

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018

MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Shelley, Winnett

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1. Apologies – Cllrs Base (holiday), Shelley (holiday), Winnett (personal). Apologies and reasons were noted and agreed.

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

Clerk investigating the approach of using a Traffic Management Consultant regarding 20mph speed limit through Eccles with KCC and the likely costs involved. If KCC are likely to refuse any recommendation by a TMC that a 20mph should be introduced, it is not cost effective to pursue employing a Consultant. No action to be taken until the Clerk has discussed this further with KCC.

Cllr Ludlow stated that a major issue around the BL/PW junction is the very short distance between the 40mph and 30mph speed limit signs. This has been rejected by KCC but could be part of the approach with a Traffic Management Consultant if this is available as a way forward.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Slow sign on slip road off the A229 towards Aylesford currently situated under the bridge. Request to be moved further up the slip road to be followed up again once the lighting repairs have been completed.

3.2 - Lighting repairs still outstanding on the slip road. Kent Highways staff looking again at the situation this week. Report awaited.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - TMBC Conservation Department have agreed to the revised KCC materials specification for this project. Clerk has taken up the matter of updating the pricing schedule with KCC. Response awaited.

4.2 – **A20/Homebase Flooding** – It is understood that Kent Highways will be undertaking works in March/April to alleviate this problem. Clerk pursuing an actual start date. **Clerk**

4.3 – **Pratling Street** – Following Cllr Rillie’s enquiry, the Clerk has ascertained from TMBC that Pratling Street is on a regular 12 week street cleaning schedule.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 – Robin Hood Lane - Local Members have noted that ‘speed/traffic counting’ wires have been installed in the Medway section of Robin Hood Lane. Medway Authority appear to have no knowledge of these wires and local members reported they have now been removed.

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

KCC have now formally lodged a complaint on behalf of Burham, Wouldham and Aylesford Parish Councils with the Traffic Commissioner regarding the poor standard of service by Arriva on the 155 route. Response awaited. It has been indicated to the Clerk that KCC are willing to facilitate a meeting with Arriva. Further details awaited.

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 Clerk tabled provisional proposals to upgrade the oldest part of the timber play equipment in Ferryfield as the first major project under the Council's play equipment enhancement programme. The Clerk has held initial discussions with CapCo who are proposing a bespoke wooden scheme of towers, walkways and other integrated activities. It would be built on site and therefore would not receive a Kite Mark but would be inspected and passed by ROSPA. CapCo have built similar schemes at Royal British Legion Village and Leeds Castle. An individual and precise design would cost approximately £2500 non-returnable.

Discussion took place regarding age appropriate equipment at Ferryfield, The Hollow and Forstal Road. The Clerk commented that The Hollow equipment is in need of some updating but this will not be a large project.

Members indicated their support for the outline scheme from CapCo regarding Ferryfield which could be designed to link in with a later project to replace the second half of the equipment which is beginning to show signs of wear, but before agreeing to proceed to design stage which could cost the Council £2500 they would wish to see how it fits into the overall strategy for play equipment enhancement across all sites including the need for provision for all ages in the different areas of the parish. **Clerk**

1.2 - Grass Maintenance

New in-house grass maintenance schedule will commence week beginning 9 April (weather permitting). This will include additional work previously contracted out.

2. The Hollow

The Clerk will report to a meeting later in the year on proposals to upgrade equipment in this area.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Rugby Club car parking on Ferryfield – 31 March 2018 8.00am to 3.00pm. Cancelled.

3.2 – Rugby Club car parking on Ferryfield – 22 April 2018 – Already agreed.

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

3.4 – Replacement dog bin required - £209.49. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

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

4.2 – Barrier repair works – Cost £525. **Agreed.**

5. Allotments – No report to this meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Additional dog bin request (Hawkes Road end) – £267.72. **Agreed.**

Clerk

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 - Guttering clearance around the changing rooms completed.

7.2 – Changing rooms condition and key situation. It appears only Real 60 Football Club currently have keys for the changing rooms. The Clerk will obtain a duplicate set from them in order to carry out the inspection.

Clerk

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

No reports to this meeting.

10. Cemetery

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Resident responsible for the unauthorised planting has been identified and the Clerk has held an initial discussion with him. He has agreed to make a retrospective application for the work. Members' initial response is that priority must be given for Environmental Agency access to the stream and that the comments of the EA be sought on the resident's proposals before any determination of his application.

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

14. Yoakley Land

No reports to this meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

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

17. Podkin Meadow

Long term project continuing and wild flower and grass seed sowing will now take place in the Spring when ground conditions allow.

18. Christmas Lights

Blue Bell Hill - Clerk reported on the quotation to replace/repair the Blue Bell Hill tree lights - £2746. Members asked that the Clerk revisit this to ensure best value and report to next meeting. **Clerk**

Eccles – Two more lights to be installed on street lights in Bull Lane were **agreed**. To be funded from Eccles Church Hall grant underspend. **Clerk**

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.08pm