

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2015
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Homewood, Rillie, Shelley, Smith

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

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Walker, Winnett, Wright

1. Apologies from Cllrs Balcombe (holiday), Mrs Brooks (care of an elderly relative), Walker (TMBC Meeting), Winnett (holiday) and Wright (personal engagement) were noted and reasons accepted.

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

Proposed pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane. Cllr Homewood reported that monitoring wires have been placed across Bull Lane to assess volume and speed of traffic. They will be in place until 29 June. In order for a non-traffic light crossing to be viable the average speed of traffic must be less than 35mph. The actual site of the crossing is yet to be finalised. Cllr Homewood confirmed he has pledged 50% of the cost from his KCC Members Grant budget and will be looking to the Parish Council for funding support as KCC have indicated they have no other funding available for this project. Members agreed to consider funding implications once the vehicle monitoring has established whether the project is viable and when actual costs are known.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

Milestone – Stonemason now has stone and will carry out work as soon as workload allows.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project

The contractor has indicated the cost of the original scheme could be reduced by using amateur archaeologists but Members agreed they still did not consider the original scheme represented good value for money for local residents.

Clerk has been investigating alternative lighting schemes as requested but there appear to be very limited options. There are existing lights at each end of the old bridge and floodlighting, either of which it may be possible to adjust to provide better lighting for pedestrians walking over the bridge at night. It was **agreed** that local members and the Clerk would visit the old bridge in the dark to ascertain a better perspective of what was required. It was accepted this may not take place until later in the year.

4.2 – **Flooding:** Opposite Brassey Centre - Work awaited. Clerk has pursued this with Kent Highways due to the length of time this work has been outstanding. Drain has been cleaned which has led to some improvement but major work required is not prioritised. Site will continue to be monitored.

4.3 – **Rochester Road speed humps** to be re-profiled by Kent Highways. Work to be programmed and will require the road to be closed. Date awaited. Clerk has pursued. Awaiting detailed response. It has been noted that there is a road closure for Rochester Road on Sunday 28 June. Clerk is enquiring whether this is for these works but it is thought unlikely.

4.4 - Aylesford Village Square

1. Initial design received. Comments made at P&R have been reported back to designer. Clerk opening discussions with TMBC Conservation Officer.

Cllr Rillie added his view that the paving should be laid in a herringbone pattern. Noted.

Clerk reported on his discussions with Fitzpatrick Woolmer re incorporating a map/historical information into a table top. He also indicated that they could also supply street furniture which could be designed to collaborate and meet the requirements of a conservation area. This was welcomed and local members suggested a site meeting with FW, followed by production of an illustration to be presented to all members for consideration. Clerk to discuss further with FW and arrange as appropriate. **Clerk**

2. BT broadband box in Square – Resited satisfactorily. Some remedial work to paving still required.

4.5 – A20 between Larkfield and Aylesford – Joint initiative between Ditton, E Malling & Larkfield and Aylesford Parish Councils re traffic flow problem agreed to request a meeting TMBC. TMBC have agreed to this once they have discussed the matter further with Kent Highways.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters - No report to this meeting.

6. Public Footpaths

Walderslade – Path beside 27 Sheraton Way.

Members have stated that as the path has been a recognised, regularly used and tarmaced access path to MR441, the Parish Council should seek to get it officially classified as a PROW. The Clerk reported that Kent Public Rights of Way have informed him that proof of use over the last 20 years is required and that the current waiting list for KPROW to consider applications is currently 2 ½ years.

Cllr Elvy stated that there were a number of other paths in the area in the same situation as this one, particularly Walsham Road, and if the Parish Council decided to go ahead it would be worth listing all of them in the application.

This issue arose due to a resident apparently encroaching on to the path with new boundary fencing. In view of the lengthy time and heavy workload the exercise of getting paths officially classified is going to involve, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should seek to and establish land ownership of these paths (thought to be KCC) and to then report encroachments to the appropriate landowner for action. **Clerk**

7. Lighting

Bull Lane – Upgrade project to allow lights to be adopted by Kent Highways. Awaiting confirmation of completion.

KCC Safe and Sensible Lighting Policy – Response to Clerk’s letter to Kent Highways re future policy in particular relating to Walsham Road as per resident’s presentation to Council on 19 May. KCC will commence works in 2016 and it is anticipated that these works should last 15 months. There is currently no identification of which roads will be done first other than residential areas will be completed first.

