

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

MINUTES

TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2019

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Present: Cllrs Ludlow, (Chairman), Balcombe, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Homewood, Ms Dorrington, Walker

1. Apologies were received, noted and reasons accepted as follows:

Cllrs Homewood (unwell), Ms Dorrington (family commitment), Walker (work).

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations 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 – No report to this meeting.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

Repair of the lights on the slip road off the A229. To be checked whether this work has been done at the end of March in line with the completion of other works in the area involving road closures.

Clerk

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Aylesford Village Square - KCC Highways have approved the initial proposals for the area. The Council's original consultant is not now able to act for the Council. On the advice of the original consultant the Clerk approached Monson Engineering who indicated

that the job being quite small would be quite expensive if they did the work so are recommending an ex-employee who lives locally. Clerk to follow up. **Clerk**

4.2 – **Thomas Road, Preston Hall** – Traffic regulation proposal for double yellow lines due to increased parking by the public using retail outlets opposite on the A20. Cllr Balcombe will research and seek local information. **Balcombe**

4.3 – **Forstal Road Closure** – Closure from AVCC/Parish Council entrance to High Street/Rochester Road roundabout for water pipe replacement from 8 April for 5 weeks.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

6. Public Footpaths

No reports to this meeting.

7. Street Lighting

8. Car Parks

8.1 – Alma Road car park, Eccles. Fencing and posts damaged in recent high winds. Clerk has authorised £590 repair costs. Noted and **agreed**.

9. Bus Services

Awaiting arrangements for a second meeting with Borough Councillor Davies ,KCC and Arriva relating to the 155 bus service.

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

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **Play Equipment** – In house painting on going.

1.2 - **Caloo Outdoor Gym Equipment** – Inspection and some minor repairs completed by Caloo. Clerk is in the process of carrying out a further inspection of all Caloo equipment. He reported that some items have been taken out of use due to major repairs required. He is concerned at the long term maintenance costs of this equipment across the three sites in view of its age, general wear and tear of moving parts and in some cases equipment abuse. Will report back to a future meeting. **Clerk**

1.3 - **Resurfacing Works** – Overlay resurfacing of Eccles multiplay by Playspaces completed satisfactorily. Clerk is further assessing whether this is the most appropriate/cost effective way to carry out the required surfacing work at other sites, whether complete removal of old tiles and new surface and edging should be reconsidered or whether there is another alternative. He is in discussions with other companies and will report back to a future meeting. **Clerk**

1.4 – **Grass Maintenance** – Cutting commenced in-house today. Contractor work expected to commence this week.

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2. The Hollow

Clerk still considering proposals for upgrade of play equipment at The Hollow but Ferryfield is to take priority at the present time.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Play Equipment Replacement Phase 1 – Clerk has discussed with Eibe reports of problems with another Parish Council's project. Eibe will be providing references from other Councils. Although at a previous meeting Eibe was chosen as the Council's preferred contractor, no commitment has been made. Clerk has discussed the project with another company, Kompan, and was also asked to discuss the project again with Wicksteed, before any final decision is made. Clerk to report back to the next meeting. **Clerk**

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

3.3 – Rugby Club

- Ferryfield for tournament parking – 24th March. No problems with this event.
- New metal gates and height barrier installed by the Club at the start of the concrete road into the car park. Height barrier has been knocked down by a mini bus. Rugby Club awaiting repair.
- Update on damage at bund entrance area. Following the damage caused to the bollard and ground at the beginning of March from Rugby Club parking the Clerk reported on a quotation to reinforce the concrete around the bollard and to lay 5 metres of membrane and crushed stone at the bund entrance area - £1080. Members considered 5 metres to be excessive and asked the Clerk to get a requote for reinforcing the bollard and 1 – 2 metres of membrane and crushed stone. **Clerk**

3.4 – Rugby Club Road – Bund fencing completed. Pot hole repairs requote awaited following completion of roadworks in the area.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

5. Allotments.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

No reports to this meeting.

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Request for use of OBG for Aylesford Big Lunch – Sunday 2nd June. **Agreed** free of charge subject to completion of usual conditions of use forms. **Clerk**

13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge) - No report to this meeting.

14. Yoakley Land

Clerk is progressing works on the Yoakley Land enhancement project with the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership. £5000 grant received from Gallaghers with further Parish Council budget funding available if required.

Two days clearance work has been booked for March - £500 plus skip (MVCP). Clerk reported on first day's successful work which took place on Thursday 21 March.

Bat survey in the summer - £250 (MVCP)

Tree survey and maintenance work in the summer - £450 per day (Kent Turf Care). Other quotes to be obtained for comparison. Clerk to report in due course. **Clerk**

Newt survey in the summer - Free (MVCP)

Invasive plant survey £125 - £250 (MVCP)

BioBlitz event to inform the public about the area and seek volunteers - £1000 (MVCP). Proposed date 13 July. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

15. Walderslade Open Spaces - No report to this meeting.

16. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park

Belgrave Street/Car Park approach road repairs – Clerk reported at the last meeting that he had not been able to establish land ownership but in accordance with the Committee's decision, had obtained remedial tarmacking costs for the road leading down to the car park to improve the water flow during heavy rain - £3390; and for the turning corner into the car park which is subject to potholes - £3830.

Members **agreed** that the Council had no legal obligation to carry out this work and did not consider it appropriate use of Council funds. Quotes therefore not to be accepted.

17. Podkin Meadow .

Long term project continuing and further 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

Clerk has discussed with Gala Lights the cost of new street light motifs for BBH and additional ones for Eccles. Costs would be approximately £650 per motif and then an installation and removal charge of £130 each year. It could be done on a year by year basis ie. two new ones in each area each year. Clerk is meeting again in early April with Gala Lighting and will submit to a future meeting a detailed report including the levels of motifs that could practically be put in and how these could be costed over a prolonged period. **Clerk**

19. Aylesford Flood Plan

Aylesford Community Flood Plan exercise – Proposed date Thursday 23 May. Staff and as many Councillors as possible to attend. **Clerk**

20. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

20.1 – Security the Landscape Task and Co-ordination Group – Relating to security of open spaces. Meeting booked for 1st May. Clerk to attend.

20.2 – Number of recent criminal activities in the area: motorbikes stolen, break-in at local business and attempted armed robbery. Noted.

20.3 – Former Councillor Mrs Sinclair-Lee – Memorial service to be held on Wednesday 24 April – Garrison Church, Gillingham – 11am.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.35pm.