

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 28 JULY 2015

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Winnett, Wright

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk
Three members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Homewood

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1. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Mrs Brooks (care of an elderly relative) and Cllr Homewood (KCC meeting) were noted and reasons accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Proposed pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane. Cllr Homewood reported at Council that early indications are that the monitoring carried out in Bull Lane has identified the required numbers and traffic speeds for a crossing. Once confirmation is received the Parish Council will consider its position on contributing towards funding.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Milestone – Stonemason now has stone and will carry out work as soon as workload allows.

3.2 – Cllr Smith reported a deep pothole in Common Road, near Squirrels Riding School. To be report to Kent Highways. **Clerk**

3.3 – Cllr Smith reported the overhanging branches and vegetation on the slip road from the A229 to Common Road. To be reported to Kent Highways. **Clerk**

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** - Following site visit, proposals were presented by Cllr Rillie and the Clerk to utilise the existing two lights at either end of the Old Bridge, upgrading them to match the ‘Heritage’ style in the village and to possibly install one additional light at the southern end. This scheme will require the removal or cutting back of a sycamore tree by The George on the northern side of the Bridge which has already been agreed with the owner of The George and some tree work on Council land on the southern side. Tree work will need to be cleared with TMBC as the area falls within the conservation area. The project was **agreed** in principle and the Clerk was asked to proceed with obtaining permissions, specifications and quotations. **Clerk**

The Clerk was also asked to look at parking issues on the southern side of the bridge next to the gate. **Clerk**

4.2 – **Flooding:** Opposite Brassey Centre - Work awaited. Clerk has pursued this with Kent Highways due to the length of time this work has been outstanding. Drain has been cleaned which has led to some improvement but major work required is not prioritised. Site will continue to be monitored.

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 has pursued. Awaiting detailed response.

4.4 - Aylesford Village Square

- Enhancement Project - Awaiting street furniture proposals from Fitzpatrick Woolmer for consideration. Due this week.
- Lighting – Awaiting: removal of ‘modern’ style column installed in error
repair of lighting column in the centre of village
replacement of damaged ‘roundabout’ sign outside Village Pantry

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. It is expected that the meeting between the parishes and TMBC will be held in September. Parish Council has agreed to join the Joint Parish Councils Traffic Consultative Group with Cllr Walker as its representative (up to two other PC representatives are also entitled to attend). It is hoped this Group will assist in the discussions about the A20.

4.6 – **Station Road Closure Southbound** – From 3 August to 1 September.

4.7 – **Level Crossing Closure** – Sunday 9 August one day.

4.8 – **Litter Clearance** – Cllr Walker offered to liaise with TMBC to arrange a litter clearance of Hermitage Lane. This was accepted with thanks. Details of date etc to be publicised as volunteers will be requested.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 - **Fostington Way** – Clerk was asked to raise with Kent Highways the 40mph and 30 mph signs which are situated within a few feet of each other. **Clerk**

5.2 – **Footways** – Local Members expressed concerns at the overgrown footways/pavements in their area. Clerk to raise with Kent Highways. **Clerk**

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - Clerk endeavouring to establish land ownership of Walderslade paths (thought to be KCC) and to then report encroachments to the appropriate landowner for action.

6.2 – Path on Pilgrims Way from vineyard appears to be blocked. Clerk stated there is no public right of way at the point of the sign and would take the matter up with Kent Public Rights of Way. **Clerk**

6.2 – MR464/Rochester Road. Cllr Rillie reported the overgrown hedge which badly affects sight lines when exiting this path directly onto the Rochester Road. Clerk to discuss with Kent Highways. **Clerk**

7. Lighting

Bull Lane – Upgrade project to allow lights to be adopted by Kent Highways. Confirmation of completion and adoption received. Office now reporting adoption to UK Power Network in order to remove lights from Parish Council energy schedule.

KCC Safe and Sensible Lighting Policy – Following Cllr Homewood’s report to Parish Council that KCC will be commencing installation of LED lights throughout the county in 2016, Clerk to report on PC light policy in due course and whether there is the potential to incorporate the upgrading of PC lights to LED with the KCC scheme.

8. Car Parks

AVCC/AFC/Parish Council car park – Clerk reported to AVCC the view of the PC that extension of the car park and widening of the access was not a good value project. AVCC have discussed this further with the Clerk and have asked the PC to reconsider. Members **agreed** again this was not a project they could endorse as it did not represent good value for the parish as a whole.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

Peters Village – Trenport tour of the Peters Village site will take place on Tues 11 August. Members wishing to attend to inform the Clerk who will distribute details on meeting place and time when received.

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. These will be considered in conjunction with the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project – see A.4.4 above.

1.2 – Prevention of Dog Fouling – Consideration following discussions at Council on 21 July 2015. Clerk to report to a future meeting.

1.3 – Annual play equipment inspection by Wicksteed of all 6 sites ordered.

2. The Hollow

2.1 - Surfacing repair under swings and repairs required to the contour slide step completed.

2.2 - Surfacing repair under multiplay required – quote awaited.

3. Ferryfield - See AOB below.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Multi sports courts - Project completed and being well used. Awaiting installation of litter bin and No Dog signs. Formal opening arranged for 1 September – 10am – by Tracey Crouch MP (now Minister for Sport).

Residents of Powell Close have raised with the Clerk verbally and by letter, their concerns re balls (mainly footballs) repeatedly going into their gardens at the rear of the courts and owners climbing the low fence into their gardens to retrieve them. They have asked the Council to urgently look at additional fencing considering both security and appearance. Members agreed that measures should be looked at to prevent this and asked the Clerk to liaise with a fencing contractor and the residents to identify a mutual solution to restrict this trespass. Clerk also to investigate whether there is a ‘net roofing’ solution. Temporary signs indicating ‘private gardens’ to immediately be installed followed by permanent ones.

Clerk

4.2 - Football Club Tournament – 5/6 September 2015. Advance notices re parking to go up on village noticeboards and website. **Clerk**

4.3 - Car park fencing replacement – Completed. Cost £821.66

5. Allotments

Aylesford - New numbers still to be installed.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Skateboard park completed – Bench and plaque awaiting installation.

6.2 - Fencing of play equipment – Following requests from residents that this be considered to prevent dog fouling around equipment and security for children, the Clerk will discuss specifications and prices with a fencing contractor and report back to the Committee. Expected cost to be in the region of £11500. **Clerk**

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 - Shrubbery clearance completed behind the Hall.

7.2 – Following a site meeting with local members, additional play equipment provision is being priced for report back to the Committee.

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery No reports to this meeting on 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

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

Some tree removal may be required in conjunction with proposed Old Bridge lighting project at A. 4.1 above.

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. Clerk has approached Kent Wildlife Trust to become involved.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

Bollards – Clerk pursuing the issue of bollards with Kent PROW.

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

17. Podkin Meadow - No report to this meeting.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

18.1 - Rubber Duck Race – John Rafferty of Bluebell Estate Agency has asked whether the Parish Council would support a Rubber Duck Race between the bridges in the Summer of 2016. The race would raise funds for local Aylesford good causes. Members expressed their support. **Clerk**

18.2 – Members queried whether it was within their remit to ban smoking within its childrens’ play equipment areas. Clerk to research. **Clerk**

18.3 – Travellers have been seen setting up caravans at the Coldharbour/Little Preston end of Ferryfield today. They obtained access this afternoon via the Rugby Club road, over the pitches and through the gap in the fence at the top of the pitches. Police have attended and notices will be served. Clerk is liaising with TMBC Enforcement Officers. No damage appears to have been caused on entering. Currently 7 caravans and associated vehicles in situ.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.27pm.