

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2015
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Elvy, Gledhill, Rillie, Smith, Tiller, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Fielder, Mrs Gadd, Homewood,

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1. Apologies

Apologies and reasons from Cllrs Balcombe (election meeting), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Fielder (personal engagement), Mrs Gadd (election meeting), Homewood (KCC business) were noted and accepted.

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 Report - No report to this meeting.

2. Eccles Highway Matters

Forthcoming roadworks/road closures – Noted.

Hale House – Pilgrims Way – Rochester Road – Closure at night from 7 April to 17 May. Diversion through Aylesford Village. Kent Highways have been asked to undertake clearance of vegetation along the Pilgrims Way during the closure. Still awaiting response to this request.

Pilgrims Way – Rochester Road – Lower Bell – Three way traffic signalling from 30 March to 17 May for footway installation. In respect of the request for crash barriers and extension

of the speed limit, Clerk following up on initial response.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

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

3.2 – HGV Parking Restrictions on Maidstone bound Old Chatham Road – possible repercussions within the Parish being monitored.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project – Clerk in discussions with contractor on how this project can be moved forward following the long awaited response from English Heritage which detailed a number of restrictions.

4.2 – Flooding: Opposite Brassey Centre - Work awaited.

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.

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.

3. Temporary litter bin installed by TMBC

4.5 – A20 between Larkfield and Aylesford – Joint initiative between Ditton, E Malling & Larkfield and Aylesford Parish Councils re traffic flow problems. Following on from response from KCC supporting a traffic study, a further meeting has been held and it has been agreed to arrange a meeting with Steve Humphrey of TMBC to discuss the issue.

4.6 – A20/Hall Road/Quarry Wood Junction – Major traffic disruption caused by water link on Sat 25 to Mon 27 April. Members reported poor supervision of diversion route and lack of traffic control which in the end required police intervention. Clerk was asked to write to Kent Highways expressing the Council's concerns. **Clerk**

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

6. Public Footpaths

Walderslade – Local Members reported the boundary fence of 27 Sheriton Court has been repositioned out of alignment on the public footpath (between Oaks Dene and Sheriton

Court) which goes down to MR441, taking up about 2ft of the path incorrectly. Clerk to investigate and report as found to Kent Public Rights of Way.

7. Lighting

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

8. Car Parks

Expansion of TMBC Aylesford Bridge car park. Parish Council's agreement to proceeding with this scheme advised to TMBC. Awaiting TMBC advice on next steps on how to proceed.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

Rugby Club Entrance – The Council has received a request from a local resident to consider converting the bund at the entrance to the Rugby Club ground next to the cemetery to car parking for local residents. After discussion Members agreed that it would not be feasible to manage such an area and the high cost involved would only benefit a limited number of residents and therefore not provide good value for money. Suggestion was therefore rejected.

Clerk

Pratling Street – Litter and horse manure dumping clearance to be pursued with TMBC.

Clerk

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

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

1.2 - All youth shelters have been cleaned - £400 plus VAT.

2. The Hollow

Minor surfacing repair under swings required before it gets any worse – quote requested.

3. Ferryfield

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

3.2 – All padlocks replaced following fire brigade forced entry on 3 April due to setting fire of fallen tree in ‘bomb hole’ area

3.3 – Water leak in private supply line leading to Coldharbour properties repaired.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Redundant tennis courts - Project work commenced on 27 April. Expected to take three weeks.

5. Allotments

5.1 - Aylesford new numbers still to be installed

5.2 - 2015/16 rent payments nearly all in

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Skateboard park replacement – Project commenced 27 April. Expected to take two weeks.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Toddlers equipment gate repair required – quote requested

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

Clerk reported another request from local resident to purchase all or part of this site. Members agreed to reject this request on the basis that it is not Council policy to sell off public open space.

10. Cemetery - No report to this meeting.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Pet Service - 12 July 2015

Big Lunch – 7 June 2015

Dumped rubbish around the pumping reported – clearance still awaited by Southern Water.

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

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 to see how this can be processed. Reply awaited.

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 suggested for Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade.

Aylesford

The cost of having an additional decoration on the lamppost in Forstal Road currently without one is £485. **Agreed.**

Blue Bell Hill

It is proposed that in order to complete the Christmas lights scheme in Blue Bell Hill that there is no further expansion of the lights within the trees but that the scheme is extended by placing lighting decorations on lampposts. It is suggested that 8 lighting decorations are provided 4 in Maidstone Road and 4 in Robin Hood Lane, the locations of which have been agreed with the local members. The cost of providing these decorations and installing and taking them down in the first year is £5620.

Local Members agreed to look again at this proposal with the alternative of installing lights in the trees outside the church and village hall in Robin Hood Lane. Clerk to discuss with contractor.

Walderslade

At the site meeting a suitable tree was found at the junction of Tunbury Avenue and Catkin Close which it was felt would be ideal for placing Christmas lights. The cost of these lights and installing and taking them down in the first year is £1955. **Agreed.**

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

Cllr Tiller - Cllr Base stated this was the last ESC meeting to be attended by Cllr Tiller who was not standing again as a Parish Councillor due to moving from the area. Cllr Tiller has served for several years as Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee and as Vice Chairman during 2014/15 and on behalf of the Committee Cllr Base thanked him for all his efforts and hard work which have contributed to improved facilities all around the Parish. These thanks were endorsed by all present.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.03pm.