

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2018
MINUTES

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Present: Cllr Mrs Gadd (Chairman), and Cllrs Ms Dorrington, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, and Wright

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Base, Elvy, Homewood, Ludlow, Walker and Winnett

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1. Apologies

Apologies and reasons for them were noted and accepted as follows: Cllrs Balcombe (holiday), Base (holiday), Elvy (unwell), Homewood (KCC Meeting), Ludlow (work commitment), Walker (holiday) and 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

1.1 - KCC Highway Improvement Plan

The Clerk reported that KCC were proposing the possible establishment of a Highways Improvement Plan with Parish Councils which would enable them to list prioritised highways requests for KCC to investigate and consider for implementation and funding. Though the plan could have any number of proposals it was likely that only a few would be investigated by KCC based on a list of prioritised schemes. It was also indicated that the plan would be reviewed annually by the Parish Council and KCC. It was **agreed** to pursue the implementation of a Highway Improvement Plan with KCC. **Clerk**

2. Eccles Highway Matters

2.1 - **Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction** - No report to this meeting.

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. This could be the type of project to go on the KCC Highways Improvement Plan

3.2 – Lights on the slip road off the A229 have failed again. Response from KCC states they believe problems are due to water ingress. Repairs in hand.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - The Clerk reported that having waited a year for TMBC Conservation Department to agree to the revised KCC materials specification for this project, he had been informed by KCC that these materials were in fact more expensive than those originally proposed. With the scheme already costed at about £60k - £80k and these new materials being more expensive this scheme was becoming less viable as an option going forward. The Clerk suggested that the Council look at reducing the scope of the scheme to see what could be done with a reduced specification. It was agreed that the Clerk look at the potential of reducing the specification for this scheme, in discussion with the Chairman of the Council, and working with KCC to take it forward. **Clerk**

4.2 – **A20/Homebase Flooding** – Works to alleviate this problem have been postponed as A20 road closure will be required and this will not take place until A26 Tonbridge Road sink hole repairs have been completed (latest information indicates this will not be until mid October).

4.3 – Village Entrance (Cage Hill)

It was reported that road surface repairs and gate painting would take place in the near future and that a one day road closure would be required.

4.4 – M20 Junctions 4 – 6 Closure

It was reported that the closure of the M20 between junctions 4 - 6 to rebuild Teapot Lane footbridge would start pm Fri 9 Nov to early am Sun 11 Nov re-opening before the remembrance day parades. If any further closures would be required this would take place the following weekend.

4.5 – A20/Hall Road/Mills Road Junction

Overnight closures for resurfacing 5 – 8 October.

4.6 – Mount Pleasant

The Clerk reported that a local resident had expressed concern about the levels of traffic using this road which was an access road only with many of those vehicles using it as route to avoid traffic jams on Rochester Road. The Clerk reported that he had discussed the matter with KCC who had no plans to do anything other than their existing signing. It was **agreed** that this item could be considered for inclusion on the Highway Improvement Plan. **Clerk**

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

6. Public Footpaths

The Clerk reported that Boxley Parish Council had not yet taken over responsibility for Walderslade Woods and that currently any maintenance requests should go to KCC.

7. Street Lighting – No report to this meeting.

8. Car Parks – No report to this meeting.

9. Bus Services – No report to this meeting.

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

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Play Equipment Enhancement Programme. - Annual Play Equipment Inspection ordered. Expected Mid October.

1.2 – Additional Security Measures

The Clerk reported that work had commenced, yesterday, on the installation of the bollards and one was in place behind the bund barrier at the rear car park at the Forstal Road Recreation Ground. However when undertaking the installation of the 2 bollards behind the gate at the Forstal Road access an accident had occurred when a vehicle hit the contractors vehicle into him and into the fence. He received substantial injuries and had to be taken to hospital. The work to complete the installation of the of the bollards was to be undertaken by a work colleague of the Council's contractor. It was **agreed** to send a card to Mr French, the Council's contractor, sending the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery. **Clerk**

The Clerk further reported that he had received the following quotes from S & G Process Engineering Ltd in relation to work at Tunbury and the Ferryfield.:-

- 1 Tunbury Hall height barrier and hasp - £470 approved by Clerk for implementation in the following week
- 2 Ferryfield large Bund barrier work to end section to ensure that it locks effectively - £420
- 3 Ferryfield height barrier taking out and replacing with a split barrier closing in the middle and appropriate works associated with its replacement - £1860

It was **agreed** that the above quotes be approved for implementation.

Clerk

1.3 Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Clerk reported that it was approaching the time for new contracts to be sought for the grounds maintenance works. It was felt that the change whereby the Council had taken on more of the work had proved successful and that there was an opportunity to take further work back in house. It was **agreed** that for next year the Clerk be given delegated authority, following discussion with the Maintenance Supervisor, to determine whether the cutting of the Forstal Road Recreation Ground or the Ferryfield be taken back in house. **Clerk**

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Play Equipment Replacement Phase 1 – The Clerk reported that he was meeting up with possible contractors.

3.2 – Request for Geotechnical Investigation on grass verge beside Rugby Club approach road in connection with motorway works 6th to 13th September. Assurances given regarding reinstatement. Work completed. Reinstatement satisfactory.

3.3 - Awaiting installation of signs warning of overnight locking in of vehicles parked after hours.

3.4 – Request from North West Kent Dog Training Club for 2019 Show on 26/27/28 July **agreed.** **Clerk**

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Awaiting installation of replacement litter bins in play equipment area and teenage shelter due to existing bins rotting away.

5. Allotments - No report to this meeting.

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

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

The Clerk reported that the Tunbury Hall Management Committee were looking at the installation of CCTV equipment following a recent incident of vandalism, violence and damage in the car park. The Committee **agreed** to support this project and would determine their financial contribution once quotes had been received. **Clerk**

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

Widening the path from the church door to the car park request. Work to commence beginning of October. To be funded from Brassey Centre 2018/19 grant.

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 - Awaiting installation of new dual purpose litter/dog bins.

17.2 - 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.

18.2 – Eccles Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony booked for Friday 30 November.

18.3 – Christmas Lights Installations – Aylesford and Walderslade – The Clerk reported that he had received the cost of putting up the Christmas lighting in Aylesford of £1925 and the tree at Walderslade at £730. The quote for the putting up of Christmas lights at Aylesford and Walderslade was **agreed.** **Clerk**

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

19.1 - Kent Wildlife Trust – Burham Marshes project – The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from the Kent Wildlife Trust seeking support from the Council for its Burham Marshes project. The Council, whilst aware this scheme was outside of the Parish, felt that there was a benefit for the residents of the parish from this scheme and **agreed** to send a letter of support for this project. **Clerk**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.18pm.