

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2015

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Balcombe, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Ms Neimer, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Ms Dorrington, Homewood

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1. Apologies

Cllrs Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Ms Dorrington (ill), Homewood (KCC meeting). Apologies 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. It was agreed at Council on 15 September 2015 that the Parish Council would offer to fund 50% of the cost of the crossing up to maximum of £10,000. Further information awaited from Cllr Homewood and KCC. Delayed due to staff changes at KCC.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Milestone – The Milestone is still with the contractor. Work has been delayed due to an injury to the stonemason.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Awaiting TMBC planning permission regarding tree work required. The need for any changes to the lighting will be considered when the impact of tree work is assessed.

4.2 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Clerk distributed photographs of sample Gallagher street furniture. The rustic style was preferred. The Clerk will see if it is possible to visit Gallaghers to view potential alternatives. Clerk will merge the chosen style of furniture with the other aspects to be included ie; signs/lights/planting/block paving.

Clerk will clarify funding with KCC following staff changes.

4.3 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

KCC have engaged Amey to undertake the study of traffic flows on the A20 and they are expected to report back in January/February 2016. These results will give the baseline information from which ways forward can be identified. No further action until study is received.

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

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - **Kent County Council Definitive Map Modification Orders for the Creation of Bridleways in the Parishes of Aylesford and Burham.** Timetable of the significant dates and actions required leading up to the public inquiry in February 2016:-

- 1) 27 October 2015 – Date by which KCC Statement of Case to be with SoS and sent out to objectors thereafter.
- 2) 8 December 2015 – Council’s Statement of Case will need to be with SoS.
- 3) 26 January 2016 – Council’s Proof of Evidence to be with SoS.
- 4) 23 February 2016 – Public Inquiry start date scheduled to last for 6 days and being held at Burham Old School Community Centre.

Noted.

6.2 – **River Medway Towpath** – Clerk reported to the Committee on a recent meeting held to discuss the KCC project for upgrading the towpath from Aylesford to Allington. It was confirmed that the grant to undertake this work is available to KCC in 2016/17 and will need to be used during that year. APC have committed £20,000. Work has commenced on surveys and it is expected actual remedial work will commence after April 2016 when the funding is made available. Work has been divided into sections, aiming for an average 2.5m

width for the footpath surface. Some sections will only require shrub clearance, others more substantial works such as surfacing, handrails, ladders and sheet piling. One section will be rerouted 5 metres inland. Members confirmed they would prefer to see the path come under the new Aylesford Bridge directly into Old Bridge Gardens. Clerk to inform KCC. **Clerk**

7. Lighting

Clerk's report on immediate works required to Parish Council lighting and on the long term options regarding maintenance and upgrading attached at **Appendix A**.

Page 2 – Specific Works

- a) The need to replace 4 lamp columns which are in a very poor condition and to provide LED lanterns at a cost of £5690 – **Agreed**
- b) Various other works of a minor nature which have a total cost of £1545 – **Agreed**
Clerk

Page 2 – Victoria Road and York Avenue

c) Delay implementation and ask Streetlights to check the condition of the lighting columns bring proposed for replacement – **Agreed**. In addition the Clerk was asked to speak to KCC to discuss the additional cost of the scheme that has arisen, such as LED lighting, due to the delay in KCC agreeing to adopt the lights which had already been completed to an agreed KCC adoptable standard several years ago. **Clerk**

Page 2 – Maintenance Agreement

In order to ensure a Duty of Care and in order to be able to prioritise future work required, it was **Agreed** to enter into a 1 year maintenance contract with Streetlights at a cost of £5250. **Clerk**

8. Car Parks – No report to this meeting.

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

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **Local history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this in conjunction with the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project as minuted at A.4.2 above.

1.2 – Annual play equipment inspection

Play equipment – Summary of work required by Wicksteed, In House and Long Term attached at **Appendix B**. Wicksteed and In House works were **agreed** – Total cost £1524

plus paint approx. £180. Clerk will consider the Long Term requirements in conjunction with the Parish Council's Long Term Development Programme/Budget. **Clerk**

Outdoor Gym equipment – Summary of work required by Caloo attached at **Appendix C** was **agreed** – Total cost £1800. **Clerk**

1.3 - Children's Play Areas – Smoking Ban

Number of signs required being assessed before purchase.

1.4 – Request for Baseball Pitch – The Kent Mariners Baseball Club have asked whether the Council has any recreational land available for them to find a more permanent home than their current location at Cobdown.

Discussions held with the Club and the principal sites being considered were Ferryfield and BBH recreation ground. The Club agreed to look at these sites and to come back to the Council if they wished to pursue any option.

1.5 – Disabled Children's Play Equipment – Clerk holding discussions with Wicksteed on equipment and sites.

2. The Hollow – No report to this site.

3. Ferryfield – No report to this site.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Rabbit hole damage. RDR Pest Management appointed and work undertaken on 18 November.

5. Allotments

Aylesford - New numbers installed.

Cllr Base reported that it appears moles have moved into the allotments. Noted for possible pest removal requirement in the future.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Fencing of play equipment – Order placed. Work awaited.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – **Damaged play equipment gate** – Work completed.

7.2 – **Additional Play Equipment** - Order placed for equipment. Completion of installation awaited.

7.3 –**Dog Fouling** - Bag and Flag event to be planned with TMBC for Spring 2016.

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

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

10. Cemetery - Mole pest treatment has taken place.

11. Churchyard

Ragstone wall repair completed. Report still awaited on the condition of the remainder of wall.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Issue regarding right of way between the George House and Old Bridge being considered at footpath meeting to be held on 27 November.

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

Some tree removal may be required in conjunction with proposed Old Bridge lighting project. Planning permission application has been submitted and currently going through the consultation stage.

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. Clerk has had initial discussions with Kent Wildlife Trust.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

One bollard received from Kent PROW. The need for further bollards has been assessed and two more are required. These are being obtained and will be installed in house though implementation is delayed to enable discussions to be held with landowners (Boxley Parish Council) and the Walderslade Woods Group as to whether they are looking at an alternative option.

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

17. Podkin Meadow

Toddler Equipment – Order has been placed. Installation awaited.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

18.1 – **Church Lighting** – Request from Vicar just received for Parish Council to assist with lighting path within the churchyard. Clerk to look at request in more detail and report back to the next meeting.

18.2 – **Parish Equipment** - Clerk requested authority to purchase new mower for grounds maintenance team – cost £426 plus VAT. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

There being no further business meeting closed at 8.45pm.