

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

**MINUTES**

**TUESDAY 22 JANUARY 2019**

**Present:** Cllrs Mrs Gadd (in the Chair), Ms Dorrington, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

**In attendance for Item 3.** Rob Wiles, TMBC Jenny Newham and Joshua Glaze, Environment Agency

**Apologies:** Cllrs Balcombe, Base, Elvy, Gledhill, Homewood, Kennedy, Ludlow

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**1. Apologies** received and reasons accepted as follows:

Cllrs Balcombe (unwell), Base (TMBC meeting), Elvy (unwell), Gledhill (family commitment), Homewood (unwell), Kennedy (personal commitment), Ludlow (work).

**2. Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members' Interests.

**3. Presentation from Environment Agency on Aylesford Village Flood Plan**

In a combined presentation, Jenny Newham, Joshua Glaze from the EA and Rob Wiles from TMBC, addressed Members regarding the revised Aylesford Village Flood Plan. This was launched in November at the Aylesford Farmers Market where it was well received. The EA are now seeking the assistance of the Parish Council to continue to promote the Plan, recruit more Flood Wardens and to draw attention to the information available on line at the Kent Prepared Website – Help Your Community.

On the website there are scenario exercises for 'before, during and after' a flood which are recommended as a good practice insight as to what is required in the event of an emergency.

There are currently only two formerly appointed Flood Wardens for the village. The EA are awaiting a response from residents of Allington and Ditton Parish Council who have

expressed an interest in assisting the village if not affected by a flooding themselves. It is also expected that Kent and Medway Fire Service Volunteers would be able to help. Two hour introductory training sessions for new wardens are arranged on a regular basis by the EA. The role of Flood Wardens could be expanded to General Emergency Wardens.

It is hoped to hold a full Aylesford Village live exercise in May/June which would involve all existing and new flood wardens.

Residents in properties which have emergency flood equipment installed, ie. pumps and screens may need updates on the correct use and installation of their equipment.

Leaflets are available from the EA with information on how to access the flood plan and other relevant information. The Parish Council are asked to assist with promoting these on noticeboards and website.

Cllr Rillie asked for further information on warnings regarding the stream levels rather than relying on visiting the village to view the gauge.

The Clerk will review the literature given out tonight by the EA to assess how best the Parish Council can assist. **Clerk**

Cllr Mrs Gadd thanked Rob, Jenny and Joshua for attending and their presentation this evening.

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

### **1. General Highway**

#### **1.1 - KCC Highway Improvement Plan**

Clerk still awaiting a response from KCC on the implementation of a Highways Improvement Plan.

#### **2. Eccles Highway Matters - No report to this meeting.**

### **3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

3.1 – Lights on the slip road off the A229. Response received from KCC Street Lighting Engineer, regarding this ongoing outage. New bollards have been installed but a no entry sign has gone and an accident over Christmas damaged one of the columns. The supply to all these items are interconnected so KCC have to request the underground utility plans to trace the source of the fault and establish what work is required. The damaged column and missing sign will be put back at the same time. The Clerk will continue to liaise with KCC re progress.

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

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Clerk updated the Committee on latest position. He has discussed with an engineering consultant a revised reduced scheme to include replacement paving, replacement grills around the trees, repointing of the walls and replacement of the 'spikey' tree. The Clerk has sent these initial proposals to KCC Highways to see if they could give approval to this type of scheme. Response awaited. If they agree the initial proposals will be developed into a full and detailed scheme to be submitted to KCC for formal approval.

4.2 – **A20/Homebase Flooding** – Awaiting update from Kent Highways on work proposed to be undertaken with Crown Estates.

#### **4.3 – Village Entrance (Cage Hill)**

Road surface repairs have been carried out but gate painting awaited. Clerk to follow this up with TMBC. **Clerk**

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

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

##### **7. Street Lighting**

**5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.** No reports to this meeting.

##### **8. Car Parks**

##### **9. Bus Services**

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

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

#### **1. All Sites**

1.1 - **Play Equipment** - Wicksteed repairs following inspection completed. In house work on-going.

