

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2014**  
**MINUTES**

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Ms Hurley

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**1. Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations 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**

Proposed new zebra crossing for Bull Lane. Cllr Gledhill reported that following consultation with local residents, the preferred location for a crossing would be adjacent to the newly installed pedestrian access to the recreation ground. Clerk was asked to now progress this request with Kent Highways. **Clerk**

**3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

3.1 - Jubilee Bench – Layby opposite the Lower Bell – Installed.

**4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project – Gala Lighting researching an appropriate style of lights. When a suitable style has been identified 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 6 weeks. Clerk pursuing exact start date. It was noted that there were floods in this area again this weekend.

Opposite Brassey Centre - Kent Highways intend to carry out works during level crossing closure commencing 24 May 2014. It was noted that there were floods in this area again this weekend.

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

## **5. Walderslade Highway Matters**

Litter and dog bin – Tunbury Avenue. Cllr Elvy asked the Clerk to pursue his request of some weeks ago re the reinstatement of these bins. To be researched and taken up again with TMBC. **Clerk**

## **6. Public Footpaths**

6.1 - KCC Regulatory Services Group - Claimed footpath running from restricted byway KB47 to another point on KB47 – off Hermitage Lane. **Agreed** Parish Council response – no comments. **Clerk**

6.2 – MR472 – Cllr Base reported path which goes around the churchyard in Aylesford as virtually impassable. To be reported to Kent PROW. **Clerk**

## **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. To be pursued. **Clerk**

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. Cllr Homewood has taken the complaints of Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade residents up with Kent Highways (see Council minutes of 15 April 2014).

7.5 – Parish lights faults reported:

Salisbury Road, Kits Coty – Four columns upgraded. Work completed

## **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**

**1.1** - Tree survey completed and initial interim report received. Clerk arranging meeting with contractor to agree schedule of works required.

**1.2** - Outdoor Gym sites (Forstal Road, Eccles and Tunbury) – Annual inspection and minor repair contract proposed - £295 per site in Spring 2015. **Agreed. Clerk**

**2. The Hollow** –Additional grass enhancement work being done in house this week.

The office is aware that grass cutting is behind schedule on this site and has chased up Landscape Services. Should be done this week.

### **3. Ferryfield**

**3.1** – Trim trail reinstatement – Ordered from Sports Equip. Installation taking place week beginning 6 May 2014.

**3.2** – Pedestrian gate repair completed.

**3.3** – Concrete path to MUGA and car park improvements – Commencement date awaited. Installation of a litter bin to be added to contract. **Clerk**

**3.4** – Rugby Club Tournament Parking – 13 April - no problems. 27 April next date. The Clerk confirmed that the Club have accepted responsibility for any damage caused to the surface and will undertake repairs as necessary.

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

**4.1** - 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**

**4.2** – Gym Equipment – Annual inspection and minor repairs Spring 2014 - £295 – **Agreed Clerk**

**4.3** – Use of recreation ground for St Peters Primary School sports day – 13 June – **Agreed**

**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. One set of suggestions from a local young user of the skateboard park received which will be taken into consideration when drawing up the specification.

**6.2** – One new replacement bench – installation completed.

**6.3** – Gym Equipment – Annual inspection and minor repairs Spring 2014 - £295 – **Agreed Clerk**

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

7.1 – Two new benches – installation completed.

7.2 – Skiier (outdoor gym equipment) – Replacement unit – new more robust design and all equipment inspection ordered - £850. Skiier installed. Inspection delayed until mid May.

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

7.4 – Puddling on the bottom of the contour slide to be reported to Wicksteed at the time of the annual play equipment inspection to see if any adjustment can be made. **Clerk**

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

8.1 – Clerk's reported that in respect of the area of woodland being offered for sale adjacent to the Parish Council's access road to the recreation ground, he had contacted the agents, Lambert & Foster. They had indicated that the owners might wish to retain part of the land but he majority was for sale. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the actual piece of land for sale and what they might accept as an offer. **Clerk**

8.2 – Height barrier has been knocked down. Clerk investigating cause. Urgent reinstatement to be arranged. **Clerk**

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

If trees on site have been identified for work in first part of tree survey, it will prioritised in accordance with the recommendations of the tree surgeon. To be discussed at meeting with contractor – see B.1.1 above. **Clerk**

## **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** - No report to this meeting.

**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**

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

14.2 - Additional fencing installed around the flooded area.

14.3 - One large urgent tree removal required adjacent to Waitrose boundary – to be discussed with contractor. **Clerk**

**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. Minor surface repairs and weed killing – commencement date awaited.

17.2 – Andrew’s Bench installed. Bench has been purchased by Andrew’s family. Installation free of charge by Station Haulage. Acknowledged with thanks. **Clerk**

17.3 – Height barrier quotation being sought

**18. Christmas Lighting**

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

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

There being no further business, meeting closed at 7.59.