

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2017
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Elvy (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Jones, Mrs Phibbs, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Shelley, Walker

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received and reasons accepted as follows: Cllrs Base (TMBC meeting), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Homewood (KCC meeting), Shelley (holiday), Walker (TMBC meeting).

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 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction.

Kent Highways have agreed to do a traffic survey and feasibility study in the New Year.

Local Bull Lane Safety Group continues to keep up the pressure on Kent Highways for improvements to this junction. Public meeting held on 19 January. Clerk and local members attended. Clerk gave the following report:

The meeting was well managed and attended. Speakers included representatives of the Safety Group, Tracy Crouch MP, County Councillor Peter Homewood and Kent Highways Cabonnet Member Matthew Balfour. There was an opportunity for questions to all parties.

Matthew Balfour confirmed his awareness of the strength of local opinion and that a resolution will be researched but funding will remain an issue and may only be solved with the assistance not only of the Parish Council who have pledged £10,000 and Cllr Homewood who has pledged funds from his Member's Grant, but from others working in partnership. Kent Highways have undertaken a feasibility study, the results of which should be known within six weeks. Further consultation will then take place.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - **Planters** – Authority to site received from Kent Highways. To be installed in-house.

3.2 – **Slip Road** – Lighting is still out. County Cllr Homewood agreed at Council meeting in January to take this up with Kent Highways.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Awaiting revised plans from Amey following the consultation with residents. Clerk to pursue. **Clerk**

4.2 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

A20/Hermitage Lane - Meeting held on 12 January 2017 with TMBC, KCC, Aylesford, Ditton and Larkfield Parish Councils to include traffic matters. Cllr Balcombe and the Clerk attended and the Clerk gave the following report:

The meeting was informative. Amey representative confirmed that the modelling work along this stretch of the A20 will be completed by Spring/early Summer and this can then be used as the basis for assessing the highway element of future planning applications. He confirmed that KCC are currently working on three main schemes:

1. Hermitage Lane/A20 junction
2. Junction 5 Signalisation
3. Coldharbour roundabout

The Plan for the works on Hermitage Lane should be with KCC in February and those plans together with any plans for the Quick Win schemes on the A20 which would also be with KCC at the same time, will be made available to the parishes.

The meeting also discussed the planning application for the Aylesford Newsprint site. This appears to be an ever changing situation and TMBC have indicated that the deadline for responses is likely to be put back to April or maybe even May. Some housing is almost inevitable together with the possible opening of Bellingham Way but a new motorway junction is unlikely unless the developers are prepared to fund it.

All parties found the meeting useful and it was proposed that another should be arranged for March/April.

4.3 – **Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter** - Tracey Crouch MP has now taken this matter up with Highways England and is pursuing a response.

4.4 – **Rochester Road Water** – Second leak from Tottingham Farm pond overflow where the pipe appears to be blocked has been reported to Kent Highways and Southern Water as a potential hazard in icy conditions.

4.5 – **Hermitage Lane** – Request from resident for pavement on the east (station) side of Hermitage Lane. Clerk to respond that whilst the Parish Council would be supportive by forwarding the request to Kent Highways, it is unlikely to be successful unless further developments are agreed and developers agree to assist with funding.

4.6 – **Hall Road Zebra Crossing** – Cllr Balcombe has been informed that the ‘halos’ promised by Kent Highways for this crossing are now in stock and will be fitted within the next few weeks. He thanked County Councillor Homewood for chasing this up.

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

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - **River Medway Towpath MR 473** – Work is progressing on this project due for completion by the end of March. BAM Compound set up on Yoakley paddock (adjacent to allotments on Forstal Road) using water supply from the allotments and will be contributing to costs.

7. Street Lighting

7.1 - Old Bridge Gardens lights painting will be done in house.

7.2 – Tunbury Hall Car Park – One column required complete replacement - £850 already agreed. Work completed. Whilst on site the contractor upgraded this and other columns to LED.

7.3 – Streetlights maintenance contract. Awaiting revised price following Clerk’s meeting with contractor.

8. Car Parks – No report to this meeting.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence – No report to this meeting.

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.

1.3 – **2017/2018 Fees** – Clerk’s proposals for an approximate increase of 5% attached at **Appendix A. Agreed.** Football Clubs and other interested parties to be informed. **Clerk**

2. The Hollow – Contour slide steps. Clerk reported that following a ‘medium risk’ report in the Wicksteed annual inspection he has inspected the steps with Walter Matthews. Some treads and tarmac have already been replaced and Walter will continue to upgrade them all as necessary. The report recommends installation of a handrail and it was **agreed** the Clerk should proceed with quotations to undertake this work. **Clerk**

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Rugby Club – overflow car parking for festivals –26 March and 23 April 2017

3.2 - Dog Show 13 – 14 May 2017.

3.3 – Long term future of Wicksteeds Logworld multi-play equipment – Initial full replacement project proposal from Playdale received. Other ideas and prices still being sought from other companies in conjunction with awaiting final decision on RBLI scheme so items are not duplicated.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - Initial enquiry received re landing a helicopter in the recreation ground for a wedding party. Members agreed informal public open spaces such as Forstal Road and Ferryfield were not suitable and if the enquiry is followed up, would recommend they contact the Rugby Club as their area is more contained and public access more limited.

4.2 – Aylesford Scout Group have requested use of Forstal Road recreation ground on 16 July for a Fun Day Fund Raising event. **Agreed** free of charge subject to the normal conditions of use. Clerk to liaise with the Group. **Clerk**

5. Allotments

Aylesford allotments – Water leak report. New main pipe laid down the main track at a cost of £1600. However the meter is still indicating a leak on the recreation ground side of the supply to the allotments. Investigations continue.

Eccles allotments – Request for CCTV following recent break-ins. Members agreed that this would not be cost effective at current allotment rental rates.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Memorial clock. Reinstatement of lettering. Stonemason looking at work involved and to provide a quote. Clerk to pursue.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

No reports to the meeting on items 7, 8 and 9.

10. Cemetery

10.1 – **Minuted in closed session – Attached at Appendix B (Members' only)** - Correspondence re application for reduction in fees.

10.2 – **Long term future extension.** This item will appear on the ESC agenda each month for progress report from the Clerk as appropriate. No report to this meeting.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

12.1 - Rat baiting programme – 12 month contract now in place. Latest report indicates bait is still being taken.

12.2 – Removal of old grass cuttings deemed to be a rat environment - £690. Work awaited.

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

14. Yoakley Land

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

No reports to the meeting on items 13, 14 and 15.

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 carry out a site visit with the contractors to discuss.

17. Podkin Meadow

Clearance work has commenced and has been well received so far. On-going project.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There was no further items of business. Meeting closed at 8.20pm