

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY 27 MAY 2014**  
**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Cllrs Balcombe, Base, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Ambrose, Fielder, Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Ms Hurley, Tiller

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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.

**3. Election of Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Cllr Base was nominated as Committee Chairman by Cllr Tiller, seconded Cllr Balcombe and unanimously **agreed**. Cllr Base accepted the nomination and took the Chair.

Cllr Tiller was nominated as Vice Committee Chairman by Cllr Base, seconded Cllr Winnett and unanimously **agreed**. Cllr Tiller has indicated to the Deputy Clerk that if elected he would accept the position of Vice Committee Chairman.

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

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

**2. Eccles Highway Matters**

2.1 - Proposed new zebra crossing for Bull Lane. Response received from Kent Highways that this site is not recognised as a safety problem and will therefore not gain priority funding at this time. The location will continue to be monitored annually in order to identify and address any emerging safety problems. Noted.

2.2 – New Bull Lane dog bin – Quote from TMBC - £298.74. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

### **3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

Cllr Smith reported the overhanging branches which are badly hindering visibility on the slip road from the A229 to Common Road. To be reported urgently. **Clerk**

### **4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Gala Lighting researching an appropriate style of lights. When a suitable style has been identified by Gala and approved by the Parish Council, a detailed scheme will be proposed and forwarded to English Heritage for approval.

#### **4.2 – Flooding:**

Hall Road/Station Road junction – Works planned by Kent Highways. Clerk pursuing exact start date.

Opposite Brassey Centre - Kent Highways carrying out works during level crossing closure on 29 May 2014.

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

4.3 – Cllr Balcombe reported that lighting improvements and foliage clearance are planned to the **pedestrian crossing at the top of Hall Road** to improve visibility.

4.4 – Reduction in the effectiveness of **Rochester Road speed humps** since the resurfacing has been reported to Kent Highways.

4.5 – Enforcement of parking restrictions and prevention HGVs travelling through **Aylesford Village centre** have been requested from TMBC and the police but manpower availability with both organisations will affect their attendance. This also relates to parking in Bull Lane by trespassers swimming in the quarry lake. TMBC and the police are however now aware of these problems which should continue to be reported.

### **5. Walderslade Highway Matters**

Litter and dog bin – Tunbury Avenue. Request re the reinstatement of these bins. Quote from TMBC - £597.49 – **agreed.** **Clerk**

### **6. Public Footpaths**

Diversion of MR443 – Mill Hall Road, Aylesford – to include erection of a bridge. Noted.

### **7. Lighting**

7.1 – Bull Lane – Kent Highways have now listed further works required to complete the upgrade to adoptable standard. Quote received for required work - £12,009.80. Further enquires to be made relating to the original upgrade work as to why it now does not meet adoption standards. **Clerk**

7.2 – Teapot Lane – Kent Highways have confirmed upgrade work completed is to adoptable standard. Lights to now be removed from Parish Council energy and maintenance responsibility schedule. **Clerk**

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 – Parish lights faults reported:

Salisbury Road, Kits Coty – Four columns upgraded. Work completed. One teething problem resolved.

The Lindens – Outage reported.

Alma Road car park – Problem light out again. Reported to contractors.

## **8. Car Parks**

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – Decision on whether to resurrect Parish offer to fund further car park spaces. Cllr Balcombe has raised this with TMBC who are interested in pursuing the proposal and will contact the Clerk. Contact still awaited.

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

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

1. **All Sites** – No report to this meeting.

### **2. The Hollow**

In house work to repair patch of grassed area beside tarmac appears to have been successful.

### **3. Ferryfield**

3.1 – Trim trail reinstatement – Installation completed.

3.2 – Concrete path to MUGA and car park improvements – Commencement date awaited. Installation of a litter bin added to contract.

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

4.1 - Redundant Tennis Court –Football Club have suggested removing seats and old tarmac area and replacing with grass to enable increased pitches area. They are not able to progress a project to use the site as a multigames/all weather surface due to costs and believe this would be the most cost effective use of the site.

Members felt they would prefer to explore other ways to try and keep a hard/all weather surface in order to provide opportunities for other sports in conjunction with football. Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting with Wicksteed for their advice. **Clerk**

4.2 – Use of recreation ground for St Peters Primary School sports day – 13 June. **Agreed.**

## **5. Allotments**

Aylesford – Number of complaints re rabbit invasion this season. Enquires have been made re ferretting but this cannot be done until September. It was **agreed** shooting and gassing were not appropriate control methods on Council allotment land.

## **6. Eccles Recreation Ground**

Skateboard park replacement – Clerk investigating funding opportunities and how the Council would proceed with a design and build tender, before reporting back to Committee in detail. One set of suggestions from a local young user of the skateboard park received which will be taken into consideration when drawing up the specification.

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

7.1 – New Skiier (outdoor gym equipment) installed. Formal inspection of other equipment awaited.

7.2 – Path improvement including flattening out depression where new path meeting existing road – awaiting commencement date.

7.3 – Puddling on the bottom of the contour slide to be reported to Wicksteed at the time of the annual play equipment inspection to see if any adjustment can be made.

## **8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

8.1 – Woodland for sale. See Clerk's report below to P&R 6 May 2014. Further report to next P&R meeting.

*Land adjacent to Blue Bell Hill recreation ground – Further consideration on whether this would be an appropriate purchase for the Parish Council. Clerk reported that agents have invited the Council to 'make an offer for any area of the land they are interested in'. Clerk advised that any area of the woodland available would be likely to have long term maintenance issues in return for very little public open space usage. Members queried the boundary lines on the agents map and asked the Clerk to query whether sufficient allowance has been made for the woodland area around the recreation ground that the Council own.*

**Clerk**

8.2 – Height barrier repaired. No responsibility claimed.

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

Tree work requested by neighbour. Tree survey has identified these trees as not dangerous and any work to be undertaken will be done as part of the on-going maintenance programme in the autumn/winter. Contractor has advised that trees should not be worked on unless in a dangerous condition when in full leaf and likely to have birds nesting in them. Noted.

## **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** - Car park wall repairs to be undertaken by Parish Council staff agreed between Clerk and Vicar.

**12. Old Bridge Gardens** - No report to this meeting.

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

## **14. Yoakley Land**

14.1 - Life buoy has not been reinstated as area continues to be flooded. Exact siting to be reconsidered.

14.2 - One large urgent tree removal required adjacent to Waitrose completed.

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

**16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds** - No report to this meeting.

## **17. Podkin Meadow**

17.1 - Surfacing of Robin Hood Lane footpath entrance. Weeds. Minor surface repairs and weed killing. Work completed.

17.2 – Height barrier quotation awaited

## **18. Christmas Lighting**

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

18.2 – Clerk making enquiries as to whether Blue Bell Hill tree lights, which were removed for tree maintenance by Kent Highways, can be put back in time to be lit on 19 July for local residents anniversary.

**19. Any Other ESC Business** – No report to this meeting.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.07pm.