

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 JULY 2018

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Shelley, Smith, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Ms Dorrington, Hammond, Walker, Winnett

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1. Apologies and reasons were noted and accepted from:

Cllr Ms Dorrington (personal appointment), Hammond (working); Walker (TMBC meeting), Winnett (family commitment).

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

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

1. General Highway

Road Closures

M20 – Junctions 4 – 6 both ways. Friday 27 July 2200 hrs to Sunday 29 July (completion of works) to allow for removal of Teapot Lane footbridge.

Forstal Road from Rochester Road roundabout to AVCC entrance. Monday 6 August for 5 weeks.

2. Eccles Highway Matters

2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction

Clerk reported on the meeting with KCC Officers (attended by himself and Cllr Gledhill) to discuss the proposals to:

- a) change the speed limit leading to Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction from 40mph to 30mph – advised that KCC Officer will look further at this proposal and the legislation required for it. Clerk to report to next meeting when response is received; **Clerk**
- b) a 20 mph speed limit in the village – the mean speed test undertaken last year in Bull Lane showed an average speed of 26.9 through the village. In order to just install 20mph signs the speed needs to be 24mph or less. Therefore a 20mph limit can only be installed in conjunction with a traffic calming scheme which would have a minimum of cost £60,000. Members agreed this would be an unrealistic cost for the Parish Council to meet.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Slow sign on slip road off the A229 towards Aylesford currently situated under the bridge. Request made for it to be moved further up the slip road. Awaiting a response from KCC.

3.2 – Lights on the slip road off the A229 have failed again. Awaiting response from KCC.

3.2 - Lorry parking by the Lower Bell, the layby opposite the slip road by the Lower Bell and the closed slip road coming from Blue Bell Hill village. Reported to County Councillor and awaiting response.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - TMBC Conservation Department have agreed to the revised KCC materials specification for this project. Clerk awaiting the outcome of KCC updating the pricing schedule. Some works have been done by TMBC on the benches.

4.2 – **A20/Homebase Flooding** – Works to alleviate this problem have been postponed to August as A20 road closure will be required and this will not take place until A26 Tonbridge Road sink hole has been completed.

4.3 – **Village Entrance (Cage Hill)** –Cllr Base is awaiting a response from TMBC regarding road and gates condition as they installed the area as part of the village enhancement several years ago.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

Cllr Elvy reported the faded yellow lines depicting the bus stop at the south end of Tunbury Avenue. There has been some reinstatement of yellow lines around the Parish and the Clerk was asked to request this area is included. **Clerk**

6. Public Footpaths

Cllr Wright reported the overgrown condition of paths in the Walderslade Woods particularly the steps and path from Oaks Dene to Sheraton Court and Sheraton Court to Tunbury Avenue South. The Walderslade Woods Group do not appear to have done any work in this area this year. Clerk was asked make enquiries with WWG, Boxley Parish Council and Kent PROW regarding responsibility. **Clerk**

7. Street Lighting – No report to this meeting.

8. Car Parks – No report to this meeting.

9. Bus Services

9.1 - KCC Big Conversation Consultation on Rural Transport.

Clerk reported on his attendance at the Parish Seminar (Mecure Hotel (Great Danes) Maidstone – 18 July. There are 3 main options KCC are seeking views on in the consultation:

1. Small feeder buses to existing main bus routes
2. A bookable demand/response transit system
3. Bookable bus/taxi scheme in rural areas which is likely to involve making a small charge to existing bus pass holders.

Consultation period is open to the public until 8 August 2018.

Discussion took place on the Medway to Maidstone Service and the expected changes to the service which should be forthcoming following the taking up of residence in the Peters Village development. The Clerk clarified that Trenport would be providing the finance for these changes but it was up to the bus company and KCC to agree the timetable and route.

Cllr Ludlow added that with the proposed increasing in housing particularly around the Eccles area, KCC should be looking to increase bus services not cut them. Cllr Base added that bus service proposals should be included in an Infrastructure Plan to be viewed alongside the Draft Local Plan but this was still not available from TMBC.

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

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Play Equipment Enhancement Programme.

At the Policy & Resources Committee on 3 July decisions on future special project funding allocations, Ferryfield Phases 1 and 2 and The Hollow were included in the programme and

Ferryfield Phase 1 will be one of the top priorities. The Clerk will be starting work on the design/specification/costings of the Ferryfield Phase 1 project and will report back to Committee in due course. **Clerk**

1.2 - Grass Maintenance – No report to this meeting.

1.3 – Additional Security Measures

Some of the improved security measures at various sites, principally Ferryfield, have been completed and the concrete blocks have been removed in order to reopen the car park. Completion of work awaited.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – North West Kent Dog Training Club event – 20 – 22 July 2018. Successful event, nothing to report.

3.2 – Use by KCC Children’s Centres for picnic and sporting activities 25 July – Already agreed.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - Scout Fun Day – 15 July 2018. Successful event, nothing to report.

4.2 – Request for fireworks as part of a Diwali festival taking place in the Community Centre in October. Supermarket bought style being set off by festival organisers.

Members considered what the Council policy should be regarding fireworks on Council property overall. Cllr Mrs Gadd was aware that Ditton Parish Council allow fireworks on their recreation ground and the Clerk was asked to discuss with them their regulations regarding permissions/responsibilities/insurance, before a final decision is made to the applicant. **Clerk**

5. Allotments - No report to this meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

An Eccles resident has requested that the Council consider providing a MUGA in the recreation ground. Members agreed, following the success of others in the parish, this would be a worthwhile project but could not be implemented/funded in the immediate future. To be placed on the long term project list.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 - Changing rooms repairs. Decorating costs of approximately £1000 have been ordered. Plumber is attending this work to quote for work required.

7.2 – Personal injury claim involving the Tunbury Hall car park gate has been passed to the Council's insurers.

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

Requests from outgoing Vicar in respect of:

- a) the maintenance of the cremated remains area. That the Council take over responsibility for the maintenance of the area following the withdrawal of their volunteers. Clerk has advised that at the present time the Council does not have the appropriate equipment to do this work due to the amount of tablets and memorial items placed around all the plots. It is hoped other volunteers can be recruited.
- b) Widening the path from the church door to the car park. It was considered that the work was not appropriate as part of the general maintenance programme for a closed churchyard but if the Church were willing to consider a joint project with the Council, Members might be prepared to reconsider this project.

12. Old Bridge Gardens – No report to this meeting.

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

14. Yoakley Land - No report to this meeting.

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

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

16.1 – Belgrave Street/Car Park approach road repairs. Still under review following resident's report to the Council meeting 17 July.

17. Podkin Meadow

17.1 - Long term project continuing and 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

18.1 – Redundant TMBC Christmas lights. Cllr Base pursuing availability with TMBC.

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

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.37pm.

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