

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2016

MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Mrs Brooks, Elvy, Hammond, Homewood, Walker

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1. Apologies

The following apologies were noted and reasons accepted.

Cllr Base – TMBC meeting; Mrs Brooks – care of elderly relative; Elvy – unwell; Hammond – TMBC meeting; Homewood – KCC meeting; Walker – TMBC meeting

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members of 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. Update received from Cllr Homewood at Council on 19 January 2016 that this project is progressing with 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** – Planning permission granted for tree work required. Work ordered. The need for any changes to the lighting will be considered when the impact of tree work is assessed.

4.2 - Aylesford Village Square

Awaiting response from KCC Officer re incorporating Gallagher furniture into the design. Clerk and Cllr Homewood (who is providing some funding from his KCC's Members Allowance) are actively pursuing to get this project progressed.

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 February 2016. These results will give the baseline information from which ways forward can be identified. Members asked that Amey ensure consideration is given to the following matters:

That the study takes into account new developments already in progress and those proposed around the area

The main congestion points are: Ditton Corner; A20/New Hythe Lane traffic lights; A20/Hall Road/Quarry Wood traffic lights; A20/Hermitage Lane traffic lights (particularly in view of new retail development and new housing developments); M20 Junction 5 roundabout/traffic lights.

4.4 – Hall Road Motorway Bridge

Highways England have stated fencing repairs and rubbish clearance have been agreed but there is a delay in contracting the specialist fencing company required. They continue to update the Parish Office on progress and hope to undertake the work during the Spring. Comment was made that if they replace the broken wire netting fence on the west side with post and rail similar to that on the east side, this would prevent litter and silt getting caught up and make the area much more accessible to clean. Noted.

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.

23 February 2016 – Public Inquiry start date scheduled to last for 6 days and being held at Burham Old School Community Centre.

6.2 – **River Medway Towpath** – Work expected to commence after April 2016. APC has committed £20,000 to the project. KCC have informed the Clerk that TMBC are unlikely to be making a contribution to this scheme. This will probably not stop the project but could impact on the detail of the scheme in the Aylesford Parish area.

7.1 Street Lighting

Works in progress report:

7.1.1 – Repairs Ordered

4 lamp columns which are in a very poor condition and to provide LED lanterns - £5690.

Work in progress.

Various other works of a minor nature - £1545. Work in progress.

7.1.2 - Victoria Road and York Avenue

Further upgrading delayed in order for Streetlights to check the condition of the lighting columns being proposed for replacement.

Clerk will discuss with KCC the additional cost of the scheme that has arisen, such as installing 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, once Streetlights have conducted their condition as part of the overall Parish survey (see 7.1.4 below).

7.1.3 - Maintenance Agreement

Clerk has set up the 1 year maintenance contract with Streetlights - £5250. This contract commenced on 1 December 2015. Payment will be made in two halves (2015/16 and 2016/17).

7.1.4 – Survey of all Parish Lights

Streetlights are working on a full survey of all Parish lights which is nearly completed. This may highlight some additional repairs required but will also provide an up to date detailed

record of all our lights which can be presented to UK Power Networks to ensure our unmetered energy costs are accurate.

7.1.5 – Eccles Car Park

TMBC Environmental Department has received a complaint relating to light encroachment/light pollution from a long standing light in the existing Belgrave Street car park and from the lighting in the new car park. Clerk is investigating with Streetlighting the extent of the alleged nuisance and whether all night lighting is necessary in the new car park and the costs of rectifying the reported nuisance with shielding around lamps.

7.2 – Christmas Lighting

Clerk reported on 2015 Christmas Lighting and proposals for 2016. Overall the Christmas lighting around the Parish was successful and well received with a number of compliments. There were problems with new and existing lights in Blue Bell Hill which the contractor has fully investigated and identified the faults which will be rectified for next year.

Requests have been received from Eccles residents that they would like to see a small number of street light motifs in the ‘hub’ of the village (similar to those in Aylesford village). It was **agreed** that the Clerk should cost the provision and installation of 4 motifs for report back to the next ESC.

Clerk

8. Car Parks

APC Forstal Road car park – One tree branch to be removed as part of annual tree survey/maintenance work which is causing a nuisance to hirer of space with bird fouling.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence – No report to this 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 at A.4.2 above.

1.2 – Annual play equipment inspection

Play equipment – Wicksteed repairs ordered – Total cost £1524 plus paint approx. £180. Just awaiting surface repairs.

Outdoor Gym equipment – Caloo repairs completed - £1800.

1.3 - Children's Play Areas – Smoking Ban

No smoking signs received from RBLI. To be installed in house.

1.4 – **Annual Tree Survey** – Ordered. Will commence beginning/middle of February 2016 - £3075

1.5 – Grass Maintenance Quotes for 2016

Gangmowing and various other works – Landscape Services – 2nd year of a 3 year on-going agreement for Ferryfield, Forstal Road, BBH recreation ground, Eccles recreation ground, Old Bridge Gardens, hedge cutting

Quotes considered from three companies for mowing/strimming of The Hollow, Cemetery and Podkin Meadow, weed spraying and goal mouth repairs. Comparisons attached at **Appendix A** to the bound copy of these minutes.

