

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

**TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2014**

**MINUTES**

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

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

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

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**1. Apologies**

Apologies and reasons were received and accepted from Cllrs Base (abroad), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Fielder (ill), Homewood (KCC business), Tiller (working).

**2. Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations 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 – Awaiting removal and resiting of stone by KCC, following which local stonemason will provide Parish Council with a quote to refurbish.

3.2 – Cllr Wright reported cars advertised for sale again in Hallsfield Road. To be reported to TMBC. **Clerk**

3.3 – Cllr Wright reported the 24 hr parking of an advertising van on the Robin Hood Lane bridge over the motorway which could cause a dangerous distraction to drivers on the motorway. To be reported to TMBC. **Clerk**

3.4 – **Kits Coty** – Residents have requested an additional salt bin – approximate cost £150. **Agreed.**

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

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** - Response on proposals awaited from English Heritage.

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 –Kent Highways have indicated that they have no funding available to upgrade **village traffic calming** scheme at the present time. Cllr Rillie requested however that the Clerk ask for a meeting with Kent Highways to discuss what might be a suitable design for a future project. **Clerk**

4.5 - **Aylesford Village Square** – Progress report on Village Square joint improvement project between Parish Council, KCC and TMBC. Clerk now has a contact at KCC regarding designing the project. In respect of the works relating to the Aylesford Trade Association grant funding the proposed information sign will require planning permission for siting on the grass verge at the entrance to the village opposite the AVCC entrance.

4.6 – **Rochester Road Village Entrance** – Kent Highways are looking to resurface the damaged surface at this entrance to the village. It was originally impressed concrete. The alternatives are to resurface with normal tarmac which can be done within current funding or to resurface with impressed concrete or block paving both of which will be more expensive and would mean work would be delayed whilst additional funding is identified. Members agreed to the use of tarmac in order to tidy up the very poor looking area as soon as possible. **Clerk**

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

Cllr Elvy reported the need for further footway hedge trimming in Tunbury Avenue. He will report to Kent Highways if the office provides the up to date telephone number to him. **Office**

#### **6. Public Footpaths**

Cllr Winnett asked that bushes be cleared which are blocking the footpath in Podkin Meadow down the side by the crematorium. **Clerk**

## **7. Lighting**

7.1 – **Bull Lane** – Completion of upgrade project has commenced. Lights will then be formally adopted by Kent Highways.

7.2 – **Teapot Lane** – Formal request for transfer of these upgraded lights to KCC has been completed.

Cllr Ambrose reported two lights out at the top of Teapot Lane which is leaving the area very dark. Deputy Clerk advised these have been reported but repairs will be chased up.

**Clerk**

## **8. Car Parks**

8.1 - **Aylesford** TMBC Parking Review – TMBC have been written to re the additional car park spaces scheme. Response awaited.

8.2 - **Tunbury Hall** – Cllr Wright asked that the Clerk investigate a report from the Tunbury Hall Committee that the height barrier at the entrance to the car park is damaged and cannot be opened. Checked and is in working order. Noted.

## **9. Any Other Business/Correspondence**

9.1 – Opening of **Bellingham Way** – Meeting with Ditton Parish Council arranged for 9.00am on Thursday 27 November. Clerk will report back to Council following the meeting.

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

**1. All Sites** – Annual play equipment inspection has taken place. Minor works by Wicksteed across all sites total approximately £3300 and have been ordered. Other painting works etc to be undertaken in house.

**2. The Hollow** - Information sign installed.

### **3. Ferryfield**

3.1 - Removal of algae on surfaces around the play equipment being researched.

3.2 - Information sign ordered.

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

4.1 - **Redundant Tennis Court** – First stage of this project to remove the existing hedge in order to ensure new surfacing is not affected by roots and to fully inspect the condition of the existing fence has been ordered.

4.2 - **Entrance Wall Damage** - Still awaiting response/reimbursement from refuse collection company. Clerk continues to pursue.

4.3 – Information sign ordered.

## 5. Allotments

New numbering signs to be installed during the winter. In house project. Approximate cost £250 for posts, wood and paint **agreed.** **Clerk**

## 6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - **Skateboard park replacement** – It was **agreed** that the Clerk open discussions with three identified specialist companies to develop a scheme to replace the existing skateboarding facilities at an estimated cost £30 – 40k. plus surfacing. The specification will require the facility to be suitable for multi-use ie. bikes and scooters as well as skateboards. The Clerk is to continue to research funding opportunities though it is accepted that there might be no funds available.

6.2 – Information sign ordered.

6.3 – Quote for gate to fill in last gap in boundary fence - £235 – **agreed.** **Clerk**

6.4 – Following enquiries from residents regarding fencing for all play equipment Clerk has received an estimate for the works of £11,500. It was **agreed** to look at this again on completion of the new car park and skateboard park projects and if there is any underspend from them to consider fencing as an option.

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

7.1 - Information sign ordered.

7.2 – Cllr Winnett reported that the tarmac done at the bottom of the slope has greatly improved drainage of the path.

## 8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

### 9. Blue Bell Hill Pond

10. Cemetery No reports to the meeting 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**

Life buoy has not been reinstated as area continues to be flooded. Siting agreed as near the main entrance in order to be clearly seen. Work to be done in house.

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** - No reports to the meeting on 15, 16, 17

#### **17. Podkin Meadow**

#### **18. Christmas Lighting**

All lights to be installed and switched on first week in December.

It was **agreed** to try and identify suitable site/sites for Christmas lighting in Walderslade in 2015.

Clerk confirmed that it was intended to include additional Christmas lighting in the Aylesford Village Square in 2015 as part of the Square improvement scheme.

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

19.1 – Grass Maintenance Quotes for 2015 – **Agreed** as at Appendix A attached.

19.2 – Local history sign at Eccles recreation ground has recently been removed as derelict and unreadable. This and a similar one at Blue Bell Hill picnic ground were installed by TMBC approximately 20 years ago. TMBC have indicated to the Clerk they are happy for the Parish Council to take these over. Clerk sought the agreement of the Committee to make enquiries on updating and reinstating these signs to include information on the parish as a whole and also to consider other locations such as Aylesford village, Tunbury Recreation Ground and Podkin Meadow. Initial work on design and costs was **agreed**.

**Clerk**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.15pm.