

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

**TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2018 – 7.30PM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Walker, Wright

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Hammond, Shelley, Smith, Winnett

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**1. Apologies**

The following apologies were noted and reasons accepted.  
Cllrs Hammond (work), Shelley (holiday), Smith (holiday), 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** – No report to this meeting. `

**2. Eccles Highway Matters**

**2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction**

The Clerk has arranged to meet with KCC Officers on 28 June to discuss the scheme to ascertain their view, possible involvement and likelihood of their approval of any Parish Council funded scheme.

**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. Cllr Rillie requested a site meeting with KCC to consider this issue. Clerk to contact KCC. **Clerk**

3.2 – Lights on the slip road off the A229 have failed again. Reported to KCC.

3.2 - Lorry parking by the Lower Bell, the layby opposite the slip road by the Lower Bell and the closed slip road coming from Blue Bell Hill village. Clerk has reported to County Councillor and is awaiting an update.

#### **4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - TMBC Conservation Department have agreed to the revised KCC materials specification for this project. Clerk awaiting the outcome of KCC updating the pricing schedule.

4.2 – **A20/Homebase Flooding** – It is understood that following discussions with Crown Estates, Kent Highways will now be undertaking works in July to alleviate this problem. Clerk has been advised of the details of the work to be undertaken. Exact start date awaited.

4.3 – **Village Entrance (Cage Hill)** – Broken up condition of road surface reported to KCC. Likely to be replaced with normal tarmac surface. Cllr Rillie stated the whole area requires tidying including painting of the gates. Cllr Base to discuss with TMBC who installed the area as part of the village enhancement several years ago. **Base**

4.4 – **Rochester Road** – Cllr Rillie raised concerns about building works affecting the pavement at a property on Rochester Road. Cllr Base clarified that these works have received planning permission and have been visited by the TMBC Planning Inspector who has confirmed they are in line with the permission granted. Cllr Rillie stated there is an overspill on the pavement and debris is also being left on the pavement. The Clerk clarified that if the pavement is being obscured in any way this is a matter for KCC Highways.

#### **5. Walderslade Highway Matters**

5.1 – Tunbury School parking issues. No information regarding the recent meeting with Borough Councillor Kerrs has been received

**6. Public Footpaths** – No report to this meeting.

**7. Street Lighting** – No report to this meeting.

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

#### **9. Bus Services**

9.1 - KCC Big Conversation Consultation on Rural Transport.

A number of public meetings have been arranged (nearest venues Borough Green Village Hall – 5 July; Sessions House, Maidstone – 19 July) and Parish Seminars (Mecure Hotel (Great Danes) Maidstone – 18 July – Clerk and Cllr Gledhill to attend.

Public consultation questionnaire available on the KCC website.

## 9.2 – 3 Villages Meeting

Cllr Gledhill asked the Clerk to enquire when there will be a follow up to the 3 villages meeting held three months ago with Arriva and KCC, Borough and Parish Council representatives.

**Clerk**

## 10. Any Other Business/Correspondence

No report to this meeting.

## B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

### 1. All Sites

#### 1.1 - Play Equipment Enhancement Programme.

The Play Equipment Enhancement Programme will need to be considered by the committee following the Clerk's report to Policy & Resources on 3 July on future special project funding allocations.

The Committee's initial view was that the enhancement of play equipment areas should be a priority of the Council and that replacement/upgrading of equipment in Ferryfield and The Hollow should be the first sites to be considered. Noted for P& R.

#### 1.2 - Grass Maintenance

New in-house grass maintenance schedule on-going and the Clerk continues to closely monitor progress. The schedule has been adjusted to allow for the change in weather/growing conditions and staff holidays.

#### 1.3 – Additional Security Measures

Orders have been placed for improved security measures at various sites, principally Ferryfield in order for the concrete blocks to be removed as soon as possible. It is hoped work will commence within the next two weeks.

### 2. The Hollow

No report to this meeting.

### 3. Ferryfield

3.1 – North West Kent Dog Training Club event – 20 – 22 July 2018 – Already agreed.

3.2 – Replacement dog bin installed at Rugby Club entrance.

3.3 – Dog bin at Coldharbour replaced with a dual purpose dog/litter bin.

3.4 – Use by KCC Children’s Centres for picnic and sporting activities 25 July – Already agreed.

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

4.1 - Scout Fun Day – 15 July 2018. Date already agreed

#### **5. Allotments**

Deposit Fee – Clerk reported that there have been a number of recent cases where allotments have been given up in poor condition, keys not returned and plots given up well into the new season without payment. He proposed to introduce a £30 deposit scheme for all new plot holders which would be returned on giving up their plot provided all the above conditions were met. This was **agreed** with the proviso that the Clerk be given discretion to reduce or cancel this deposit requirement for individual hardship cases. **Clerk**

#### **6. Eccles Recreation Ground**

Cllr Gledhill reported that local residents have commented on the improved cutting standard on the recreation ground with the introduction of the in-house schedule. Noted.

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

7.1 - Changing rooms repairs. The Clerk reported that the Football Club have cleared out the changing rooms. The Chairman and Clerk will be visiting to assess the work required and will then seek quotations from contractors. **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**

There have been some issues regarding the standard of grass cutting and tidying this season. The Clerk has discussed with the contractor and put some clearance of grass cuttings measures around graves in place. To be monitored.

**11. Churchyard** - No report to this meeting.

**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. Resident still has concerns about flooding potential to his property despite recent remedial works carried out. Clerk has invited him to put his detailed concerns in writing for the Council to consider.

16.2 - Car Park – Cllr Ludlow reported a substantial pothole at the entrance to the car park. Clerk to investigate. **Clerk**

**17. Podkin Meadow**

17.1 - 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 to pursue availability with TMBC. **Base**

**19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence** – No report to this meeting.

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