

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017
7.30pm – Parish Office

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Winnett, Wright

In attendance: Mr Harris (Clerk) Mrs Collier (Deputy Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Homewood

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1. Apologies – Cllr Homewood’s apologies due to a late London meeting were noted and 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

2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction

Phase 1 of the junction improvement works should commence on 4 November with work being undertaken over a 3 week period. Work will include speed limits, red rumble strips, improved visibility with bollards to prevent parking, improved directional signage, new 30mph roundels and SLOW markings and will involve weekend road closures and 3way

temporary traffic lights. Kent Highways have agreed to relook at the feasibility of a Vehicle Activated Speed signs once vegetation has been cleared back and it can be ascertained whether there is room for the installation and on-going maintenance of such a sign.

2.2 – **Walnut Tree layby** – has been left in an untidy condition following recent ‘water’ repairs. Clerk to investigate contractors and request clearance. **Clerk**

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Slow sign on slip road off the A229 towards Aylesford currently situated under the bridge. Clerk has asked that Kent Highways move the sign to the actual slip road before the Lower Warren Road junction to improve safety at this junction as well as the junctions under the bridge. Response awaited.

3.2 - Lighting repairs still awaited on the slip road which were scheduled for August. KCC have reported they are still awaiting delivery of new columns.

Cllr Rillie suggested that it would be sensible and safe for the movement of the Slow sign to be done at the same time as installing the new columns as a road closure will be required. Clerk to liaise with Kent Highways. **Clerk**

3.3 – Cllr Shelley reported that there are still regular incidents of HGVs being directed by Sat Navs into BBH village despite two ‘No Access’ signs.

3.4 – Cllr Wright reported apparent overnight HGV parking on the disused slip road from BBH village to the A229.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Clerk has established up to date contact personnel at TMBC now dealing with this project and will continue to pursue progress on revised quotations and funding.

4.2 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

Work has commenced to widen the road at the A20/Hermitage Lane junction. Completion due by December.

4.3 – Aylesford Village/Forstal Road junction

Site meeting held with Kent Highways re proposed improvements to this junction to include safer pedestrian access and improved signage. KH took on board comments from local members. Clerk to follow up with KH the outcome of this proposal. **Clerk**

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 - Underpass going under the M2 opposite Tunbury Avenue suffering from flooding. Responsibility of Highways England. Further incidents of flooding to be notified to the Clerk.

5.2 - Traffic speed on Fostington Way. Following request from local members the Clerk distributed the 2014 – 2017 Crash Report from Kent Highways on which KH based their decision that no further speed limit would be introduced. Noted.

5.3 – Cllr Winnett asked if Tunbury Avenue could have a 20mph speed limit introduced based on the same criteria as that proposed for the side roads of Eccles ie. the vicinity of a local primary school. The Clerk advised that the Eccles 20mph limit is proposed for side roads only, not Bull Lane, and is based on the criteria to reduce air pollution. The Clerk will make enquiries. **Clerk**

6. Public Footpaths – No report to this meeting.

7. Street Lighting

Upgrade to LED lighting by Kent Highways is ongoing throughout the parish. However recent upgrades in Bull Lane, Eccles and Robin Hood Lane, Walderslade appears to have missed odd lights. Clerk to clarify with KH. **Clerk**

8. Car Parks

8.1 – Tunbury height barrier to be checked. **Clerk**

8.2 – Forstal Road (AVCC entrance) height barrier installed but will not be closed until kitchen works at the Centre are completed. Key arrangements to then be made with AVCC/Football Club and Parish Office. **Clerk**

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – Banning of HGVs through Wouldham, Burham and Eccles. Clerk reported on correspondence from Wouldham Parish Council which was requesting support for this proposal. Whilst having sympathy with this problem Members agreed that Eccles was a special case in that Southern Water lorries would always require access through the village, there being no alternative route at present. It was agreed that Aylesford Parish Council will continue to comment (as per the Local Plan) on any new development proposal that the highway situation must be taken in account before any development is agreed with the eventual outcome that Bull Lane would take local traffic only and the Pilgrims Way be improved. Clerk to respond to WPC. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** – Clerk reviewing all contracted grass maintenance work.

1.2 – All Sites Security

Padlock and key distribution will be finalised at the end of the 2017 mowing season.

1.3 – **Play Equipment Inspection** – Annual inspection 25 October. Review of all play equipment sites will follow.

2. **The Hollow** – No report to this meeting.

3. **Ferryfield**

3.1 – Upgrade of multi-play equipment – Will be considered in line with 1.3 above.

3.2 – Rugby parking and pitch request – 5 November 2017 – Already Agreed.

Further request for car parking on Ferryfield – 31 March 2018 8.00am to 3.00pm. **Agreed.**

3.3 – Request for North West Kent Dog Training Club event – 20 – 22 July 2018 – **Agreed.**

4. **Forstal Road Recreation Ground**

4.1 – Height barrier at entrance – Installed. Regular opening and closing will commence when AVCC kitchen upgrade is complete.

4.2 – Scout Fun Day – Proposed date 15 July 2018. Already agreed.

4.3 – AVCC booking outside area. Request for use of grass area in conjunction with a commercial AVCC booking on 19 May 2018. This was **agreed** free of charge on this occasion. **Clerk**

It was **agreed** that the principle of the use of the outside area should be clarified with the AVCC for future bookings. If bookings are of a commercial nature it is likely that the APC will make a charge. Clerk to consider and discuss with AVCC. **Clerk**

5. **Allotments**

Pricing for 2019/20. Discussion paper attached at **Appendix A** was considered and **agreed**. Plot holders will be advised of the new arrangements for 2019/2020 in March 2018.

6. **Eccles Recreation Ground** – No report to this meeting.

7. **Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park**

Rotabounce Play Equipment – Proposed date for repair by Wicksteed week ending 27 October 2017.

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

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

10. Cemetery

10.1 - 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 – Bench renovation to be undertaken in house during the winter.

12.2 – Contractors on behalf of Southern Water will be undertaking pipe search work in the river from OBG commencing 6 November for 2 weeks. Reinstatement work will be monitored.

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

Work to resolve minor flooding issue (£1095) and pothole repairs (£480) ordered.

17. Podkin Meadow

Long term project is continuing through the autumn. Weed spraying has recently taken place. Wild flower and grass seed sowing will now take place next Spring.

18. Christmas Lighting

Clerk has confirmed with Gala Lighting that all is in place for all sites for switch on at beginning of December.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.13pm.