

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
23 MAY 2017

MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Ms Dorrington, Wright

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1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Ms Dorrington (personal) and Cllr Wright (work). Noted and reasons accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests – There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

3. Chairmanship

Cllr Base was proposed as Chairman of the Committee by Cllr Winnett, seconded Cllr Smith and was unanimously elected.

Cllr Base accepted the Chairmanship.

Cllr Elvy was proposed as Vice Chairman of the Committee by Cllr Base, seconded Cllr Balcombe and was unanimously elected.

Cllr Elvy accepted the Vice Chairmanship.

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.** No report to this meeting.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

'No HGV pictorial sign' to be installed. Reported as in place although not very big. To be monitored.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Awaiting revised plans from Amey. Clerk is pursuing.

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

4.3 – **Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter** – Highways England promised Tracey Crouch MP that fence repairs and litter clearance would take place in April. However no progress to date.

Cllr Rillie added that he would like to see the dilapidated wire fencing replaced with post and rail type as on the east side. This would be easier to maintain and would prevent the litter and silt build up.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

Fostington Way/Tunbury Avenue – Traffic speeds, particularly leading up to the puffin crossing. Clerk has reopened this matter with Kent Highways and Medway Council and is awaiting a reply.

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - **River Medway Towpath MR 473** – Path is fully open and has been well received. Number of requests for dog bins, litter bins and benches. These are not Parish Council responsibilities although Members agreed that if a request for privately funded memorial benches are requested by any resident this site could be suggested.

KCC have requested Parish Council take on maintenance responsibility for life buoys. This was **agreed** with a maximum annual budget of £200. **Clerk**

6.2 – **Eccles to Aylesford** – Both the footway and footpath areas of this well used path are badly overgrown. County Councillor Homewood will raise with Kent Highways and Kent Public Rights of Way and the Parish Council will also report. **Clerk**

7. Street Lighting

7.1 – The five Old Bridge Gardens lights need to be changed to LED and to change these and retain the heritage style lamps will cost £976 each compared to a normal LED cost of £295. The upgrade will include painting of the columns which the Parish Council were to undertake in house. Members agreed that they would prefer to retain the heritage style lamps and therefore expenditure of £4880 (5 columns) was **agreed.** **Clerk**

7.2 – Streetlights maintenance contract. Clerk updated the Committee on the current position including the cost of converting the remaining lights to LED.

Cost to convert remaining Parish Council lights to LED would be £9765. Proposed for agreement by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Gledhill. **Agreed Clerk**

Proposed Maintenance contract negotiated with Streetlights - £3819 per annum for the next three years. Some of this cost will be taken up by the reduction in energy costs following conversion to LED. Proposed for acceptance by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd. **Agreed Clerk**

8. Car Parks

New Eccles Car Park - Request from local resident for height barrier to prevent parking of commercial vehicles. Estimated cost £1000. Members **agreed** this was not cost effective or desirable as it would push the vehicles back on to the narrow streets in Eccles.

It was **agreed** to allow the boundary hedge on the eastern boundary to grow up a little higher by not cutting it this year and then reassessing the line next year. Contractor to be advised. **Clerk**

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – **Dropped Kerb request.** Resident request for dropped kerbs around the traffic lights/entrance into Royal British Legion Village particularly for access to the Capel Morris Centre. Members **agreed** this should be passed to the RBLI. **Clerk**

9.2 – **A20 Homebase flooding.** This was a major problem again during recent heavy rain. County Councillor Homewood stated he would be raising the matter again with Kent Highways.

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** – This item to remain on agenda as an ad memoire until Clerk is ready to make his report to a future meeting on additional work to be carried out in-house and equipment required.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – Traveller invasion (now cleared). Clerk advised the Committee that costs will be forthcoming from TMBC for the legal work involved and for assistance with the clear up, although a lot of work had been undertaken by Council staff. Noted.

3.2 - Dog Show 13 – 14 May 2017. Event held with no problems.

3.4 – Circus visit – 24 April for 3 nights. Event held with no problems.

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

3.7 – Height barrier replacement – installed.

3.8 – Rugby parking request – 4 June 2017 – Agreed.

3.9 – Dog show – 21/22/23 July – Already agreed

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

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Aylesford Scout Group 16 July Fun Day Fund Raising event. Already agreed.

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

5. Allotments

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

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Superglue vandalism incident on some items of play equipment was reported to the Council. The family of the culprits (not known to the Council) made some attempt to clear it but the majority of the work was done by Council staff.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground **7. 8. 9.** – No reports to this meeting.

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery

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

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

12.1 - Request to use OBG for Big Lunch on Sunday 18 June. Already agreed.

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

16.1 - 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 still discussing with contractor a more basic solution.

16.2 – Request for a ‘**meadow**’ area in the vicinity of St Marks Square. Members **agreed** that the main grassed area was not suitable and the other suggested site, a strip behind the new car park, would not be big enough to have any effect. It was **agreed** that in future discussions with Trenport regarding development in the area, a request for a formal meadow area be considered.

Clerk

17. Podkin Meadow

On-going project, work well received so far.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.27pm.