

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

**TUESDAY 26 MAY 2015**  
**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Cllrs Ambrose, Base, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Elvy, Gledhill, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Brooks

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**Apologies**

Apologies and reasons from Cllrs Balcombe (holiday), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative) were noted and accepted.

**Declarations of Interests** – There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests

**Election of Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Cllr Base was nominated as Committee Chairman by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Wright. Cllr Base accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected as Chairman.

Cllr Ambrose was nominated as Vice Chairman by Cllr Winnett, seconded Cllr Smith. Cllr Ambrose accepted the nomination and was elected as Vice Chairman.

**A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS**

**1. General Highway Report** - No report to this meeting

## 2. Eccles Highway Matters

Efforts are being made again to install a **pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane**. County Councillor Homewood has lent his support to this with a potential funding input from his Highway grant allowance. Parish Council may also be asked for financial support. Members supported this project in principle subject to adequate research taking place into the most appropriate site for the crossing. Cllr Gledhill stated that he had done a report some years ago identifying a site at the southern end of the village being preferable. Office will try and find this report.

## 3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

Milestone – Delay in KCC removing stone and delivering to stonemason.

## 4. Aylesford Highway Matters

### 4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project

New Quotation received from the Council's contractor taking into account the additional requirements of English Heritage in the sum of £29920. The original quotation was £27617. However in addition to these costs there is a requirement from English Heritage that there is an Archaeological watching brief during the works and the cost of this would be a minimum of £3700 rising to an unspecified amount depending what is found and whether a further archaeologist is required and how much post excavation work is required. The Clerk has suggested that it would not be unreasonable to budget about twice the minimum at £7500. The total cost of the scheme has therefore increased to £37500 without any other issues, which could increase costs further, being raised by English Heritage as the Scheduled Monument Consent application is processed.

The Committee felt in view of the increased cost implications that the project is not representing good value for money and therefore it withdrew its support for the project. The Committee agreed they would like to research alternative lighting schemes for the Old Bridge to increase visibility for pedestrians walking over it at night.

It was recommended that before a final decision is made, the Clerk should be asked to report to the Policy and Resources Committee on the Council's current financial commitments and the level of funds available to the Council to ensure that those funds are allocated to schemes which are both good value for money and meeting the aspirations of the community. **Clerk**

4.2 – Flooding: Opposite Brassey Centre - Work awaited. Clerk was asked to pursue this with Kent Highways due to the length of time this work has been outstanding. **Clerk**

4.3 – Rochester Road speed humps to be re-profiled by Kent Highways. Work to be programmed and will require the road to be closed. Date awaited. Clerk was asked to pursue. **Clerk**

### 4.4 - Aylesford Village Square

1. Design site meeting held. The scheme and estimated cost is expected in late June.

2. BT broadband box in Square – BT have now agreed to resite. Exact position awaited

4.5 – A20 between Larkfield and Aylesford – Joint initiative between Ditton, E Malling & Larkfield and Aylesford Parish Councils re traffic flow problem agreed to request a meeting TMBC. TMBC have agreed to this once they have discussed the matter further with Kent Highways.

4.6 – A20/Hall Road/Quarry Wood Junction – Major traffic disruption caused by water link on Sat 25 to Mon 27 April. Response from Kent Highways to Parish Council's concerns attached at **Appendix A**. Noted.

4.7 – Aylesford Village. Cllr Base reported that he has discussed with TMBC Enforcement Department the increasing problems of HGVs travelling through the village and parking on double yellow lines. Increased ticketing has recently taken place.

**5. Walderslade Highway Matters** - No report to this meeting.

## **6. Public Footpaths**

Walderslade – Local Members reported the boundary fence of 27 Sheraton Court has been repositioned out of alignment on the public footpath (between Oaks Dene and Sheraton Court) which goes down to MR441, taking up about 2ft of the path incorrectly. Clerk has investigated and reported as found to Kent Public Rights of Way. Response from Kent PROW indicated that the path is not a public right of way and therefore there was nothing they could do. Members stated that as the path has been a recognised, regularly used and tarmaced access path to MR441, the Parish Council should seek to get it officially classified as a PROW. Clerk was asked set this in motion seeking the support of County Councillor Homewood.

