

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**TUESDAY 22 JULY 2014**  
**MINUTES**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Present:** Cllr Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Balcombe, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Tiller, Winnett

**In attendance:** Mr Harris, Clerk      Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk  
Mr Mick Wood, Gala Lights – part meeting

**Apologies:** Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Ms Hurley, Homewood

\*\*\*\*\*

**1. Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members' Interests.

**2. Apologies for absence** – Noted.

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

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

**2. Eccles Highway Matters**

2.1 – Bus stop clearway order is being implemented by KCC. Work expected to commence week being 4 August.

2.2 - Dept of Transport – Stopping Up Draft Order affecting Peters Pit, Wouldham – Hall Road, Old Church Road, Court Road (See also 6. Below). Full details available in the Parish Office. Noted.

**3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

Overhanging branches A229 to Common Road. Work programmed to coincide with work to A229 due to the danger of working in this area. No date for these works available at this stage.

## 4. Aylesford Highway Matters

### 4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project

Clerk gave Members a resume on the history of this project and then introduced Mick Wood of Gala Lights who have now, after much research, identified a type of lighting system which meets the Parish Council specification re numbers and ‘softness’ of lights to create an effective but subtle lighting scheme.

Mr Wood showed Members the light proposed – a mid to top of the range warm LED uplighter. 18 units to be installed (9 on each side of the bridge approx. 9 metres apart) in steel containers, set into existing tarmac just away from the bridge wall. Fittings are suitable to be driven over. Light will deflect approximately 10 degrees on to the wall rather than going straight up and causing light pollution. A new separate feeder column is included in the quoted price which will also house the timing system which Mr Wood suggests should be adjusted seasonally, probably four times a year. The scheme will carry a three year defect guarantee. Bulb replacements are easily available and simple to replace but are expected to have a long life.

Mr Wood and Gala Lights have worked on various lighting projects for the Parish Council including the Old Bridge arch lighting so they are aware of the English Heritage restrictions regarding installation into the tarmac only, the bridge structure itself must not be affected

Clerk indicated that the cost of the scheme was £27617, an increase of approximately £8k. The additional costs were a result of the increased specification of the lights and the more extensive trench works required.

Members thanked Mr Wood for his efforts on this project. It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Winnett, that the lighting scheme presented by Mr Wood be submitted to English Heritage for their consideration and approval. **Agreed Clerk**

### 4.2 – Flooding:

**Hall Road/Station Road junction** – Works finished by Kent Highways. Recent heavy rainfall appeared to drain away successfully.

**Opposite Brassey Centre** - Kent Highways were not able to carry out the works successfully during the level crossing closure in May 2014. They will need to design a more robust scheme and come back at a later date.

4.3 – Awaiting lighting improvements and foliage clearance planned to the **pedestrian crossing at the top of Hall Road** to improve visibility.

4.4 – Awaiting report on reduction in the effectiveness of **Rochester Road speed humps** since the resurfacing as reported to Kent Highways.

4.5 – **New level crossing** signs report. Awaiting response from Kent Highways.

## 5. Walderslade Highway Matters

Overgrown vegetation at the Tunbury Avenue/Oaks Dene junction and around the Woodbury Road crossing. Sight lines at both sites being affected. Reported to Kent Highways.

## **6. Public Footpaths**

6.1 - Dept of Transport – Stopping Up Draft Order affecting Peters Pit, Wouldham – Bridleways and Footpaths MR10, MR15, MR29. (See also 2. Above.) Full details available in the Parish Office. Noted.

6.2 - Number of complaints re overgrown paths reported to Kent Public Rights of Way Officer. Some work has been done.

## **7. Lighting**

7.1 – Bull Lane –Kent Highways have listed further works required to complete the upgrade to adoptable standard. Quote accepted for required work - £12,009.80. Start date awaited.

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.

7.3 – Parish lights faults:

Light in Springett Close, Eccles reported

## **8. Car Parks**

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – Still awaiting contact from TMBC re additional car park spaces.

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

Letter from the Milestone Society regarding a Milestone in Blue Bell Hill village on Maidstone Road just north of Barling Close and is looking to support from the Parish Council for the conservation of this milestone. BBH Members **agreed** in principle to support this initiative. Clerk to contact the Society for further details of requirements. **Clerk**

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

**1. All Sites** – Annual play equipment inspection ordered – Aug/September.

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

### **3. Ferryfield**

3.1 – Concrete path to MUGA and car park improvements – Completed apart from new litter bin. Due in next few days.

3.2 – Play equipment surface repairs required – Wicksteed quote £6170. **Agreed Clerk**

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

4.1 - Redundant Tennis Court – Clerk report on meeting with Wicksteed representative on 8 July. Quote received based on new tarmac surfacing, one court with metal tennis net, one court for five aside football/basketball, a dividing fence and new fourth side boundary fence with entry/exit gaps. The total cost of the quote was in excess of £75k. The Clerk indicated that costs could be reduced by breaking up the contract into different parts such as tarmac, fencing etc.

Members considered this specification and agreed this was how they would like the courts to be redeveloped but considered the overall cost too high. Clerk was asked to look at the various individual aspects of the project ie. tarmac, fencing and to seek quotes for from other companies for each individual aspect of the project for comparison. **Clerk**

4.2 – Outdoor gym equipment inspected and serviced 24 June.

## 5. Allotments

Aylesford - Two untended plots to have tenancy terminated.

## 6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - 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.

Some essential maintenance work currently being carried out in-house which will hopefully extend the life of the existing equipment for approximately 12 months.

6.2 – Complaint re tree overhanging Skinner Close being investigated.

6.3 – Outdoor gym equipment inspected and serviced 24 June.

6.4 – Boundary fencing repair quote following vandalism. Like for like chain link - £1334. Recommended more substantial Protec fencing - £1400. It was proposed by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Balcombe that the quote for the Protec fencing be accepted. **Agreed Clerk**

6.5 – Funfair visit requested – 26 August to 1 September. **Agreed** with normal conditions including Parish Council right to cancel up to 22 August if ground conditions are not deemed acceptable.

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

7.1 – Formal inspection of outdoor gym equipment and repair of rower completed 24 June.

Request for improvement of surface around equipment from local resident. It was **agreed** this was not feasible at the present time.

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.

7.4 – Toddler equipment fencing – Minor welding repairs required and completed.

**8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground** - No report to this meeting.

**9. Blue Bell Hill Pond** - No report to this meeting.

#### **10. Cemetery**

Move surplus soil pile – Work completed 25 June.

**11. Churchyard** - Car park wall repairs to be undertaken by Parish Council staff agreed between Clerk and Vicar. Work completed.

**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**

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

**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**

Barrier quotation - £1380 (similar style to proposed Aylesford Scout hut site) manufacture and delivery only. Separate installation will be required. **Agreed Clerk**

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

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

18.2 –Blue Bell Hill tree lights reinstated and planned for one-off light up 19 July. This was successful and well received. Mr Wood was thanked for making the necessary arrangements.

Additional Christmas lighting for Blue Bell Hill – Mr Wood presented proposals for 3 lighting column motifs – approximate cost £1800 - £2600. Cllr Tiller felt that these were not appropriate for the area and would prefer to see the remaining trees lit to complement the existing scheme. Mr Wood suggested that this would detract from the existing scheme of alternately lit trees. Based on these views, it was **agreed not** to proceed with additional lighting at this stage.

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

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

