

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 November 2019

Present: Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Ms Oyewusi, Ms Papagno, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker, Williams and Wright.

In Attendance: Neil Harris (Clerk), Melanie Randall (Assistant Clerk and Finance Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Base and Winnett

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Base (Personal Commitment) and Winnett (Personal Commitment) were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 October 2019

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. General Highway Matters

There were no general highway matters reported to the meeting.

5. Eccles Highway Matters – Speed of Traffic in Bull Lane

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting it was agreed that the Council would fund one of the surveys at a cost of approximately £300 and that County Councillor Peter Homewood be asked to fund the other so that both surveys could be undertaken this financial year. County Councillor Peter Homewood has agreed to fund the other survey and the Clerk is currently liaising with the local members to determine the exact location for the surveys.

6. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters – A229 Slip Road Lights

The Clerk reported that KCC have now informed the Council that the slip road lights are all working with the exception of a no entry sign and one light at the bottom of the road. The Committee were pleased with the latest update.

7. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters – A229 Accidents

The Committee again expressed their disappointment with the reply from the Director of Highways and it was **Agreed** that the Clerk should ask County Councillor Homewood whether he would ask the Director of Highways for the accident record for the A229 Blue Bell Hill for the last 2 years.

8. Aylesford Highway Matters – Aylesford Village Square

The Clerk reported that he was looking at the details of a potential funding scheme from the English Heritage London and South East Regional team which he was considering including discussing it with TMBC.

9. Walderslade Highway Matters – Walderslade Woods Road

The Committee raised the issue of the speed of traffic in Walderslade Woods Road and potentially reducing the speed limit to 50mph. The Clerk reported that he had been discussing it with Boxley Parish Council who were also concerned about this issue but had received no information regarding the outcome of discussions between Boxley and KCC. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk follow this matter up with Boxley Parish Council.

10. Public Footpaths

There were no public footpath matters reported to the meeting.

11. Street Lighting

There were no street lighting matters reported to the meeting.

12. Car Parks

The condition to the entrance of the car park next to the allotments in Eccles was raised and it was **Agreed** that the Clerk should obtain a price for remedial works.

13. Bus Services – 155 Bus Service

The Clerk reported that the further meeting reported at the last meeting had not been held but that he was continuing to pursue this matter so it could be brought to a successful conclusion.

14. Parking at Entrance to Rugby Club next to the Cemetery

The Clerk reported that the Rugby Club had written regarding the parking of vehicles at the entrance to the rugby club on the land next to the cemetery. The Clerk indicated that there was also parking in the spaces for the cemetery by people not visiting the cemetery. The Rugby Club had indicated that they would be happy to pay for yellow lines to be put down but whilst that was helpful the problem would be that of enforcement as they would not be enforced by the TMBC wardens as they did not have the backing of a traffic regulation order. Following discussion it was **Agreed** that the Clerk should put up appropriate no parking signs and write to the residents living opposite, the main culprits for parking here, that they should not park at this location and also take up with the companies whose vans are parked at this site about the illegal parking of their vans.

15. All Sites

There were no matters relating to all sites reported to the meeting.

16. The Hollow

There were no matters relating to The Hollow reported to the meeting.

17. Ferryfield – Play Equipment

The Clerk reported that work has been completed and the play area was open. In terms of the keys the contractor did not find them and agreed to meet the cost of replacing all the keys, the missing padlock and the locks in all of the Rhino bollards.

18. Ferryfield – Boot Scraper

The Clerk reported that he was currently undertaking the necessary research into the provision of a boot scraper at this site and hopes to be in a position to report to the next meeting.

19. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

There were no matters relating to the Forstal Recreation Ground reported to the meeting.

20. Allotments

There were no matters relating to the Allotments reported to the meeting.

21. Eccles Recreation Ground

There were no matters relating to the Eccles Recreation Ground reported to the meeting.

22. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park – Gully Cleansing of Car Park

The Clerk reported that he had a quotation for the gully cleansing of the car park at Tunbury Hall. The price for this work was dependent the amount of waste cleansed but the costings were the same as for the car park at the Council Offices which came out at a final price of £518. On this basis it was **Agreed** that the quotation from CSG for the gully cleansing at Tunbury Hall be agreed.

23. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

There were no matters relating to the Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground reported to the meeting.

24. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

There were no matters relating to the Blue Bell Hill Pond Site reported to the meeting.

25. Cemetery– Request for reduction of charge for Burials

The Clerk reported that he had received a request for a reduction in the fee by half for the burial of the ashes for 2 homeless people who were not resident in the parish to be buried in an existing grave. It was **Agreed** that the Council's policy should be applied and full fees charged.

26. Churchyard

There were no matters relating to the Churchyard reported to the meeting.

27. Old Bridge Gardens

There were no matters relating to the Old Bridge Gardens reported to the meeting.

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

There were no matters relating to Mill Hall reported to the meeting.

29. Aylesford Old Pit (Yoakley Land)

The Clerk reported that 3 quotations had been sought but only 2 received. They were from Kent Turf Care in the sum of £2020 (though there was an element of estimation in that the additional climber would be needed only 1 day out of 4) and QualiTree Services in the sum of £2680 (this quote was fixed and had a climber for all 4 days). Additionally, the work from Kent Turf Care was on 20 trees with 8 fells and QualiTree Services was 26 trees with 3 fells. The Committee felt that part of the reason for the additional cost for QualiTree Services was

due to the fact that they were felling less trees as well as working on more trees. At this particular site the Committee felt that it was necessary to minimise the number of trees being felled and because of this it was **Agreed** that the contract for the tree work at Aylesford Old Pit (Yoakley land) be awarded to Qualitree Services at a cost of £2680.

30. Walderslade Open Spaces

There were no matters relating to Walderslade Open Spaces reported to the meeting.

31. St Mark's Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park

There were no matters relating to St Mark's Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park reported to the meeting.

32. Podkin Meadow

There were no matters relating to Podkin Meadow reported to the meeting.

33. Christmas Lights

There were no matters relating to Christmas Lights reported to the meeting.

34. Aylesford Flood Plan

There were no matters relating to the Aylesford Flood Plan reported to the meeting.

35. Sports and Recreation Committee

It was **Agreed** that Councillors John Balcombe, Mrs Joyce Gadd, Barry Smith and Trevor Walker be appointed to the Sports and Recreation Committee.

36. Planning Application by Gladman's at White Post Field

In view of the urgent need to consider the issues arising from this matter the Committee considered the letter received from Councillor Base and report from Councillor Balcombe concerning the recent consideration by TMBC of the above application. This application had been approved by TMBC. The Committee were also informed that since the decision by TMBC to approve the application Tracey Crouch had written to the Planning Inspectorate asking that the matter be called in for consideration at a national level. The Committee supported this action and it was **Agreed** that the Council should also seek to call in this application and that the Clerk be authorised to take the necessary steps to put this into action.

37. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 8.49pm