

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 2016

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Jones, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Ms Dorrington, Winnett, Wright

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1. Apologies

Apologies and the reasons for them were noted and accepted as follows:

Cllrs Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Ms Dorrington (care of ill friend), Winnett (holiday), Wright (holiday).

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

2.1 - Proposed **pedestrian crossing** in Bull Lane. Following rejection by local residents of the original proposed site for the new crossing (reference Council Meeting held on 19 July), Cllr Homewood (in his capacity of County Councillor) and the Parish Council are awaiting survey agreement from resident and local members. Cllr Homewood asked for local members’ opinion on the most appropriate site. Cllr Gledhill stated that following informal discussions he has had with residents, a site near Alma Road would be preferred. Cllr Gledhill agreed to hold a site meeting with Cllr Homewood to look at this matter further.

It was **agreed** that the scheme for a new crossing in Bull Lane be considered at the next ESC meeting (27 September 2016) when a decision will need to be made if it is to be funded in this year.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Milestone – Work and installation completed.

3.2 – **A229 Slip Road** – Overhanging vegetation reported to Kent Highways.

3.3 – **Village Entrance from Lord Lees roundabout** – Clerk has written to Kent Highways asking how best to deal with the situation whereby vehicles wanting to access the A229 are entering BBH Village including getting Sat Nav companies to ensure their routes are updated to show there is no access to the A229 through BBH Village.

3.4 – **Planters** – Awaiting quotes.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Work completed. Effectiveness to be monitored as darker evenings come on.

4.2 - Aylesford Village Square

Consultation letter has been sent to local High Street residents and businesses. Results of consultation to be reported to meeting at end of September. Initial responses are overall in favour but there is concern about the removal of the trees.

Cllr Rillie reported the dangerous condition of the existing metal grills around the trees which are lifting and creating a trip hazard. Clerk to inspect and resolve. **Clerk**

4.3 – **A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford** – No report to this meeting.

4.4 – **Hall Road Motorway Bridge Fencing** - Awaiting decision from Highways England on how to finance specialist fencing required.

4.5 – **Rochester Road** – Stream cleared and adjacent road side cleared of weeds as much as safely possible in joint project between EA and Parish Council staff. It has been agreed by the EA and the Parish Council spraying contractor that the road side can be included in future spot weed spraying schedule without any detriment to the stream.

4.6 – **Rochester Road Water** – Cllr Rillie advised that the continuing water puddling near Pratling Street in Rochester Road is the responsibility of Southern Water and is coming from a defective pumping main in one of the adjacent fields. Repair will require loss of water/reduction in water pressure for a short period and SW wish to delay repair until the current period of hot weather is over. Members expressed their concern that the water is a hazard particularly to motorcyclists with potential for aquaplaning and should be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Clerk to make enquiries with SW. **Clerk**

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 – **Tunbury Avenue** – High overgrown vegetation between Woodbury Road and Oaks Dene which is particularly affecting high sided vehicles such as buses reported. Also vegetation affecting sight lines on to Walderslade Woods Road.

5.2 – **Parking Restrictions** – Chippendale Close. Issues involving vans being used for storage parked in this area reported to TMBC in conjunction with planning enforcement enquiry.

6. Public Footpaths

River Medway Towpath – Commencement of work between Aylesford and Allington awaited. Footpath Orders now made and in consultation process.

7. **Street Lighting** – No report to this meeting.

8. Car Parks

Aylesford TMBC Car Parks – Hedge cutting has taken place in both car parks.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – **155 Evening Bus Service** – Arriva are proposing to withdraw this service – 2 buses in each direction between Maidstone and Chatham. Opposition from local residents, local councillors and the MP. Meeting with Arriva being held on 25 August to be attended by Cllrs Homewood, Base and Gledhill. Report will be made back to the Parish Council.

