

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
**COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2015**

**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Cllrs Mrs Gadd (in the Chair), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Gledhill, Hammond, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker

**In attendance:** Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk

**Apologies:** Cllrs Ambrose, Base, Mrs Brooks, Elvy, Homewood, Winnett, Wright  
Mr Harris, Clerk (annual leave)

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**1. Apologies**

Apologies from Cllrs Ambrose, Base, Elvy, Homewood, Winnett and Wright, all on holiday, were noted and accepted. Apology from Cllr Mrs Brooks due to care of an elderly relative was noted and accepted

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

**A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS**

**1. General Highway Report**

Parking restrictions proposals received from TMBC (full details available in the Parish Office) were considered and commented on as follows:

Rochester Road – No objection

The Avenue and The Hawthorns – No objection

Tunbury Avenue – Deferred to P&R next week as insufficient local Members present.

Post Meeting Note: At P&R on 1 September local Members agreed ‘Objection based on the fact that there is no suitable short term alternative parking in the immediate area and the restrictions would in fact create more congestion and inconvenience for local residents.’

469 Maidstone Road – No objection

Robin Hood Lane – Objection. This will cause considerable difficulties particularly in respect of vehicles visiting the crematorium

Old Chatham Road – No objection.

## **2. Eccles Highway Matters**

Proposed pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane. Awaiting confirmation that all requirements have been met. Parish Council will then consider its position on contributing towards funding.

## **3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

3.1 - Milestone – Stonemason now has stone and will carry out work as soon as workload allows.

3.2 – Overhanging branches and vegetation on the slip road from the A229 to Common Road. Reported to Kent Highways who have advised they do not consider any work is required at the present time. Branches are within minimum height requirements.

Cllr Smith requested that another report be sent asking that the vegetation at ground level be cut back.

**Clerk**

3.3 – Request from resident for traffic calming measures in Maidstone Road. Local Members considered this request but did not consider it was an appropriate area to support traffic calming measures at this time.

## **4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – No update on this project due to Clerk’s holiday.

4.2 – **Flooding:** Opposite Brassey Centre - Work awaited. Clerk has pursued this with Kent Highways due to the length of time this work has been outstanding. Drain has been cleaned which has led to some improvement but major work required is not prioritised. Site will continue to be monitored.

4.3 – **Rochester Road speed humps** to be re-profiled by Kent Highways. Work completed.

### **4.4 - Aylesford Village Square**

- Enhancement Project – No update on this project due to Clerk’s holiday.
- Lighting – Awaiting: removal of ‘modern’ style column installed in error  
repair of lighting column in the centre of village  
replacement of damaged ‘roundabout’ sign outside Village  
Pantry

4.5 – **A20 between Larkfield and Aylesford** – Awaiting meeting date with TMBC.

4.6 – **Station Road Closure Southbound** – This work has been completed and the road reopened.

4.7 – **Litter Clearance** – 3 September 6.00pm at Sainsburys. Love Where You Live initiative for Hermitage Lane organised by Cllr Walker and TMBC. Volunteers welcomed.

4.8 – **Rochester Road** – Bollard replacement required at the first narrowing entering the Village from the north. To be reported. **Clerk**

## **5. Walderslade Highway Matters**

### **6. Public Footpaths**

6.1 - Definitive Map Modification – MR613 – Bridleway Aylesford & Burham

MR443 – Footpath Ditton & Aylesford

6.2 – MR481 – Reinstatement of vandalised kissing gate installed by Parish Council some 10 years ago - £75 **agreed**.

### **7. Lighting**

Bull Lane – Upgrade project to allow lights to be adopted by Kent Highways. Confirmation of completion and adoption received. Adoption reported to UK Power Network in order to remove lights from Parish Council energy schedule. This has now been completed.

York Avenue and Victoria Road, Walderslade – Awaiting clarification that these two roads have been formally adopted by Kent Highways following upgrading carried out several years ago.

### **8. Car Parks**

New Eccles Car Park – Still awaiting formal lease and planning permission agreements. Working towards commencement of work date 8 September.

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

## **B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS**

### **1. All Sites**

1.1 - Local history signs – On return from holiday Clerk will look at methods of updating historical content of original signs before contacting potential suppliers. These will be considered in conjunction with the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project – see A.4.4 above.

1.2 – Prevention of Dog Fouling – Consideration following discussions at Council on 21 July 2015. Clerk to report to a future meeting.

