

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2013
MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Ms Hurley, Tiller, Wright

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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 – No report to this meeting

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

Jubilee Bench – Layby opposite the Lower Bell – Replacement base and bench ordered.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project – Discussions have taken place with Gala Lights and a revised quotation is being submitted. The project has been discussed with English Heritage who have been very positive but have also asked for more details such as establishing the depth of the tarmac surface.

4.2 – Station Road level crossing night time closure dates from September through to December distributed to all members, available in the parish office and on the website.

4.3 – Flooding – A20, Hall Road, Station Road and Firs Close – Nothing further to report at present.

4.4 – Cllr Base reported several recent incidents of parking on double yellow lines in the village.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 – Passage between Sheraton Court/Oaks Dene – Cllr Elvy reported the dismantling of a lamp post cut off at approx. 3ft six weeks ago and not replaced to date. Enquiries to be made.
Clerk

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - MR481 – Acorn Grove/Gorse Crescent/Finch Close – Initial meeting to discuss proposal cancelled by Ditton Parish Council due to their problems caused by the bad weather and has not been rearranged.

6.2 – Diversion of MR443 Mill Hall, Aylesford – Consultation on diversion to new footbridge rather than level crossing of railway. Noted and agreed. **Clerk**

7. Lighting

7.1 – Bull Lane - Awaiting maintenance responsibility acceptance from Kent Highways following upgrading. Lights counted and information passed to Kent Highways. Awaiting response.

7.2 – Teapot Lane – Awaiting maintenance responsibility acceptance from Kent Highways following upgrading. Lights counted and information passed to Kent Highways. Awaiting response.

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.

8. Car Parks.

Tree work required at AVCC entrance affecting car park spaces. Report of damage to a vehicle from falling pine needles. Clerk will seek the advice of tree surgeon. **Clerk**

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – **Salt Bins, Kits Coty** – Request from Kits Coty Residents Association for assistance with the purchase and filling of two salt bins for the Kits Coty area. Members agreed in principle to assist and subject to suitable sites. Clerk to hold a site meeting. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Annual play equipment inspection report – contractor work ordered. In house work commenced.

1.2 – Grass maintenance quotations for 2014 requested – closing date end November.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – MUGA progress – Second stage of work has commenced and should be completed by the end of November. Planning official opening 20 December.

3.2 – Trim trail reinstatement – Clerk undertaking site meetings with three contractors and asking them to quote. Aiming for adult/older children/fitness equipment rather than play equipment type.

3.3 – Pedestrian gate repair ordered – Brickwork completed. Awaiting the reinstalment of existing fence and gate.

3.4 – Football Pitch – Site investigated and action taken. Small exposed area of concrete covered and seeded. Investigation showed the concrete extends well into the pitch area but is 4 or 5 inches below the surface. Football Club have indicated they are happy with the current situation and Council staff will continue to monitor.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Football Club’s request for trench/shallow basin in pitch 3 to be filled in as a Council project. Quote received from Kent Turf Care £3400 accepted. Work to commence in the Spring before the end of the season so pitch 3 will be out of use (awaiting exact dates). Football Club to be informed. **Clerk**

4.3 – Redundant Tennis Court –Cllr Mrs Gadd reported she understands the Football Club are making funding enquiries and attending a funding information seminar for youth groups in December with this project in mind.. Enquiry re future development and use of area also received from St Peters Primary School Parents Association. Members are keen to see this matter progress, hopefully in conjunction with the Football Club, and the Clerk was asked to contact the club for a progress report. **Clerk**

4.4 – Toilet. Contractor has reported work is completed but return of key and inspection awaited. Invoice received which will be paid when work has been checked. Sign to be made up for the door stating ‘open to the public during day light hours’. It was confirmed that AVCC are willing to take responsibility for daily opening/locking/cleaning subject to reimbursement terms being agreed based on cleaning costs. Clerk to discuss with Cllr Mrs Brooks. **Clerk**

5. Allotments

Water to be switched off from 1 December.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 – Skateboard park long term future. Painting project in house to tidy up area. Clerk to begin research on replacement as this is a popular facility in Eccles. This will include a visit and discussion with Burham Parish Council re their facility and any funding opportunities available.

6.2 – New item of toddler equipment – Two new pieces of toddler play equipment to be installed at the same time as Tunbury play equipment, if agreed, which has resulted in a reduction in cost from £3185 to £3023.40. Safety surface not needed as they will be installed into grass. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

6.3 – Gaps in fencing to be filled in with replacement fence panel and gate. Quotation awaited.

6.4 – One new replacement bench ordered.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – Two new benches ordered.

7.2 – Grass/soil surface around the contour slide has deteriorated in dry weather conditions and disturbance following path installation. Discussions have taken place with the contractor and the only feasible alternative to artificial grass is the laying of grass rubber safety mats, which the contractor felt would not be as effective. The contractor did quote for this option at £2500. The quote for the artificial grass is £2135 which has been revised downwards to £2028.25. Following this advice it was agreed to proceed with artificial grass. **Clerk**

7.3 – Two new items of toddler equipment – Following meeting with local member and contractor two items agreed (Turnstile and Happy Hedgehog) at a cost of £3797. This quote is slightly higher than similar equipment at Eccles due to safety surfacing being required. **Agreed. Clerk**

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

The woodland adjoining this site is being sold and the new landowner has requested a key to the padlock on the gate to enable them to exercise their right of way. The access to their site will be off the trackway leading to the field and not via the playing field. They will not need to travel up as far as the recreation ground and only tree management work is envisaged. On this basis a key has been given to the new landowner.

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

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 to be reinstated.

14.2 – Major tree works undertaken and on going following storm . No access currently to the centre of the site due to continuing tree danger.

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

16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds

TMBC staff intend to target this area in the Spring, particularly the path from St Marks Square to Eccles Row, re dog fouling and may be looking to the Parish Council for some assistance. Noted.

17. Podkin Meadow

17.1 - Surfacing of Robin Hood Lane footpath entrance. Weeds – Clerk has requested a quote from Kent Turf Care to take up weeded 25 metres of tarmac, treat and relay. He has also asked the original contractors to take up and relay with the Council bearing the cost of the weed killing. They have responded that they would only be prepared to undertake the work at cost. After consideration and discussion it was **agreed** to await Kent Turf Care quote and **not** to proceed with further negotiations/claims with the original contractor.

17.2 – Andrew’s Bench – Bench ordered but not to be installed until the Spring.

18. Christmas Lighting

All lighting projects scheduled to be switched on by 2 December.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

19.1 - Cllr Mrs Gadd reported a conversation she had had recently with the Vicar of St Peters, Aylesford, in which he expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for works carried out around the church and village. Noted.

19.2 – Cllr Green reported an enquiry from St Peters School Parents Association re assistance with funding for a junior trim trail in Coronation Gardens. Clerk will make contact to discuss further. **Clerk**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.13pm.