**Clerk**

## **7. Lighting**

Bull Lane – Upgrade project to allow lights to be adopted by Kent Highways. Awaiting confirmation of completion.

KCC Safe and Sensible Lighting Policy – Clerk writing to Kent Highways re future policy in particular relating to Walsham Road as per resident's presentation to Council on 19 May.

## **8. Car Parks**

Expansion of TMBC Aylesford Bridge car park. Parish Council's agreement to proceeding with this scheme advised to TMBC. Awaiting an update regarding costs from TMBC

**9. Any Other Business/Correspondence** - No report to this meeting.

## **B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS**

### **1. All Sites**

Local history signs – Clerk looking at methods of updating historical content of original signs before contacting potential suppliers..

### **2. The Hollow**

Minor surfacing repair under swings required before it gets any worse. Quote received from Wicksteed - £1000. One other quote awaited. Committee **authorised** Clerk to accept best value quotation so work can proceed as soon as possible. **Clerk**

Deputy Clerk reported that repairs were required to the contour slide steps. One requires complete replacement and others are in a poor condition. Quotes to be obtained. **Clerk**

### **3. Ferryfield**

In house repair required to pedestrian gate wall beside main gates.

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

Redundant tennis courts - Project work commenced on 27 April. Work progressing. Short delay due to awaiting galvanised fittings.

### **5. Allotments**

Aylesford new numbers still to be installed

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

Skateboard park replacement – Project completed and well received. Bench to be ordered and installed – maximum cost **agreed** £400 plus installation. **Clerk**

It was suggested that a plaque is provided with the following words:

“The new skateboard park was provided by Aylesford Parish Council in May 2015”  
**Agreed.** **Clerk**

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

Toddlers equipment gate repair. Adjustment to the gate has been made. Being monitored to see whether this is sufficient or whether new gate is required.

Gap in fence between recreation ground and the school has been cut. Clerk to look at in house repair, communicating with school if necessary. **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**

War Graves Commission have complained to the office regarding rabbit damage to plants on their graves. They have suggested pest control methods but Members agreed these were not appropriate on Council land. Better rabbit proof fencing between the cemetery and the race track to be investigated. **Clerk**

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

**12. Old Bridge Gardens**

Pet Service - 12 July 2015

Big Lunch – 7 June 2015

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

Tidy up of area including gate staining carried out in house.

**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.

**15. Walderslade Open Spaces**

Local members have requested the installation of bollards at two entrances to the woodlands – Tunbury Avenue entrance – locking bollard and Walderslade Road/Impton Lane entrance – solid concrete bollard. Clerk has written to KCC PROW team who have indicated that they will supply a lockable bollard but that the Parish Council will need to install it. This work can be done in house at the same time as the other concrete bollard which the Parish Council will have to fund.

Members suggested having two lockable bollards if KCC PROW can supply these. There was still uncertainty about the exact number and siting of bollards involved and it was agreed that a further site meeting with the Clerk was necessary. **Clerk**

**16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds** - No report to this meeting.

**17. Podkin Meadow** – No report to this meeting.

## **18. Christmas Lighting**

Following the site meeting with Gala Lights the following proposals are in hand for Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade.

### Aylesford

Additional decoration on the lamppost in Forstal Road £485 – ordered.

### Blue Bell Hill

At the last meeting a proposal for a Christmas lights scheme for Blue Bell Hill where there was 8 lighting decorations provided 4 in Maidstone Road and 4 in Robin Hood Lane, the locations of which have been agreed with the local members was reported. The cost of providing these decorations and installing and taking them down in the first year was £5620. The cost of installing and taking down these lights each year would be £1100 from 2016 onwards.

Before making a decision it was felt that an alternative scheme of installing lights in the trees outside the Church in Robin Hood Lane should also be considered. The contractor advises that the large tree to the front could be dressed with lights and the cost would be £3875. This would be a one off cost as the lights would remain in the tree.

It was **agreed** that (with the agreement of the Church) the tree in RHL should be lit as per the above quote and no further action taken on the proposed 8 lighting decorations in Maidstone Road and RHL.

### Walderslade

Lighting of tree at the junction of Tunbury Avenue and Catkin Close £1955 – ordered.

## **19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.07pm.