish offer to fund further car park spaces. Cllr Balcombe will be discussing with TMBC whether they wish to proceed with this.

9. **Any Other Business/Correspondence** - No report to this meeting.

## **B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS**

1. **All Sites** – Tree survey ordered.

2. **The Hollow** – Quote for additional grass enhancement work awaited.

### **3. Ferryfield**

3.1 – MUGA – signage. Being designed by RBLI.

3.2 – Trim trail reinstatement – Ordered from Sports Equip. Awaiting date for installation but likely to be March/April.

3.3 – Pedestrian gate repair ordered – Brickwork completed. Gate reinstatement still outstanding. Awaiting welding work.

3.4 – Hospice Charity Walk – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July evening - Based at Rugby Club. Request for overflow car parking – **agreed** subject to cancellation if ground conditions are poor. **Clerk**

3.5 – Rugby Club tournament – Request for overflow car parking – 13 April – **agreed** subject to cancellation if ground conditions are poor. **Clerk**

### **4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground**

4.1 – Football Club’s request for trench/shallow basin in pitch 3. Work cancelled at Club’s request due to likely season overrun due to weather conditions.

4.2 – Redundant Tennis Court – Clerk awaiting contact from Football Club for discussions on their proposal. Followed up with school but as yet no one has come forward for discussion.

### **5. Allotments**

Water switched off until end of February.

Letters going out checking requirements for next year.

### **6. Eccles Recreation Ground**

6.1 – Skateboard park long term future. Painting project in house to tidy up area. Clerk has begun research on replacement of this popular facility in Eccles. Discussed with Burham Parish Council. Their facility cost approximately £68,000 including substantial design/consultant costs. Clerk anticipates a cost of £50 to £60k for a similar project. Clerk

was authorised to continue research into suppliers, grants available, match funding and consultation with facility users.

6.2 – New items of toddler equipment – Equipment installed.

6.3 – Gaps in fencing to be filled in with replacement fence panel and gate. Installation completed.

6.4 – One new replacement bench – installation due in February.

## **7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park**

7.1 – Two new benches – installation due in February.

7.2 – Grass/soil surface around the contour slide – Artificial grass surface completed.

7.3 – Two new items of toddler equipment – equipment installed. Awaiting installation of safety surface.

7.4 - Tree down in car park. Cleared.

7.5 – Skiier (outdoor gym equipment) – Quote for repair or replacement. Both includes inspection of other equipment on site.

Plate and bolt repair which cannot be guaranteed - £395

Replacement unit – new more robust design - £850. **Agreed.**

**Clerk**

**8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground** - No report to this meeting.

## **9. Blue Bell Hill Pond**

Risk assessment undertaken.

Trees on site will be priority for the tree survey.

## **10. Cemetery**

Move surplus soil pile – ordered. Site will then be landscaped in-house and new surplus soil pile established at the rear of the cemetery. Work awaited.

## **11. Churchyard**

Mitchell Grave – Local stonemason to be asked to quote for renovation of this grave, the maintenance of which is the Parish Council’s responsibility due to historic financial bequest.

## **12. Old Bridge Gardens**

Request for use of Old Bridge Gardens for The Big Lunch on Sunday 1 June – **agreed** subject to completion of appropriate hire forms and confirmation of insurance and risk assessment.

**Clerk**

**13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge** – No report to this meeting.

**14. Yoakley Land** - Life buoy to be reinstated.

**15. Walderslade Open Spaces** - No report to this meeting.

**16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds**

Car park light repair ordered.

**17. Podkin Meadow**

17.1 - Surfacing of Robin Hood Lane footpath entrance. Weeds – Still awaiting price and work to be undertaken in the spring.

17.2 – Andrew’s Bench – Bench ordered but not to be installed until the Spring.

17.3 – Boulder removal in one months time to allow for grass maintenance, bench installation and any other ground works required to begin. Cllr Tiller will meet Lee to agree where boulders should now be placed.

**18. Christmas Lighting**

Eccles Tree –New lights required for 2014 (existing sets 5 years old). To be researched.

**Clerk**

**19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence**

TMBC – Parking review correspondence. Includes proposed increase in charges for the BBH commuter car park. Members were opposed to this increase and in fact would prefer to see the facility provided free of charge in order to avoid the commuter car parking in the village and the damage this is causing to grass verges and general appearance of the village.

Members considered increasing charges will only add to this problem and the Clerk was asked to write opposing the proposal.

**Clerk**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.02pm.