

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2016

MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Hammond, Jones

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received and reasons accepted as follows: Cllr Mrs Brooks, care of elderly relative; Cllr Hammond, working; Cllr Jones, unwell.

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 Report – No report to this meeting.

2. Eccles Highway Matters

2.1 - Proposed pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane & Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction.

The ESC meeting held on 27 September 2016 agreed to prioritise the Parish Council’s contribution to funding the option of improving the safety of the Bull Lane junction over the zebra crossing at the present time.

The Clerk reported on the meeting held with Kent Highways to discuss the junction. It was agreed that the KCC would undertake a feasibility study to look at ways to reduce the speed of traffic on the Pilgrims Way approaching Bull Lane. County Councillor Homewood agreed

to fund the feasibility study. Traffic surveys will take place in the New Year.

The Clerk reported that the Bull Lane Safety Group have requested a grant towards funding for leaflets advertising a public meeting together with hall hire costs – approximately £85 – **agreed** in principle, probably local members micro grant. **Clerk**

The BLSG have also started an on line petition and there will be a KM article this week with a photograph at the site.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - **Planters** – Ordered. ‘Supplied by Aylesford Parish Council’ signs also to be ordered. Application to Kent Highways to be made for installation on central reservation.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Completed. Effectiveness to be monitored as darker evenings come on.

4.2 - Aylesford Village Square

The Clerk reported on his useful meeting with Kent Highways and Amey. Amey will now work on revised plans following the consultation with residents – ie. retaining/replacing trees, renovation of benches.

4.3 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

A20/Hermitage Lane – Kent Highways have agreed with the developers a number of improvements to the traffic light sequence in a bid to relieve traffic congestion. Kent Highways have also agreed to widen part of the junction, this work to be undertaken as part of the developers snagging list but will be at Kent Highways expense.

4.4 – **Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter** - Tracey Crouch MP has now taken this matter up with Highways England. Response awaited.

4.5 – **Rochester Road Water** – Leaking valve repaired but another leak has now appeared from the Tottingham Farm pond overflow where the pipe appears to be blocked. This has been reported to Kent Highways as a potential hazard.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 - Chippendale Close – Problem with parked vehicles has been resolved with the resident responsible moving from the area.

5.2 – Grass verge opposite Tunbury Primary School – Cllr Wright reported the apparent camp set up including digging up of the verge, hoardings, tree damage and graffiti. Office will report to PCSO and Community Warden. **Clerk**

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - **River Medway Towpath MR 473** – Work has commenced on this project for completion by the end of March. Compound has been set up on Yoakley paddock (adjacent to allotments on Forstal Road).

Request for signing of the Medway Valley Walk to go through Old Bridge Gardens from Aylesford High Street rather than via the gap between The George and the Old Bridge, due to the closure of the flood barrier was **agreed**.

6.2 – **MR474 – Mill Hall, Aylesford** – Diversion Order and Notice. Noted.

7. Street Lighting

Old Bridge Gardens lights painting will be done in house. Will involve the hire of a scaffold tower.

8. **Car Parks** – No report to this meeting.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – KCC Local Transport Plan consultation - response. The Clerk reported on the three Parish Council meeting (Aylesford, Burham and Wouldham) involving discussion on the Lower Thames Crossing, A229, A20 and Aylesford Level Crossing. It was decided at the meeting Parish Councils would respond individually and the Clerk outlined the response for Aylesford which was **agreed**. Clerk will finalise the document in consultation with Cllrs Base, Gledhill and Balcombe and authority was granted for the response to be forwarded without further report to the Council in order to meet the deadline. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

Local history signs – Clerk will be looking at this following on from the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

Annual Play Equipment Inspection - Ordered. Should take place in October. Post Meeting Note: Booked for 8 November.

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

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Rugby Club – overflow car parking for festivals – 6 November 2016 and 26 March 2017.

3.2 - Dog Show 13 – 14 May 2017.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Clerk has contacted the Kent Petanque Association and requested information regarding the potential installation of a petanque pitch.

5. Allotments

Eccles – On-going slight water leak issue. Quote from Southern Water to investigate - £1630. To be further investigated in-house and monitored before any further work is authorised.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 – Local stonemason has commenced renovation works to clock memorial. Will be completed before Remembrance Sunday.

6.2 –**Happy Hedgehog** - Repair completed

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – Winter tree maintenance work to be undertaken on tree overhanging garden of 83 Woodbury Road.

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

General tidying of the whole area will be carried out in-house.

10. Cemetery

Clerk is reviewing the number of plots left in the cemetery and the potential need for expansion. Full report to a future meeting.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

12.1 - Rat baiting programme – Awaiting report from contractor as to whether The Hengist will enter into a joint programme of baiting with the Parish Council.

Clearance of old grass cuttings pile to be arranged as it has been identified as a potential rat site.

12.2 – Border fence replacement required - £515 – **agreed.**

Clerk

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 - No report to this meeting.

17. Podkin Meadow

Clerk meeting with contractors tomorrow to discuss detail of how Podkin Meadow can revert back to a more traditional meadow.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.17pm.