1.3 – Annual play equipment inspection by Wicksteed of all 6 sites ordered.

## **2. The Hollow**

2.1 - Surfacing repair under swings and repairs required to the contour slide step completed.

2.2 - Surfacing repair under multiplay - £275. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

## **3. Ferryfield**

Horse riding witnessed on two recent occasions. Signs installed stating horse riding not permitted. To be monitored.

## **4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground**

4.1 – Multi sports courts - Formal opening arranged for Tuesday 1 September – 10am – by Tracey Crouch MP (now Minister for Sport). All Members invited.

Awaiting litter bin installation.

4.2 – Fencing - Members have already agreed, in principle, to put a replacement fence at the rear of the properties in Powell Close to protect these properties from people jumping over the fence to retrieve balls lost whilst using the new multi use games area and tennis court. Clerk has advised that following discussions with the contractor and residents it was agreed that the best fence to achieve the aim of preventing access and with the benefit of providing some privacy would be a 6 foot closeboard fence. The total cost of this fence would be £2295 which represents good value and can be funded from the underspend on this project. It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Gledhill that this quote be accepted. **Agreed Clerk**

4.3 - Football Club Tournament – 5/6 September 2015. Advance notices re parking have gone up on village noticeboards and website.

## **5. Allotments**

Aylesford - New numbers still to be installed.

Eccles – Gate refurbishment required to enable easier management and locking. Quote of approximately £300 received depending on exact hinges required. **Agreed. Clerk**

## **6. Eccles Recreation Ground**

6.1 - Skateboard park completed – Bench and plaque awaiting installation.

6.2 - Fencing of play equipment – Updated quotations awaited. Expected cost to be in the region of £11500.

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

7.1 - Following a site meeting with local members, additional play equipment provision is being priced for report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

7.2 – Two complaints received re increased dog fouling issues and perceived deterioration of whole site. TMBC would be happy to support a ‘bag and flag’ initiative similar to that held recently in Eccles. Would like to see Tunbury Primary School involved. To be considered in line with 1.2 on Clerk’s return.

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

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

**10. Cemetery** - Number of items reported missing/stolen from graves. To be reported to local PCSO.

## **11. Churchyard**

Quotations being sought for repairs required to ragstone wall.

**12. Old Bridge Gardens** - No report to this meeting.

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

Some tree removal may be required in conjunction with proposed Old Bridge lighting project at A. 4.1 above.

## **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 approached Kent Wildlife Trust to become involved.

## **15. Walderslade Open Spaces**

Bollards – Clerk pursuing the issue of bollards with Kent PROW.

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

**17. Podkin Meadow**

Additional play equipment being considered. Report to the next meeting.

**18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence**

18.1 - Planning Application views in order to meeting deadlines.

18.1.1 - Aylesford South – TM/15/02011 – Unit 1, Yew Tree Industrial Estate, Mill Hall  
Change of use to MOT test station – *No objection*

18.1.2 - Eccles – TM/15/02081 – 160 Bull Lane, Eccles  
Amended plan received ‘Parking arrangements including dimensions’.  
Verbal local resident objection received.

*Now we are in receipt of the sizes of this proposed parking space, APC have grave reservations as to whether the area at the front of the property is adequate for purpose ie. large enough for an average family car. We also reiterate our concerns about the hazard of vehicles driving on and off the already dangerous Bull Lane. If permitted this is setting a precedent for other properties to apply for a change of use of their front garden into parking areas and thus exacerbating the dangers further.*

18.1.3 - Aylesford South – TM/15/02159 – 9 Robson Drive, Aylesford  
Demolition of bungalow. Redevelopment with 4 houses  
Written request received from local resident for Parish Council to reassess its ‘No Objection’ view.

*No objection in principle to the development subject to it complying with the appropriate planning regulations for a plot of this size. However we would prefer the design to be kept in keeping with the existing street scene*

18.2 – Request from TMBC for Parish Council’s view on rate relief request from the Village Pantry. Support agreed as follows:

*Aylesford Parish Council would fully support the Village Pantry’s application for rate relief. It is the sole facility of its kind in the Parish and would it would be to the detriment of the whole Parish, and in particular to residents and visitors to Aylesford Village, if it were to close. It is also used by small groups as a meeting place, is family friendly and an asset to other businesses in the village.*

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.15pm.