

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2017
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Jones, Mrs Phibbs, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker,. Winnett, Wright

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

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1. Apologies – No report to this meeting.

2. Declarations of Interests

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

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

2. Eccles Highway Matters

2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction.

Kent Highways feasibility study and schemes being developed arising from the study should be available shortly. Copy of the study has been received by the Parish Council from Cllr Homewood who also has a meeting at KCC on Friday 31st March to discuss taking this forward.

The recent Coroners report on the fatality which occurred on the Pilgrims Way by pass has recommended that the speed limit be reduced to 40mph. Noted.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Planters – In house installation awaited.

3.2 – Slip Road – Lighting is still out. Clerk and County Cllr Homewood will pursue this again with KCC. **Clerk**

3.3 – A229 Slip Road towards Common Road – Blue Bell Hill Crematorium sign damaged and a potential hazard. Office to report to Kent Highways. **Clerk**

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Aylesford Village Square - Awaiting revised plans from Amey following the consultation with residents. Personnel dealing with this project at Amey have changed but the Clerk is in touch with them to pursue action. They have apologised for the delay and hope to have designs to us within the next few weeks.

4.2 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

A20/Hermitage Lane

The Plan for the works on Hermitage Lane and plans for the Quick Win schemes on the A20, have been received. Next Joint Parish meeting with representatives of KCC, TMBC, Aylesford, Ditton and East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council representative to be held on 20 April.

The second option for the A20/Hermitage Lane junction which provides for a double lane up to the traffic lights for the retail park entrance but does not require acquiring any additional land, is the preferred option. Cllr Homewood stated that he understands this has been agreed by Kent Highways and should be implemented in summer 2017.

4.3 – Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter – Highways England have promised Tracey Crouch MP that fence repairs and litter clearance will take place within the next month.

4.4 – Rochester Road Water – Gully repairs have been carried out to cure the second leak from Tottingham Farm pond overflow.

4.5 – Hall Road Zebra Crossing – Nearest A20 – ‘Halos’ have been fitted.

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

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - River Medway Towpath MR 473 – Work is progressing on this project although slightly behind schedule. Due for completion by the end of April. Aylesford Parish Council have now paid their £20,000 contribution to the scheme to KCC.

Cllr Rillie reported on his visit to the site in early March. Overall it is an excellent project. He has slight concerns regarding the increased use of the Aylesford flood lagoon area at exceptionally high tides which could long term cause damage to the wall. To be monitored.

7. Street Lighting

7.1 - Old Bridge Gardens lights painting will be done in house.

7.2 –Streetlights maintenance contract. Revised price has been received and Clerk has gone back with further questions for which a response is awaited.

7.3 – Streetlight at the top of Teapot Lane out. KCC responsibility. Office to report. **Clerk**

8. Car Parks - No report to this meeting.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – Southern Rail Franchise Consultation Document

The Clerk asked if the Council wished to comment on this document which is on the Gov.UK website? Consultation period ends 23 May 2017. Clerk was asked to review the document and to report back to Members if there are any aspects which particularly affect Aylesford parish. **Clerk**

9.2 – HGVs in Blue Bell Hill Village

Following her report to Council on 21 March, resident of Blue Bell Hill Village has given the Clerk a detailed report of recent HGV activity in the village, which he has forwarded to Kent Highways with a repeated request for improved signage and Sat Nav updates. **Clerk**

9.3 – Lorry Watch Scheme

Tracey Crouch MP has made the Clerk aware of the KCC Lorry Watch Scheme which enables volunteers to record details of HGVs using unsuitable roads or not adhering to limits and restrictions. Information is passed to the police who can contact owners to warn or advise. Members considered that the majority of problem areas in the parish (BBH, Eccles and Aylesford village centres) were not illegal routes but unsuitable routes or incorrect routes. Therefore enforcement by the police was not likely to be appropriate. Members therefore considered that the formal adoption of this Scheme by the Parish Council would not be effective.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Local **history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this following on from the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

1.2 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** – This item to remain on agenda as an ad memoire until Clerk is ready to make his report to a future meeting on additional work to be carried out in-house and equipment required.

2. The Hollow – Contour slide steps. Handrail installed.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Rugby Club – overflow car parking for festival 23 April 2017. Already agreed.

3.2 - Dog Show 13 – 14 May 2017. Already agreed

3.3 – Charity Rugby Event 5 – 7 May 2017. Clerk reported that he understands this event has been poorly supported and may be cancelled. Further information awaited.

3.4 – Circus visit – 24 April for 3 nights. Already agreed.

3.5 – Culverstone Dog Show Club – Request for use of Ferryfield for show ring and parking 21 (set up), 22 and 23 July on similar basis to 13-14 May (3.2 above) has received. This was **agreed** subject to review of show ring on Ferryfield at the May event. If this is not deemed successful Culverstone will be asked to use Ferryfield for car parking only. **Clerk**

3.6 – Long term future of Wicksteeds Logworld multi-play equipment. Clerk discussed with Members the plans for the new British Legion play equipment scheme being designed and built by Capco. This was considered to be innovative company who build on site, and who could have good ideas suitable for Ferryfield possibly incorporating the large trees in situ. It was noted that if they are asked to design a scheme for FF there would be a charge of 10% of the total cost of the scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Capco further for advice as they proceed with the British Legion project and report back to Committee before a commitment to request a design is formally made. **Clerk**

3.7 – Height barrier replacement – quotation awaited.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Aylesford Scout Group 16 July Fun Day Fund Raising event. Already agreed.

5. Allotments

Pricing for 2019/20. Invoices for 2017/18 based on plot sizes are just about to go out, together with advice that 2018/19 fees based on plot sizes will be increased slightly. The Clerk reported that the office would like to simplify plot sizes and charges into perhaps small, medium and large plots in the future with a view to implementing this system in 2019/20. It was **agreed** that this system should be researched further. **Clerk**

It was noted that the allotments are currently heavily subsidised by the Council and that a policy of a rolling annual 5% increase in rents should be implemented. This was **agreed**.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Memorial clock. Stonemason looking at work involved to reinstate lettering and to provide a quote. Cllr Gledhill reported that he considered now the main renovation work has been done the wording is quite clear as it is. Therefore subject to discussion with the stonemason the Clerk will not progress any further work.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Request received from local resident to clear scrub land at the rear of Catkin Close.

The Clerk reported that the area is an eye-sore and is beyond clearance either by local residents themselves or as in-house Parish job. Members previously agreed to consider a quotation for deciding whether to undertake this work as a good will, one off gesture. Quotation of £450 received and it was proposed by Cllr Elvy, seconded Cllr Winnett to proceed on this basis. **Agreed 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

Long term future extension. This item will appear on the ESC agenda each month for progress report from the Clerk as appropriate.

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Request to use OBG for Big Lunch on Sunday 18 June. **Agreed** free of charge subject to normal stipulations. Donation request also to be considered by FASC. **Clerk**

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

14. Yoakley Land - No report to this meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

Report made to PCSO regarding concerns over recent possible animal poisonings in various Walderslade open spaces. Information also placed on Parish Council website. Police require as much information as possible including dates, vet reports etc in order to carry out enquiries. Walderslade Woods Group have put up warning notices.

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

Minor repair to tarmac access road being investigated in order to prevent water accessing neighbouring property. Initial specification and quotation of £7200 considered to be excessive. Clerk still discussing with contractor a more basic solution.

17. Podkin Meadow

On-going project, work well received so far.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.20pm.