

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2014
MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Ms Hurley, Tiller, Winnett

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.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

Overhanging branches A229 to Common Road. Reported to Kent Highways and progress being chased by Cllr Smith and office.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Gala Lighting still researching an appropriate style of lights.

4.2 – **Flooding:**

Hall Road/Station Road junction – Works appear finished by Kent Highways. Awaiting rainfall to monitor success.

Opposite Brassey Centre - Kent Highways were not able to carry out the works successfully during the level crossing closure on 29 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. Cllr Rillie suggested a site meeting might be required with local members. It was **agreed** to await KH report before assessing whether a meeting is required.

4.5 – Cllr Rillie asked if the increased number and size of **new level crossing** signs are really required as it was only an upgrading project and there has been no change to function and layout of the crossing for drivers. Clerk will make enquiries. Cllr Rillie acknowledged that the work done to the crossing has improved its appearance. **Clerk**

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 - Litter and dog bin – Tunbury Avenue. Installation completed.

5.2 – Cllr Elvy reported overgrown vegetation at the Tunbury Avenue/Oaks Dene junction and around the Woodbury Road crossing. Sight lines at both sites being affected. To be reported to Kent Highways. **Clerk**

6. Public Footpaths - No report to this meeting.

7. Lighting

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

Clerk has consulted with Kent Highways who have indicated that they have never adopted these lights and would require these works to be undertaken before they can adopt. The new works mainly involve removal and disconnection of redundant lights. Some minor work to newer lights.

After discussion it was **agreed** to proceed with this work and quotation in order to get this large number of lights and their future power and maintenance requirements handed over to Kent Highways. Due to the costs involved it was further **agreed** to delay progressing further lighting upgrade projects this year. **Clerk**

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 - Potential upgrade/adoption lighting scheme. Rochester Road/Powell Close/Unwin Close. Not to be pursued this year (see 7.1 above).

7.4 – Parish lights faults reported:

Alma Road car park – Problem light out again. Reported to contractors and resolved. To be monitored as this is the third recent repair.

Firs Close – Completed.

Unwin Close – Reported.

8. Car Parks

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – Still awaiting contact from TMBC re additional car park spaces. Clerk was asked to pursue this with TMBC and Cllr Balcombe. **Clerk**

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.

Clerk was asked to discuss this with local BBH Members. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites – No report to this meeting.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – Concrete path to MUGA and car park improvements – Commencement date 25 June. Installation of a litter bin added to contract.

3.2 – Play equipment surface repairs required. To be discussed with Wickstead representative when he visits the Clerk on 8 July.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - Redundant Tennis Court – Clerk report on progress with enquiries as to alternative uses for this site. Meeting with Wickstead representative on 8 July.

4.2 – Outdoor gym equipment being inspected and serviced 24 June.

5. Allotments

Aylesford – Number of complaints re rabbit invasion this season. Trapping and snaring being trialled.

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. One set of suggestions from a local young user of the skateboard park received which will be taken into consideration when drawing up the specification.

6.2 – Complaint re tree overhanging Skinner Close being investigated.

6.3 – Outdoor gym equipment being inspected and serviced 24 June.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

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

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.

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 – ordered. Site will then be landscaped in-house and new surplus soil pile established at the rear of the cemetery. Work due to commence 25 June.

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

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

17.1 – Fencing work at Warren Road entrance completed

17.2 – Barrier quotation delayed as original contractor has withdrawn. New supplier being sort.

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, which were removed for tree maintenance by Kent Highways, will be put back up in the next two weeks. Gala Lights being asked if they can be tested on 19 July for local residents anniversary.

19. Any Other ESC Business

19.1 – Local Members reported broken down fencing along Bull Lane bordering the sandpit reservoir. To be reported to sandpit owners. **Clerk**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 7.57pm.