

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014**  
**MINUTES**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Present:** Cllrs Base (in the Chair), Gledhill, Mrs Gadd, Smith, Elvy, Wright

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Ambrose, Tiller, Balcombe, Ms Hurley, Mrs Brooks, Winnett, Homewood

\* \* \* \* \*

**1. Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

**2. Apologies for absence**

**A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS**

**1. General Highway Report**

TMBC double yellow lining proposals for:

Aylesford – Elm Walk, The Oaks, The Avenue  
Blue Bell Hill – Barling Close, Robin Hood Lane, Maidstone Road  
Eccles – Bull Lane  
Walderslade – Hurst Hill, Tunbury Avenue, Woodbury Road

Noted. No comments at this stage.

**2. Eccles Highway Matters**

Proposed new zebra crossing for Bull Lane. Local members undertaking local residents consultation re preferred siting.

**3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

3.1 - Jubilee Bench – Layby opposite the Lower Bell – Awaiting installation

3.2 – A229/Common Road Slip Road – Overhanging trees and rubbish which are restricting sight lines and road width to be reported to Kent Highways. **Clerk**

#### **4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project – Gala Lighting researching an appropriate style of lights. When a suitable style has been selected by Gala and approved by the Parish Council, a detailed scheme will be proposed and forwarded to English Heritage for approval.

4.2 – Flooding:

Hall Road/Station Road junction – Works planned by Kent Highways within the next 4 weeks. Clerk pursuing exact start date. **Clerk**

Opposite Brassey Centre - Kent Highways intended to carry out works during level crossing closure but as this was postponed alternative arrangements have to be made for road closure.

Sedley Close – This site has recently started flooding. Kent Highways are aware.

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

**6. Public Footpaths** - No report to this meeting.

#### **7. Lighting**

7.1 – Bull Lane – Kent Highways have now listed further works required to complete the upgrade to adoptable standard. Quotes for required work awaited.

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.

7.3 - Potential upgrade/adoption lighting scheme. Rochester Road/Powell Close/Unwin Close. Not to be pursued until Bull Lane and Teapot Lane administration matters are completed.

7.4 – Kent Highways Safe and Sensible Street Lighting Scheme – Response reported by Clerk to Environmental Services Committee 25 February 2014 – Page 2, 7.4.

At Council on 18 March, County Councillor Homewood reported that there is a direct KCC link for comments on individual areas where the scheme has been introduced. Noted.

7.5 – Parish lights faults reported:

Salisbury Road, Kits Coty – All four columns require upgrading - £720. **Agreed. Clerk**

Stevens Road, Eccles – Outside no. 3 – shade requested. Outside no. 11 – reported out

#### **8. Car Parks**

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – Decision on whether to resurrect Parish offer to fund further car park spaces. Cllr Balcombe has raised this with TMBC who are interested in pursuing the proposal and will contact the Clerk.

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

## **B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS**

1. **All Sites** – Tree survey being undertaken.

2. **The Hollow** –Additional grass enhancement work to be undertaken in house.

### **3. Ferryfield**

3.1 – MUGA – sign installed.

3.2 – Trim trail reinstatement – Ordered from Sports Equip. Awaiting date for installation but likely to be mid April.

3.3 – Pedestrian gate repair ordered – Brickwork completed. Gate reinstatement still outstanding. Awaiting welding work.

3.4 – Concrete path to MUGA and car park improvements quote - £4300 and £650 respectively. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

3.5 – Rugby Club Tournament Parking – 13 April already agreed. Additional request for 27 April – **agreed.** The Clerk confirmed that the Club have accepted responsibility for any damage caused to the surface and will undertake repairs as necessary. Noted.

### **4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground**

Redundant Tennis Court – Clerk awaiting contact from Football Club for discussions on their proposal. Will pursue. Followed up with school but as yet no one has come forward for discussion. **Clerk**

### **5. Allotments**

Eccles - Belgrave Street rear access road – surface improvement quote - £680. **Agreed.** Work has been completed.

Pot holes in allotment track also filled in.

### **6. Eccles Recreation Ground**

6.1 – Skateboard park replacement – Clerk still investigating specifications and prices.

6.2 – One new replacement bench – installation due .

### **7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park**

7.1 – Two new benches – installation due.

7.2 – Two new items of toddler equipment – equipment and safety surface installed.

7.3 – Skier (outdoor gym equipment) – Replacement unit – new more robust design and all equipment inspection ordered - £850. Expected 9 April.

7.4 – Path improvement including flattening out depression where new path meeting existing road - quote £1450 – **agreed.** **Clerk**

## **8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

Clerk was asked to research the area of woodland being offered for sale adjacent to the Parish Council's access road to the recreation ground to ascertain whether the PC would have any interest in purchasing. **Clerk**

## **9. Blue Bell Hill Pond**

Trees on site will be priority for the tree survey.

## **10. Cemetery**

Move surplus soil pile – ordered. Site will then be landscaped in-house and new surplus soil pile established at the rear of the cemetery. Work awaited.

## **11. Churchyard**

Mitchell Grave – Renovation completed.

**12. Old Bridge Gardens** - No report to this meeting.

**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.

Additional fencing to be installed around the flooded area.

Approach from a member of staff at Waitrose about wildlife/nature protection in Yoakley – further discussions to be held when there are more specific proposals.

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

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

## **17. Podkin Meadow**

17.1 - Surfacing of Robin Hood Lane footpath entrance. Weeds. Clerk reported he had received two quotes – one to take up surface, weed kill and relay - £2985; and the second to carry out minor repairs and weed kill - £265. It was **agreed** to accept the second quote and to regularly monitor the path for further attention in the future if required. **Clerk**

17.2 – Andrew's Bench – Bench to be installed

17.3 – Entrance boulders have been resited to allow for maintenance access. Gate security has been improved but it was **agreed** to price installation of a height barrier for additional security. **Clerk**

## **18. Christmas Lighting**

Eccles Tree –New lights required for 2014 (existing sets 5 years old). To be researched.

Blue Bell Hill tree lights have had to be removed temporarily to allow for tree maintenance by KCC. Noted.

**19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence** - No report to this meeting.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.11pm.