8. Car Parks

TMBC Aylesford Bridge car park - Clerk’s report attached at **Appendix A**. Following consideration of this report, Members **agreed** the costings were not representing good value for money to local residents and therefore recommended that this project not be taken forward. Clerk to advise TMBC. **Clerk**

AVCC/AFC/Parish Council car park – Clerk reported on discussions with AVCC and Football Club on the Forstal Road recreation ground car park. Both parties have requested a widening of the passing point near the entrance and an extension of the temporary car park. Members considered that in view of the limited number of times the car park does not provide sufficient spaces for hall/football club/parish council/recreation ground users, the

Council could not warrant the likely costs of around £10-20,000 to extend the car park and expand the passing point. The TMBC village car parks are within easy walking distance of the site and the TMBC grass overflow car park is also available for busy times such as the annual football tournament.

Members welcomed the Clerk's report that the hall and the football club are liaising re bookings therefore insuring that major events for either organisation do not clash.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 - Rochester Road

Cllr Rillie reported the **40mph speed sign** has been turned the wrong way and also requires vegetation clearance. Clerk to report to Kent Highways. **Clerk**

Cllr Rillie reported the **dangerous entrance/exit from MR464** straight on to Rochester Road. Hedge cutting back to provide a better recess would assist. Clerk to report to Kent PROW. **Clerk**

The Clerk reported several complaints regarding **heavy lorries** coming down Rochester Road and entering the village rather than adhering to the correct route via Pratling Street. In view of media attention to similar problems in other villages which are being addressed by Kent Highways under Matthew Balfour, the Clerk has passed these concerns to Mr Balfour who has acknowledged receipt and promised a more details response in due course. Cllr Homewood added that he has also received these concerns and has spoken to Kent Highways who are considering increasing the visibility of the sign directing HGVs to Pratling Street.

9.2 – Peters Village – Trenport have enquired if Members would be interested in a tour of the Peters Village site. There was considerable interest from Members and the Clerk will therefore liaise with Trenport for a mutually convenient date. **Clerk**

9.3 – Speed Watch – Cllr Walker has expressed an interest in Kent Community Speed Watch. This was supported by Members who agreed that any costs would be met by the Council. Clerk to make enquiries and put Cllr Walker in touch with the Group. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

Local history signs – Clerk looking at methods of updating historical content of original signs before contacting potential suppliers. These will be considered in conjunction with the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project – see A.4.4 above.

2. The Hollow

Surfacing repair under swings required before it gets any worse. Initial quote received from Wicksteed - £1000 but surface has deteriorated further and cost has increased to £1450. Clerk has authorised work to take place immediately and is in hand.

Repairs required to the contour slide steps. One requires complete replacement and others are being monitored. Repair quote for one step accepted - £190.

3. Ferryfield

In house repair has been carried out to pedestrian gate wall beside main gates.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Redundant tennis courts - Project nearly completed. Delay on delivery of galvanised equipment – goals/nets etc.

Football Club Tournament – 5/6 September 2015.

Car park fencing – Quote for repairs requested. Clerk was **authorised** to proceed if costs are reasonable.

5. Allotments

Aylesford - New numbers still to be installed.

Eccles - One compulsory termination of hire carried out due to non-cultivation

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Skateboard park completed – Bench and plaque awaiting installation.

Request for additional goal posts for information kick about area. Considered but any further goals would encroach on flexibility of layout of formal football pitches and are therefore not feasible.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Gap in fence between recreation ground and the school has been repaired by the school.

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

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

10. Cemetery - No report to this meeting.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens - Pet Service - 12 July 2015

13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge) - No report to this meeting.

14. Yoakley Land

Work on a long term plan and strategy for the area as a whole being considered by the Clerk for further discussion with Members at a future meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

Bollards – Clerk pursuing the issue of bollards with Kent PROW.

16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds - No report to this meeting.

17. Podkin Meadow – No report to this meeting.

18. Christmas Lighting

Following the site meeting with Gala Lights the following proposals are in hand for Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade.

Aylesford

Additional decoration on the lamppost in Forstal Road £485 – ordered.

Blue Bell Hill

Church have welcomed the installation of lights for the tree within their boundary £3875 – ordered.

Walderslade

Lighting of tree at the junction of Tunbury Avenue and Catkin Close £1955 – ordered.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.30pm.