The following contractors were agreed:

Cemetery – Station Haulage - £385 per cut
The Hollow – Kent Turf Care - £95 per cut
Podkin Meadow – Kent Turf Care - £175 per cut
Goal Mouths – Kent Turf Care - £95 per pitch
Spraying – Kent Turf Care - £455 per spray

1.6 – Charges for hire of Recreation Grounds etc. 2016/17

2015/16 price list were distributed for information. Fees increased by 10% for this year. No further increases recommended for next year. 2016/17 price list attached at **Appendix B** to these minutes.

1.7 – ‘Clean for the Queen’

Clerk reported on this initiative being carried out nationally to mark the Queen's 90th birthday including TMBC proposals. Aimed at the weekend of 4-6 March 2016. TMBC are looking to be actively involved providing equipment etc to volunteer groups and are keen to involve local schools. APC have set up communication with Tunbury Primary School (see 7. Below) and it was **agreed** to contact other schools in the Parish to see if they wished to be involved in a joint project with APC and TMBC. Identification of areas in need and the appropriate health and safety checks, particularly if children are involved, will be a major issue as Parish Council owned land is in good conditions thanks to the efforts of our own maintenance staff.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

Lawsons Circus visit in April 2016 – 3 nights commencing 25 April 2016

Girls Rugby Tournament – Wednesday 2 April 2016. Use of Ferryfield pitches **agreed**.

Rugby Festivals – Sundays 20 March and 24 April. Use of Ferryfield pitches and overflow car parking **agreed**.

Dog Show – Culverston Dog Club are hiring the Rugby Club for their major event weekend of 14 and 15 May. They have requested overflow car parking in the rugby pitch area of Ferryfield around the hedge gap which they will marshall and condone off. This was **agreed** as out of the rugby playing season. Charge to be made of £100 per day, plus £165 deposit.

In view of the number of the above uses of Ferryfield it was **agreed** to put advance warning notices up for the general users of the site.

Memorial Stone – Local stonemason has agreed to reinstate wording free of charge.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Disabled Children's Play Equipment – Bucket style seat at Forstal Road recreation ground in place of one of the flat seats ordered – approximately £1000. The appropriate harness for the seat to be provided but the Clerk to consider further management of harness availability if it becomes a problem

5. Allotments

Fees already set at £3.75 per rod for 2016/17. It was **agreed** there should be no change for 2017/18.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Cllr Ms Neimer requested two new picnic benches to be provided just outside the new fenced play equipment area for residents with dogs to use whilst supervising children on the equipment. Additional litter bin also to be provided. These were **agreed**. **Clerk**

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – **Dog Fouling/Litter** - Bag and Flag event and litter clearance to be planned with TMBC for Spring 2016. School have been invited to get involved, reply awaited.

7.2 – **Memorial Bench** – Initial enquiry received re bench to be installed in memory of a deceased resident which their family/friends would fund and provide. Agreed in principle subject to receiving full details of proposed bench and mutual agreement on exact siting.

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

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

10. Cemetery

Fees for 2016/17 to be agreed. Fees for 2015/16 were distributed for information. Fees increased by 10% for this year. No further increase recommended for next year. **Agreed.** 2016/17 Fees attached at **Appendix C.**

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

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

Permission granted for tree works to improve lighting of Old Bridge. Work ordered.

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. Implementation 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, Belgrave Street car park, New car park

Hedge and fencing work to improve access and visibility for access road completed.

The increased use of the access road to the car park has caused large pot holes to appear. Clerk has commenced researching quotes for reinstatement with a tarmac surface. Initial figures just over £7000. Further quotes awaited but work is required urgently.

17. Podkin Meadow - No report to this meeting.

18. Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site

Discussion following Cllr Homewood's report to Council on 19 January 2016 that KCC have earmarked this site for sale. KCC have now advertised their intention to dispose of the site with comments invited by 1 February. Burham Parish Council are holding a meeting with Peter Homewood, KCC, representatives of Kent Wildlife Trust and BPC Members tomorrow evening (27 January) and have invited APC representation. Cllr Smith and the Clerk will attend.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

KCC Mobile Library Consultation – KCC are proposing to reduce and rearrange the Mobile Library provision based on usage over recent months. This will reduce Aylesford visits from three sites to one and change of time for Eccles. Some Eccles residents have raised objections to this as the time change will prohibit school children from visiting the library. Clerk will research consultation documents in full (responses by 4 March) and take into account that Eccles Headteacher has commented he would be willing to arrange for children to visit the mobile library if there was a demand. Clerk to report back to P&R either 2 February or 1 March.

There being no other business, meeting closed at 8.55pm.