9.2 – **Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way Junction** – Concerns have always been expressed about the safety of this junction but there are increased concerns now with the imminent opening of the new bridge that increased traffic will bring further dangers. Clerk will write to KCC raising these issues. **Clerk**

9.3 – **Old Chatham Road, Boxley** – Boxley Parish Council are lobbying Kent Highways to partly reintroduce some parking spaces where bollards have been installed on the Old Chatham Road (towards Maidstone direction) not only for cars and vans but also for coaches visiting Kent Wildlife Tyland Barn. It was **agreed** that Aylesford Parish Council should offer their support to this Boxley Parish Council proposal. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

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

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

3. **Ferryfield**

Dog Show request for May 2017. Culverstone Dog Club have asked to use Ferryfield next year not only for overflow car parking from the Rugby Club but also to site some of the show rings in order to make the event more easily available to view by the general public (free of charge). This was **agreed** in principle but the Club will be asked to identify on a map of the site the exact area required. **Clerk**

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - On-going complaints regarding balls in gardens and noise from **MUGA** from local residents. Improved fencing and anti-climb paint to be installed.

4.2 – **Wall beside Sandbag Container** – The Licensee of The Bush who own this wall have expressed concerns that ivy, tree roots, stored wood chips and the container are potentially damaging the wall and causing it to lean. She is seeking assurance that the wall is safe and/or remedial work to be carried out by Council. Clerk has asked a ragstone specialist to inspect who has advised he considers the wall is safe and not in danger of falling. Quote to rebuild has also been obtained – remove and replace with fence £2140 (not likely to be acceptable as the wall is within the conservation area); remove and rebuild £4280.

Members considered that it is not the Parish Council’s responsibility to identify any problems with this wall or to pay for repairs unless it is proved by the owner that any damage has been caused by issues coming from the container side of the wall. The Clerk was instructed to seek legal advice regarding the Parish Council’s responsibility in this matter. **Clerk**

5. Allotments – No report to this meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 – Local stonemason has been asked to inspect and quote to clean and reinstate names on clock memorial.

6.2 – Grass verge area immediately adjacent to the recreation ground boundary to be cut in-house as KCC are only cutting a limited distance back from the footway. **Clerk**

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. No reports to this meeting.

10. Cemetery

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Request from TMBC Environmental Health for rat baiting survey following incidents at The Hengist. In progress. Three of four reports received. Company have stated on first inspection of the site that they consider the derelict area behind the Business Centre is likely to be a major area of concern.

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

14. Yoakley Land 13, 14, 15. – No reports to this meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

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

Following a report of larger than permitted vehicles using the Belgrave Street rear access road, the Clerk has investigated the cost of a height barrier for the area - £1675. Members felt however that with the number of health and safety issues and potential for the barrier to prohibit vans, 4 x 4s etc who are entitled to use the access, they would not proceed with this at the present time. The situation will be monitored for any future problems and if so the matter will be brought back to committee.

17. Podkin Meadow

Quote awaited from the grass maintenance contractor to undertake a long term bramble clearance exercise in order to revert more of the site back to a traditional meadow. Brambles at the rear of properties will be retained together with small trees growing within the brambles as far as is practical. Dew pond areas to be looked at and assessed.

Dog fouling – Signage awaiting installation.

18. Summer Playscheme

Clerk awaiting clarification as to whether any funding from Parish Council would only support Aylesford Parish residents TMBC Leisure Passes. No further action.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

19.1 – **Royal British Legion Village** – Play Equipment. RBLI have asked the Parish Council for assistance in the provision of a play equipment area on land in front of the Base Camp café. Site meeting was held with Wicksteed and quotations are awaited. RBLI have done their own fund raising and are seeking financial assistance from Golding Homes, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund and the Parish Council. This project was welcomed by Members and supported in principle. Subject to sight of the specification, quotation and other funding commitments, Members would consider a donation in the region of £5000 - £10000.

19.2 – **Climate Coalition** – Walk being organised by Aylesford WI in support of concerns regarding the effects of climate change on the local community. Takes place 13 October leaving from Aylesford Village. Details to be circulated to all Members for direct contact with the organisers if they wish to take part. Information also available in the Parish office.

Clerk

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.40pm.