

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2017

MINUTES

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Present: Cllr Elvy (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Homewood, Rillie, Shelley, Walker, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Smith, Winnett

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1. Apologies

Apologies and the reasons given were noted and accepted as follows: Cllrs Base (holiday), Smith (family commitment), Winnett (personal commitment).

2. Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Registry of Members 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

Phase 1 of the junction improvement works have been completed. Kent Highways have agreed to relook at the feasibility of a Vehicle Activated Speed signs once vegetation has been cleared back and it can be ascertained whether there is room for the installation and on-going maintenance of such a sign.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Slow sign on slip road off the A229 towards Aylesford currently situated under the bridge. Clerk has asked that Kent Highways move the sign to the actual slip road before the Lower Warren Road junction to improve safety at this junction as well as the junctions under the bridge. Response awaited.

3.2 - Lighting repairs still awaited on the slip road which were scheduled for August. KCC have reported they are still awaiting delivery of new columns. Clerk is pursuing on a more formal basis with the Director of Highways.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Clerk has established up to date contact personnel at TMBC now dealing with this project. Now awaiting conservation agreement to the proposed revised materials which will then be re-priced.

4.2 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

Work completed on widening the road at the A20/Hermitage Lane junction.

4.3 – Aylesford Village/Forstal Road junction

Site meeting held with Kent Highways re proposed improvements to this junction to include safer pedestrian access and improved signage. KH took on board comments from local members. Awaiting report.

4.4 – **Hall Road** – Cllr Rillie reported the muddy condition of Hall Road from vehicles leaving the Station Road Somerfield development site. Clerk to make enquiries with TMBC Planning Department or KCC Highways to ensure vehicles are cleaned before leaving site.

Clerk

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 – Tunbury Avenue – Kent Highways advise that this area does not fall within the criteria for a 20mph speed limit. Local Members queried this decision and, in view of the proposal to introduce a 20mph limit based on air quality in roads around the local school in Eccles, would like this criteria to be tested in Tunbury Avenue where there is also a large primary school. Clerk to make enquiries.

Clerk

5.2 – Cllr Wright thanked all those involved in getting two recent items of concern solved – the removal of overhanging branches in the Walderslade Woods road area and the removal of some nuisance fly posting.

6. Public Footpaths – No report to this meeting.

7. Street Lighting

7.1 - Upgrade to LED lighting by Kent Highways – KH have advised that footway lights as opposed to street lights are not being upgraded as priority and may involve going back to

certain areas for odd lights. This has caused a particular problem with one light in Robin Hood Lane which has been completely out for a number of months. Clerk has raised this with the Director of Highways.

7.2 – Two lights in Walderslade to be reported as screened by foliage. **Clerk**

8. Car Parks

8.1 – Forstal Road (AVCC entrance) height barrier installed and will now be closed at night.

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

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** – Clerk has reviewed all currently contracted out and in house grass maintenance in view of the new machine now owned by the Parish Council and a reallocation of Walter’s work schedule. The Clerk has liaised with both members of the Council’s maintenance staff and prepared a schedule of work which will allow for Eccles, Blue Bell Hill, The Hollow and Tunbury to be maintained in house. Forstal Road, Ferryfield and part of the Cemetery will continue to be contracted out together with hedge cutting. Quotes for contract work have been requested. Clerk will report to the next meeting.

1.2 – **Play Equipment Inspection** – Annual inspection took place on 25 October. Report received. Followed up with an in house visit to all sites by the Clerk and Walter Matthews.

Clerk stated that the report recommends the removal/replacement of the oldest part of the Ferryfield multi-play equipment. A number of pieces of equipment in The Hollow are looking tired and reaching the end of their time. There are also a number of areas of surfacing on all sites that require attention. Other minor repairs can be carried out in house.

The Clerk proposes to prepare a play equipment enhancement programme with various options and funding implications for an ESC meeting in the New Year.

2. The Hollow – See 1.2 above.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – Upgrade of multi-play equipment – Will be considered in line with 1.2 above.

3.2 - Rugby Club car parking on Ferryfield – 31 March 2018 8.00am to 3.00pm. Already agreed.

Parking took place as agreed on 19 November 2017. However as vehicles were directed to a different part of the field there was some minor damage. Clerk has clarified with the Club where vehicles should be parked for any future events. Noted.

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

3.4 – Bench renovation (sited near the football container) to be undertaken in house during the winter.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Height barrier at entrance – Installed. Regular opening and closing has now commenced.

4.2 – Scout Fun Day – 15 July 2018. Already agreed.

5. Allotments - No report to this meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground – No report to this meeting.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Rotabounce Play Equipment – Latest proposed date for repair by Playdale on behalf of Wicksteed is week beginning 27 November 2017.

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site – No report to this meeting.

10. Cemetery

10.1 - Long term future **extension**. This item will appear on the ESC agenda each month for progress report from the Clerk as appropriate. Clerk is also working on proposals to change the regulations particularly in respect of pre-purchase and out of parish charges. Report to be made to ESC in the New Year.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

12.1 – Bench renovation to be undertaken in house during the winter.

12.2 – Contractors on behalf of Southern Water have completed their pipe search work in the river from OBG. Reinstatement work is satisfactory.

12.3 – Recent monthly reports from the contractors monitoring rat activity in OBG have shown a significant decrease, thought likely to be due to the clearance of the derelict area behind the Business Centre. It was **agreed** that the monthly contract now be cancelled and replaced with a six monthly check by a Pest Control Operative already used by the Council for other areas.

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 - No report to this meeting.

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

Work to resolve minor flooding issue (£1095) and pothole repairs (£480) ordered. Work due to commence 11 December.

17. Podkin Meadow

Long term project is continuing through the autumn. Weed spraying has recently taken place. Wild flower and grass seed sowing will now take place next Spring.

18. Christmas Lighting

Clerk has confirmed with Gala Lighting that all is in place for all sites to be switched on at the latest by beginning of December including new lighting to be placed in the Aylesford tree as agreed at Council 21 November 2017.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

19.1 – RBLI Play Equipment opening hours. Clerk reported that RBLI have now agreed to extend the opening hours for this play area to 7 days a week during daylight hours. This decision was welcomed.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.00pm.