

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2017
7.30pm – Parish Office

MINUTES

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Present: Cllr Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Ludlow, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker

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

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received, noted and reasons accepted as follows:

Cllrs Winnett (holiday), Wright (family commitment)

2. Declarations of Interest – 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

2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction

Scheme being progressed and construction to take place in October. Work expected to take 2 nights.

2.2 – **222/224 Bull Lane** – Court date for Stopping Up Order set for 25 September 2017. This Order will release land for parking spaces in front of the new development but a width sufficient for a pedestrian footway (pavement) will remain.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Speedwatch – Equipment now working. Clerk has completed first stage of training. Awaiting news of the volunteers’ completion of same training.

3.2 – Slow sign on slip road off the A229 towards Aylesford currently situated under the bridge. Cllr Rillie asked that Kent Highways be requested to move the sign to the actual slip road before the Lower Warren Road junction to improve safety at this junction as well as the junctions under the bridge. **Clerk**

Office will also pursue lighting repairs required on the slip road which were scheduled for August. **Clerk**

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Awaiting revised plans from KCC. Clerk is continuing to pursue.

4.2 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

Work scheduled to commence at the A20/Hermitage Lane junction next week.

4.3 – **Forstal Road/Bridge Approach Junction** – Sight line to be checked and tree trimming from Old Bridge Gardens to be undertaken as necessary. **Clerk**

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 Fostington Way/Tunbury Avenue Speeding

Clerk reported on his enquires with Kent Highways regarding Speed Indicator Devices or similar for this area. KH have advised that they have researched the area and not found sufficient evidence of speeding or accident records to warrant any further action by themselves. With KH approval, the Parish Council could fund their own traffic survey at a cost of between £600 to £800 and/or fund a SID or similar at a cost of approximately £7000. Local Members advised that any sign would need to be placed for traffic coming up the hill and therefore would be within the Medway Authority.

After discussion it was **agreed** to take no further action at present but local members will continue to monitor the situation.

6. Public Footpaths - No report to this meeting.

7. Street Lighting

Upgrading to LED of Old Bridge Gardens – awaited.

8. Car Parks

Parish Council private car park at entrance to AVCC/Parish Council. To be relined in house.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

Boundary Wall – 79 Rochester Road: The owner of the property has advised the Clerk that he believes that damage caused to his boundary wall has been caused by shrubbery located on the Parish Council's path leading to Yoakley Land. He has asked that the Parish Council meet the costs of replacing this wall with fencing. The Clerk gave the legal position regarding this matter and that as an adjoining landowner the Council could make a without prejudice offer to pay half the costs of replacement. Members authorised the Clerk to proceed on this basis. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Local **history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this following on from the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

1.2 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** - New mower received and in use.

1.3 – All Sites Security

All ordered security bollards and gates now installed. Padlock and key distribution being organised by the Clerk.

See Item 4. Forstal Road below re proposed height barrier.

2. The Hollow

Clerk to consider short and long term enhancement programme alongside a review of all play equipment in the Parish. **Clerk**

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – Upgrade of multi-play equipment – Clerk to report back to Committee on progress in due course.

3.2 – Rugby parking and pitch request – 17 September and 5 November 2017 – Already Agreed.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Aylesford Football Club Tournament – 2nd and 3rd September – Already agreed.

4.2 – Height barrier proposal at entrance – Clerk discussed with Members the installation of a height barrier at the entrance for additional security for the car park itself. There are a number implications to this including access for refuse and delivery lorries, emergency vehicle access for the football club, which need to be ironed out. Initial quote for the work £760. The Clerk was authorised to proceed on the basis of this quote subject to him being satisfied that the issues for access for the above vehicles can be managed to enable access whilst maintaining security. **Clerk**

4.3 – Scout Fun Day – Proposed date 15 July 2018. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

5. Allotments

Pricing for 2019/20. Clerk to report to future meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 – Fair on site 14-21 August 2017. Successful visit.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 - Tunbury Hall **Car Park** – Cllr Elvy queried why TH car park was closed this morning. Clerk stated that the car park, whilst formally belonging to the Parish Council, is principally for the use of Tunbury Hall and also provides parking for the local school term time at drop off/pick up times. Enquiry as to arrangements during the holidays to be made. **Clerk**

7.2 – **Rotabounce** Play Equipment – Clerk reported on this faulty piece of equipment, manufactured by Playdale, installed by Wicksteed. Fault was reported within a year of its installation. Playdale and Wicksteed are in dispute over responsibility and Wicksteed have suggested that the Parish Council and themselves share equally the costs of repair. Members were not prepared to accept this and the Clerk was instructed to inform Wicksteed that the Council expected the faulty equipment to be repaired at no charge to the Council. **Clerk**

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site – No report to this meeting.

10. Cemetery

10.1 - Long term future **extension**. This item will appear on the ESC agenda each month for progress report from the Clerk as appropriate.

10.2 – **Ashes scattering area** – rose beds. Several years ago the rose beds were installed to provide an ashes scattering area. There has only ever been one scattering and the option was removed from the Cemetery Fees list a number of years ago. The Office has now received a request to scatter ashes in the cemetery. They do not wish to purchase a formal plot or install a headstone etc.

It was **agreed** to reinstate the option to scatter the ashes in the rose beds at a current one off cost of £125 (in parish rate as a local resident). This is the same charge as interment of ashes in an existing grave. The charge will cover attendance of a member of Council staff at the scattering, administration costs of recording name etc of the deceased in the cemetery records and on going cemetery maintenance costs. The deceased family will also be offered the option of purchasing a rose themselves which the Parish Council will plant and maintain in line with the overall general maintenance of the rose bed at no additional cost. However the Council will not accept any responsibility if the rose does not survive. **Clerk**

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Proposed Bicycle sign in the Old Bridge Gardens. To be supplied and maintained by the Village Pantry as a form advertising. After discussion, it was **agreed** that the Council would not wish to set a precedent for OBG (a public open space) as a site for advertising and therefore permission for this bicycle should not be given. **Clerk**

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

The Clerk informed Members that he has received an enquiry from Gullands Estate Agents regarding provision of a Deed of Easement along Mill Hall to the Old Forge which is currently on the market. The Council has previously allowed a right of access to the property when it was used formerly as a Scout Hut. Clerk will continue discussions with Gullands and report back to the Council.

14. Yoakley Land - No report to this meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces - No report to this meeting.

16. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, New car park

Minor repair to tarmac access road being investigated in order to prevent water accessing neighbouring property. Initial specification and quotation of £7200 considered to be excessive. Clerk to report following meeting with contractor re a more basic solution.

17. Podkin Meadow

Long term project will continue in the Autumn.

18. Christmas Lighting

18.1 - Old Bridge, Aylesford – Repair of two arches and replacement as necessary - £1320.
Agreed. Clerk

18.2 - Eccles – Two more lamp post lights requested by Cllr Gledhill. Approximate cost just over £1000 (including fixture installations). To be funded from underspend in Eccles Church Hall grant. **Agreed. Clerk**

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

19.1 - Bull Lane Footpath (up to the Pilgrims Way) – Request from the National Grid for overhead cabling agreement. Wayleave payment of £300 plus annual right of way payment.
Agreed. Clerk

19.2 – Aylesford Quarry – Cllr Homewood reported that he had been invited to a meeting at the Quarry with representatives of the Aylesford Heritage Group on Friday 25 August 10am. Cllr Elvy agreed to attend with him.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.35pm.