

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2015
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Elvy, Fielder, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

Others: Two members of the public observing

Apologies: Cllrs Ambrose, Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Tiller

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1. Apologies

Cllr Ambrose (home emergency), Cllr Balcombe (TMBC meeting), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Homewood (KCC business), Tiller (work). Apologies and reasons accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest 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

3.1 - Milestone – Appropriate design was **agreed** and KCC have agreed to deliver milestone to stonemason for refurbishment.

3.2 - Kits Coty – Additional salt bin installed.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project - Response on proposals awaited from English Heritage. Being 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 to plane off damaged imprinted concrete at village entrance. Enquiry to be made if the speed humps (4.3 above) can be done at the same time. Post Meeting Note: Not possible, this work would take longer than one day.

4.5 –Village traffic calming scheme – No response from Kent Highways re discussion on long term traffic calming possibilities.

4.6 - Aylesford Village Square – Design site meeting to be held on Wed 4 February 2014. All interested parties invited.

4.7 – A20 between Larkfield and Aylesford – Joint meeting between Ditton, E Malling & Larkfield and Aylesford Parish Councils helped to discuss problems. Letters sent to John Burr, Director of Highways at KCC. Reply awaited.

4.8 – Village Flooding – Cllr Rillie to attend CPRE Flooding Conference on 6 February – cost £40. **Agreed.**

5. Walderslade Highway Matters - No report to this meeting.

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 – Cllr Smith reported A229 slip road to Eccles lighting is out. To be reported to KCC.

7.3 – Cllr Wright reported two lights in Walderslade area out. To be reported to KCC

8. Car Parks

8.1 - Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – TMBC have responded re the additional car park spaces scheme stating that they are currently working on a design and will consult with the Parish Council in the near future.

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

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Local history signs – Clerk to make contact with potential suppliers in near future.

1.2 – Clerk negotiating a grass maintenance 3 year pricing scheme with Landscape Services together with revised gang mowing schedule to provide one additional cut for all sports fields and reduced cuts for Old Bridge Gardens. The Clerk was authorised to proceed on this basis.

Landscape Services will also look at a revised annual enhancement programme for sports fields, principally Forstal Road and Ferryfield, for consideration by the Council.

1.3 – Tree maintenance work by Kent Turf Care taking place over next weeks on various sites identified in tree maintenance schedule drawn up last year.

2. The Hollow - No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Information sign received. Installation awaited.

3.2 – Grass enhancement work to be trialled by Landscape Services to improve grass standard. This follows the surface being badly cut up following rugby training last weekend. Clerk is proposing to advise Club that the pitches must be rested this weekend. **Agreed** Further advice/quotations awaited from Landscape Services – see 1.2 above.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Redundant tennis courts - Quotations being sought on various aspects of works. Initial works to removed hedging and fencing have been carried out. One complaint from resident re removal of her visual screening of Waitrose depot and incinerator tower. Fencing will be replaced as part of the project. Whips also being planted in gap between rear of properties and the redundant tennis court site.

4.2 – Information sign received. Installation awaited

4.3 – Yearly enhancement grass maintenance scheme suggested by Landscape Services. See 1.2 above.

5. Allotments

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

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Skateboard park replacement – Clerk has received proposals back from various contractors and reported in detail the various options available. After consideration of all three designs and specifications before them, Members **agreed** to proceed with Urban Ramps. Discussions will take place with Urban Ramps, local Members, the Clerk and youth users over final design. Open site meeting proposed for half term week.

6.2 – Information sign received. Installation awaited.

6.3 – Gate to fill in last gap in boundary fence – installed.

6.4 - Fencing repairs completed - £770.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Information sign received – installation awaited.

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

It was noted that the woodland for sale next to the recreation ground has now been sold. New owner has requested key to gate and height barrier in order to access his land. Clerk to arrange.

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

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

No reports to this meeting.

14. Yoakley Land

Life buoy installed.

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

16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds

17. Podkin Meadow

No reports to this meeting.

18. Christmas Lighting

Clerk looking at additional Christmas lighting in Blue Bell Hill, Walderslade and Aylesford for 2015.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.17pm.