1.2 - **Caloo Outdoor Gym Equipment** – Annual inspection due to include minor repairs – 3 sites - £948. Will take place 24/25 January 2019.

1.3 - **Resurfacing Works** – Resurfacing of various play equipment areas in Forstal Road, Eccles and Tunbury recreation grounds. The Clerk reported to the meeting on quotations received. Summary attached at **Appendix A**.

It was **agreed** to proceed with the Playspaces overlay quotation, initially first at Eccles multiplay - £3360. As this is the first item of work this company has undertaken for the Council, the standard of work will be monitored by the Clerk and if successful the other sites will also be awarded to Playspaces. **Clerk**

#### **1.4 - Grounds Maintenance Work**

Cemetery – Clerk reported on his discussions with Kent Turf Care regarding the standard of work required in the cemetery. KTC have slightly revised their price to £345 per cut to meet these standards which still represents a considerable saving on the other quote received. It

was therefore **agreed** to accept KTC quotation. Standard of work will be closely monitored by the Clerk . **Clerk**

## **2. The Hollow**

Clerk still considering proposals for upgrade of play equipment at The Hollow but Ferryfield is to take priority at the present time.

## **3. Ferryfield**

3.1 - Play Equipment Replacement Phase 1 – Clerk updated the Committee on proposals received and the consultation being undertaken. Aylesford South Members and ESC Chairman have reviewed the three alternative schemes with differing choices and preferences. Clerk has also arranged with St Peters Primary School for Year 6 children to look at the plans with the Chairman and Clerk on Friday (25 Jan). Report to be made to the next meeting.

3.2 – Request from North West Kent Dog Training Club for 2019 Show on 26/27/28 July. Already agreed.

3.3 – Ferryfield Additional Security Measures – Work completed.

3.4 – Rugby Club

- Request for Ferryfield for tournament parking – Sunday 10 February and Sunday 24 March 2019. **Agreed Clerk**
- To note – New metal gates to be installed by the Club at the end of the concrete road into the car park. Noted.

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

Installation of replacement litter bins in play equipment area and teenage shelter due to existing bins rotting away has been undertaken but are not satisfactory. TMBC to rectify. Awaited.

**5. Allotments** - No report to this meeting.

## **6. Eccles Recreation Ground**

Clerk reported on a quote to clear trees and shrubs from footpath next to recreation ground – Station Haulage £795 – following a meeting with Kent Highways regarding the on-going maintenance of the area. It was proposed that the Parish Council accept this one off clearance quote which will then enable KH to include the area in their verge cutting schedule. **Agreed Clerk**

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

CCTV - Installation to commence 25 January 2019.

## **8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

### **9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site**

### **10. Cemetery**

**8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13.** No report to this meeting.

### **11. Churchyard**

### **12. Old Bridge Gardens**

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

## **14. Yoakley Land**

Clerk reported on progress with the Yoakley Land enhancement project. £5000 grant received from Gallaghers towards project.

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership will undertake bat and newt surveys. They will also provide a quotation for a volunteer project to undertake clearance of rubbish and debris. Parish Council will appoint a contractor to undertake a tree inspection and survey.

## **15. Walderslade Open Spaces – No report to this meeting.**

## **16. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park**

Belgrave Street/Car Park approach road repairs – Clerk researching land ownership and quotations for remedial work – on-going.

## **17. Podkin Meadow**

17.1 - Awaiting installation of new dual purpose litter/dog bins.

17.2 - Long term project continuing and further wild flower and grass seed sowing will take place in the near future subject to ground and weather conditions. Clerk in regular contact with contractor.

## **18. Christmas Lights**

Review of lights for Christmas 2019. Meeting to be arranged.

Cllr Wright expressed particular concern at the very limited number of nights the Walderslade tree lights were working this Christmas. Noted.

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

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.20pm.