

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
**COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015**  
**MINUTES**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Present:** Cllrs Tiller (in the Chair), Ambrose, Balcombe, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Winnett, Wright

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Base, Mrs Brooks, Fielder, Homewood, Smith

\* \* \* \* \*

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs Base (meeting in London); Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative); Fielder (ill); Homewood (KCC business); Smith (ill). Apologies noted and reasons accepted.

**2. Declarations of Interests** – There were no declarations of interests additional to those contained in the Register of Members’ Interests.

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

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

**2. Eccles Highway Matters** - No report to this meeting.

**3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

Milestone – Stonemason carrying out refurbishment

**4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project - Response on proposals awaited from English Heritage. Being regularly pursued for a response.

4.2 – Flooding: Opposite Brassey Centre - Work awaited. Kent Highways have stated however that the work will not be imminent as they will need to liaise with Network Rail regarding the level crossing. Clerk will continue to pursue as during wet conditions the footway is impassable for pedestrians.

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 – Notification received that Rochester Road between Pratling Street and Unwin Close will be closed for one day on 15 March. Speed humps (see 4.3 above) cannot be done on the same day as that work will take longer.

4.5 - Aylesford Village Square – Design site meeting rescheduled for 11 March. Concerns re installation of BT broadband box in Square. Clerk confirmed that due to the importance the Government places on high speed broadband service, no planning permission or prior consultation is required to install these boxes. As much will be done as possible under the Square improvement scheme to lessen the impact of this.

4.6 – A20 between Larkfield and Aylesford – Joint initiative between Ditton, E Malling & Larkfield and Aylesford Parish Councils re traffic flow problems. Response from John Burr, Director of Highways at KCC indicates that a route study on the A20 between the A228 at Leybourne and the Coldharbour roundabout will be undertaken.

Clerk reported on his interesting recent visit to the Highway Management Centre at Aylesford where he saw the lighting cameras at work and discussed the possibility of adjusting the traffic light timings and bus priority measures at various traffic lights along the A20.

The announcement yesterday of the closure of Aylesford Papermill and the future of the site may also have some traffic implications long term.

4.7 – Bench repair/replacement – A20/Teapot Lane junction. To be carried out in house.

4.8 – Pothole on Aylesford bridge approach west to east reported.

## **5. Walderslade Highway Matters**

Local Members reported concerns about rubbish from a private extension project in Sheraton Court remains on the grass verge. To be monitored and if not cleared imminently, to be reported to TMBC.

Alleyway clearance also required. To be clarified with local members.

## **6. Public Footpaths - No report to this meeting.**

## **7. Lighting**

7.1 - Bull Lane – Completion of upgrade project has commenced. Lights will then be formally adopted by Kent Highways. Some works still to be completed.

7.2 – Outside 74 High Street, Aylesford – On-going problem with this light. May require complete replacement.

## **8. Car Parks**

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – Clerk’s report on updated TMBC design proposals distributed to all members and attached at **Appendix A** to the bound copy of these minutes.

Members considered the options available and noted the reasons for the price increase over the past two years when the project was originally agreed – namely an improved specification and increase in costs. Members felt that it was worth funding the additional costs to get the maximum number of additional spaces available.

In agreeing to fund this project, Members asked that the Clerk seek a caveat from TMBC that the no charge policy be retained for the village car parks and that any change to this policy would be subject to consultation with and the agreement of the Parish Council.

Subject to this caveat, it was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd that the Parish Council fund the scheme for the provision of 18 additional car park spaces at a cost of £32,197. **Agreed.** FASC to be asked at the next meeting to authorise the additional funding of £22,137 above the agreed budget of £10,000, based on the likely underspend from other major projects proposed in 2015/16. (See FASC minutes of 24 February 2015 – item 8.2)

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

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

### **1. All Sites**

Local history signs – Next step for Clerk to make contact with potential suppliers and to look at updating historical content of original signs.

**2. The Hollow** - No report to this meeting.

### **3. Ferryfield**

3.1 - Information sign received. Installation imminent.

3.2 – Annual grass enhancement for rugby training area proposed by Landscape Services rather than on the \*four yearly rolling programme. Quotation received of £1200. It was **agreed** to monitor the recovery of the grass at the end of this season as the area was enhanced in the spring of 2014\* before a final decision is made.

#### 4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Redundant tennis courts - Quotations received on various aspects of works as follows:

	Beadles	Wicksteed	Kent Turf Care
Tarmac	20608	40520	20689.60
Fencing	15810	25396	16957.80
Line marking	550	850	10617.10
Goals and tennis net		14235	
Security/ground protection			3235.50
Totals: Wicksteed	£81001		
	Kent Turf Care	£51500	
	Beadles/Wicksteed	£51203	

It was not certain if Beadles or Wicksteed had included site security and ground protection which would have to be clarified with both. It is possible that it was included but if not could raise the price.

It was also felt that it might be difficult to manage the combination of two companies on this project ie. Beadles/Wicksteed, if indeed they were even prepared to work together. For the minimal price difference therefore and due to the Council's knowledge of working with local company Kent Turf Care, it was proposed by Cllr Tiller, seconded Cllr Balcombe, that the quotation received from Kent Turf Care in the sum of £51,500 be approved. **Agreed. Clerk**

4.2 – Information sign received. Installation imminent.

4.3 – Enhancement grass maintenance scheme included in the 2015 Landscape Services contract as part of the 4 year rolling programme. Landscape Services recommend upgrading to a yearly enhancement. As the site will be done in the Spring of 2015 it was **agreed** to monitor the condition of the grass next year before a final decision is made.

## **5. Allotments**

New numbering signs to be installed during the winter. In house project. Progressing.

## **6. Eccles Recreation Ground**

6.1 - Skateboard park replacement – Report from open site meeting held on 17 February. Successful meeting at which about six young people attended and the proposed design was very well received. The original design from Urban Ramps was therefore confirmed and it was **agreed** to include a new skimmed tarmac surface (£4400) and two benches (price to be confirmed) to complete the project. **Clerk**

6.2 – Information sign received. Installation imminent.

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

Information sign site agreed. Installation imminent.

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

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

**10. Cemetery** No reports on items 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

### **11. Churchyard**

### **12. Old Bridge Gardens**

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

## **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 requested the installation of bollards at two entrances to the woodlands –  
Tunbury Avenue entrance – locking bollard required  
Walderslade Road/Impton Lane entrance – solid concrete bollard required

Clerk to research and price.

**Clerk**

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

**17. Podkin Meadow** - No report to this meeting.

**18. Christmas Lighting**

Clerk looking at additional Christmas lighting in Blue Bell Hill, Walderslade and Aylesford for 2015. Meetings to be arranged with supplier and local members. **Clerk**

**19. Grounds Maintenance Equipment**

Clerk reported on the current position and the need for a replacement ride-on mower. Prices have been researched and the best deal is a John Deere machine for £2440.85. Purchase was **agreed.** **Clerk**

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

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.10pm.