

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 26 AUGUST 2014

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Balcombe, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Smith, Wright

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

Observing for part meeting: Cllr D Davis

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Fielder, Homewood, Ms Hurley, Tiller, Winnett

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1. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Rillie declared an interest in item A.6 – Public Footpaths - and took no part in the discussion and decision.

There were no other declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

2. Apologies for absence – Noted.

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

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

2. Eccles Highway Matters

Bus stop clearway order implemented by KCC and work completed. Cllr Gledhill queried the 'No parking' sign installed which indicates no parking at any time permitted even when bus services are not running. Clerk to query with Kent Highways. **Clerk**

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Overhanging branches A229 to Common Road. Work completed. Some litter/debris to be cleared.

3.2 – E mail received re nuisance motorbikes and quad bikes in BBH area. Cllr Smith confirmed this was an issue. Passed to local PCSO. Clerk will follow up with her. **Clerk**

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

High Street closure and works continue. Due to reopen by end of August.

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project

Initial proposals for the lighting scheme presented by Mr Wood of Gala Lights at the last ESC meeting have been submitted to English Heritage for their consideration including the offer of a site meeting. Acknowledgement received. Full response from EH awaited.

4.2 – Flooding:

Opposite Brassey Centre - Kent Highways were not able to carry out the works successfully during the level crossing closure in May 2014. They will need to design a more robust scheme and come back at a later date.

4.3 – Awaiting lighting improvements and foliage clearance planned to the **pedestrian crossing at the top of Hall Road** to improve visibility.

4.4 – Awaiting report on reduction in the effectiveness of **Rochester Road speed humps** since the resurfacing as reported to Kent Highways. Cllr Rillie reported that the new design is resulting in extra puddling during heavy rain.

4.5 –**New level crossing** signs report. Awaiting response from Kent Highways.

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

6. Public Footpaths

Cllr Rillie’s declaration of interest was noted.

Definitive Map Modification Orders for **Creation of Bridleways in Parishes of Aylesford and Burham**

Clerk’s report and correspondence from Trenport distributed to all Members and attached at **Appendix A** to the bound copy of these minutes.

Trenport have requested Parish Council support for their objection to the proposals.

Meeting with interested parties being held at County Hall on Thursday 28 August. Cllrs Balcombe, Gledhill and Clerk attending.

Closing date for comments on the proposals – 5 September 2014.

Members considered the Clerk's report and Trenport correspondence. Members' main concern was to retain existing motorbike inhibitors which have been successful in recent years in preventing access by off road vehicles. Members considered the alternatives to the inhibitors which would allow horse access but felt these would not be adequate to stop motorbikes.

Following a proposal by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Elvy, Members voted and unanimously **agreed** to object to the creation of bridleways within the area currently restricted by the existing motorbike inhibitors and that the Clerk should draft this objection for a submission to Kent County Council.

Councillors and Clerk will attend meeting on 28 August and then submit the Council's objections as above before the deadline for comments. **Clerk**

7. Lighting

7.1 – **Bull Lane** – Kent Highways have listed further works required to complete the upgrade to adoptable standard. Quote accepted for required work - £12,009.80. Some works will start at the beginning of September but there is an 8 week delay on works to be undertaken by UK Power Network.

7.2 – **Teapot Lane** – Kent Highways have confirmed upgrade work completed is to adoptable standard. Lights to now be removed from Parish Council energy and maintenance responsibility schedule. Awaiting paperwork from KH.

7.3 – Parish lights **faults:**

Lights reported in: The Hawthorns, Old Bridge Gardens, end of Old Bridge, Alma Road.

Light above traffic lights, Cage Hill, Aylesford also to be reported.

Clerk

8. Car Parks

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – Still awaiting contact from TMBC re additional car park spaces.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

Letter from the Milestone Society regarding a Milestone in Blue Bell Hill village on Maidstone Road just north of Barling Close and is looking to support from the Parish Council for the conservation of this milestone. BBH Members **agreed** in principle to support this initiative. Clerk has contacted Kent Highways for their advice.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. **All Sites** – Annual play equipment inspection ordered – Aug/September.

2. **The Hollow** - No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – Concrete path to MUGA and car park improvements – Completed including new litter bin installation.

3.2 – Play equipment surface repairs required – Wicksteed quote £6170 accepted. Awaiting start date.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - Redundant Tennis Court – Clerk awaiting quotes on the various individual aspects of the project ie. tarmacing, fencing etc, for comparison to undertaking scheme as a whole.

4.2 – Football Club Tournament – 30 and 31 August.

4.3 - Post Meeting Note: On attending to lock up the main entrance gates at 10pm Tues 26 August, the caretaker of AVCC discovered that the gate pillar and adjoining wall had been badly damaged. At present gates are not able to be locked at night. Adjacent car parking spaces are considered to be at risk if wall collapses so permission has been granted to space holders to park in the main car park. Urgent enquiries re repair of damage and responsibility are in hand.

5. Allotments

Aylesford - Two untended plots have had tenancies terminated with effect from 6 September.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Skateboard park replacement – Clerk investigating funding opportunities and how the Council would proceed with a design and build tender, before reporting back to Committee in detail in due course.

6.2 – Complaint re tree overhanging Skinner Close being investigated.

6.3 – Boundary fencing repair quote following vandalism. Protec fencing - £1400 quote accepted. Awaiting commencement date.

6.4 – Funfair visit – 26 August to 1 September.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – Path improvement including flattening out depression where new path meets existing road – awaiting commencement date.

7.2 – Puddling on the bottom of the contour slide reported to Wicksteed for inclusion in annual play equipment inspection to see if any adjustment can be made.

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond - No report to this meeting.

10. Cemetery - No report to this meeting.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Request received from resident of High Street to site small skip at the rear of property on OBG land during building works for up to 6 weeks commencing next week. This was **agreed** subject to acceptance of responsibility for any damage caused to the area. **Clerk**

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

14. Yoakley Land

Life buoy has not been reinstated as area continues to be flooded. Exact siting to be reconsidered.

Work on a long term plan and strategy for the area as a whole to be considered by the Clerk for further discussion with Members. **Clerk**

15. Walderslade Open Spaces - No report to this meeting.

16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds

Damage caused to metal rail around St Mark Square boundary with Alma Road car park. Clerk looking at repairs required, hopefully in house work. **Clerk**

17. Podkin Meadow

Barrier quotation - £1380 (similar style to proposed Aylesford Scout hut site) manufacture and delivery only agreed. Separate installation will be required. Awaiting delivery.

18. Christmas Lighting

18.1 - Eccles Tree –New lights required for 2014 (existing sets 5 years old) – quote £240.
Agreed. **Clerk**

18.2 – Additional Christmas lighting for Blue Bell Hill – At the last meeting Members considered a proposal from Gala Lights for additional Christmas lighting consisting of 3 lighting column motifs which was rejected. Following a site meeting with Cllr Tiller, Mr Woods of Gala Lights and the Clerk a revised scheme for lighting in 2 further trees was suggested – quote received £3530. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no other business, meeting closed at 8.35pm.