

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2014
Commenced 7.30pm

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Mrs Gadd (in the Chair), Ambrose, Balcombe, Elvy, Gledhill, Rillie, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Mrs Brooks, Fielder, Homewood, Smith, Tiller

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1. Apologies

Noted and accepted as follows: Cllrs Base, Smith, Tiller (Holiday); Cllr Fielder (Unwell); Cllr Mrs Brooks (Caring for Elderly Relative); Cllr Homewood (County Council business)

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest 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

Mackenders Lane remedial flooding works will commence 10 November 2014.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Milestone – Awaiting removal and resiting of stone by KCC, following which local stonemason will provide Parish Council with a quote to refurbish.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** - Response on proposals awaited from English Heritage.

4.2 – **Flooding: Opposite Brassey Centre** - Work awaited

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.

Cllr Rillie requested that the Council ask for a meeting with Kent Highways to discuss updating traffic calming features throughout the village. **Clerk**

Cllr Base's concerns relating to HGVs in the village as reported in the Kent Messenger on 24 October were noted.

4.4 – Cllr Rillie reported the speed limit signs at the junction of Pratling Street and Rochester Road have been vandalised (now facing the wrong direction). Office to report. **Clerk**

4.4 - **Aylesford Village Square** – Progress report on Village Square joint improvement project between Parish Council, KCC and TMBC. Clerk reported that he is making steady progress with this project. £4000 has been earmarked from County Cllr Homewood's Highways Allocation; Kent Highways have indicated that some funding will be available and that their Engineering Design Department will work with the Parish Council on the design of the scheme; TMBC have indicated support subject to receipt of more details relating to the scheme; and the Parish Council have already agreed financial support. Clerk will continue to ensure the momentum continues and is giving priority to arranging discussions with KH Engineering Design Department.

Cllr Rillie referred to the untidy external condition of the Little Gem in Aylesford Village Square. Cllr Balcombe stated that TMBC are aware of this and have been in discussions with the owner. Cllr Balcombe will continue to update the Parish Council on progress.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters - No reports to this meeting.

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - Definitive Map Modification Orders for **Creation of Bridleways in Parishes of Aylesford and Burham**. Parish Council's objections to the proposals confirmed to KCC.

6.2 – Proposal to upgrade public footpath **MR52 to a bridleway**. KCC have requested the Council's views on the proposal to upgrade this footpath to a bridleway. Clerk circulated a map to all Members present detailing the plans. He has walked this path and found it to be noisy with traffic noise but with a tarmaced surface. It leads into other bridlepaths in the area and he therefore suggested there was no reason to oppose this. Members **agreed** to support the proposal to upgrade. **Clerk**

7. Lighting

7.1 – **Bull Lane** – Completion of upgrade project has commenced. Lights will then be formally adopted by Kent Highways.

7.2 – **Teapot Lane** – Formal request for transfer of these upgraded lights to KCC has been sent to UKpowernetworks.

7.3 - **Forstal Road/High Street/Rochester Road roundabout** – KCC have been pursued regarding replacement of this damaged light.

7.4 – **Blue Bell Hill Slip Road towards Aylesford** – Cllr Elvy reported the third light down on the slip road as out. Office to report. **Clerk**

8. Car Parks

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – TMBC have been written to re the additional car park spaces scheme. Response awaited.

Tunbury Hall – Cllr Wright asked that the Clerk investigate a report from the Tunbury Hall Committee that the height barrier at the entrance to the car park is damaged and cannot be opened. **Clerk**

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

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites – Annual play equipment inspection has taken place. Minor works by Wicksted across all sites total approximately £3300 and have been ordered. Other painting works etc to be undertaken in house.

2. The Hollow - Information sign received. Awaiting installation in house.

Request from local youths for teenage shelter in The Hollow. Members considered this an unsuitable site due to overall limited size, close location to houses, unlit and not visible from the road. The existing shelter in Ferryfield is also within close proximity.

3. Ferryfield

Play equipment surface repairs completed. Removal of algae on surfaces around the play equipment to be researched. **Clerk**

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - **Redundant Tennis Court** – First stage of this project is to remove the existing hedge in order to ensure new surfacing is not affected by roots and to fully inspect the condition of the existing fence. Quote for this work (which includes fence removal if necessary) £2829.25.

Agreed Clerk

4.2 - **Entrance Wall Damage** - Still awaiting response/reimbursement from refuse collection company. Clerk continues to pursue.

5. **Allotments** – No report to this meeting.

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.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – Path improvement including flattening out depression where new path meets existing road – work completed.

7.2 – Puddling on the bottom of the contour slide. This was not specifically referred to in the annual inspection report. Clerk raised this with the Inspector and will continue to monitor but at this stage no action.

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond

10. Cemetery

No reports to this meeting on items 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

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

14. Yoakley Land

Life buoy has not been reinstated as area continues to be flooded. Siting agreed as near the main entrance in order to be clearly seen. Work to be done in house.

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.

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

Barrier – Installation complete.

Adjoining land owner at Warren Road entrance end has been clarifying with the Clerk the exact boundary line. Clerk will confirm to him that the Council have no responsibility beyond the tree line and therefore the adjacent footpath behind the trees is not a Parish Council responsibility.

18. Christmas Lighting

18.1 - Eccles Tree –New lights required for 2014 - £240 – received.

18.2 – Additional Christmas lighting for Blue Bell Hill trees – £3530 – ordered.

Grant application towards Christmas lighting costs made to TMBC - £1000.

18.3 – One additional lamp column unit and lights for the tree at the Forstal Road entrance to the village to be ordered for Aylesford as part of village improvement scheme funded from TMBC grant.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

No reports to this meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.