

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Jones, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Ms Dorrington, Mrs Phibbs, Winnett

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1. Apologies

Apologies and the reasons for them were noted and accepted as follows:

Cllrs Ms Dorrington (holiday); Mrs Phibbs (unwell); Winnett (holiday).

2. Declarations of Interests – There were no declarations 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

2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction.

Kent Highways have undertaken a feasibility study and schemes being developed arising from the study should be available shortly. It will be sent to County Cllr Homewood initially who will forward it to the Parish Council.

Cllr Homewood reported to the Council that the recent Coroners report on the fatality which occurred on the Pilgrims Way by pass has recommended that the speed limit be reduced to 40mph. Noted.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - **Planters** – In house installation awaited.

3.2 – **Slip Road** – Lighting is still out. County Cllr Homewood is pursuing this with KCC.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Awaiting revised plans from Amey following the consultation with residents. Personnel dealing with this project at Amey have changed but the Clerk is in touch with them. Anticipated that designs will be handed over to KCC mid March. Tree species selection was **agreed**.

4.2 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

A20/Hermitage Lane

The Plan for the works on Hermitage Lane and plans for the Quick Win schemes on the A20, have just been received. Joint Parish meeting to be arranged with representatives of KCC, TMBC, Aylesford, Ditton and East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council representative. **Clerk**

The second option for the A20/Hermitage Lane junction which provides for a double lane up to the traffic lights for the retail park entrance but does not require acquiring any additional land is the preferred option. If the scheme is agreed work could be undertaken in the school summer holidays.

4.3 – **Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter** - Tracey Crouch MP has now taken this matter up with Highways England and is pursuing a response.

4.4 – **Rochester Road Water** – There was no update on the second leak from Tottingham Farm pond overflow where the pipe appears to be blocked. Reported to Kent Highways and Southern Water as a potential hazard in icy conditions.

4.5 – **Hall Road Zebra Crossing** – Nearest A20 – ‘Halos’ have still not been fitted. Cllr Homewood is pursuing with KCC.

Both Hall Road crossings have one beacon each not working. Reported to Highways.

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

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - **River Medway Towpath MR 473** – Work is progressing on this project although slightly behind schedule. Now due for completion by the end of April.

BAM Compound set up on Yoakley paddock (adjacent to allotments on Forstal Road) using water supply from the allotments and will be contributing to costs.

BAM/KCC are organising a limited visit to the Aylesford section of the path on 13 March. Clerk will liaise with Members regarding attendance. **Clerk**

7. Street Lighting

7.1 - Old Bridge Gardens lights painting will be done in house.

7.2 –Streetlights maintenance contract. Revised price has been received and Clerk has gone back with further questions for which a response is awaited.

7.3 – Bull Lane – Light outside 370 Bull Lane has been reported as faulty. Some confusion regarding responsibility – all Bull Lane lights were upgraded and handed over to KCC but this lamp appears to be in the old style. KCC are investigating and will come back to the Parish Council if necessary.

8. Car Parks - No report to this meeting.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – **KCC Freight Action Plan** – Consultation

This document was circulated to Members on 1 February (attached at **Appendix A** to the bound copy of these minutes) to give an opportunity to read this document before this meeting so that the Council was in a position to comment by the deadline of 12 March. The Action Plan highlights five key actions which are

- To tackle the problem of overnight lorry parking in Kent
- To find a long term solution to Operation Stack
- To effectively manage the routing of HGV traffic to ensure that such movements remain on the strategic road network for as much of its journey as possible
- To take steps to address the problems caused by freight traffic to communities
- To ensure that KCC continues to make effective use of planning and development control powers to reduce the impact of freight traffic

The document also highlights what needs to be done to implement the solutions to these problems.

Members **agreed** the following response:

“The Council supports this document and agrees with the five key action areas and are keen to see the County Council take the necessary steps to ensure the successful implementation of their Action Plan.”

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Local **history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this following on from the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

1.2 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** – This item to remain on agenda as an ad memoire until Clerk is ready to make his report to a future meeting on additional work to be carried out in-house and equipment required.

2. The Hollow – Contour slide steps. Handrail quotation of £585 received. **Agreed. Clerk**

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Rugby Club – overflow car parking for festivals 26 March and 23 April 2017 – already agreed.

3.2 - Dog Show 13 – 14 May 2017. Already agreed

3.3 – Application for use weekend use 5 – 7 May 2017 for rugby event. Charity tournament event organised by an events company who are requesting use of Ferryfield for parking, camping and pitches in addition to the Rugby Club facilities and pitches.

Members expressed some concerns regarding overnight camping away from the facilities of the club house and requested more information regarding the charity aspect of the event. Clerk will arrange a meeting with the organiser for more details and report back to P&R.

Clerk

3.4 – Long term future of Wicksteeds Logworld multi-play equipment – Initial full replacement project proposal from Playdale received. Other ideas and prices still being sought from other companies in conjunction with awaiting final decision on RBLI scheme so items are not duplicated.

3.5 – Circus visit application – 24 April for 3 nights. **Agreed** subject to normal conditions.

Clerk

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Aylesford Scout Group have requested use of Forstal Road recreation ground on 16 July for a Fun Day Fund Raising event. **Agreed** free of charge subject to the normal conditions of use.

5. Allotments

Aylesford allotments – Second water leak repaired but will continue to be carefully monitored. Cost to date £680.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Memorial clock. Stonemason looking at work involved to reinstate lettering and to provide a quote.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Request received from local resident to clear scrub land at the rear of Catkin Close. Ownership of the land is unclear but is not thought to be part of the Parish Council owned adjacent recreation ground.

The Clerk reported that the area is an eye-sore and is beyond clearance either by local residents themselves or as in-house Parish job. He suggested that Members may wish either:

- a) To take no action as the land is not the responsibility of the Parish Council
- b) To get a quotation for clearance of the land as a one-off good will gesture and to then make a decision based on the cost

Members **agreed** to ask for a quotation and then make a decision.

Clerk

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site – No report to this meeting.

10. Cemetery

Long term future extension. This item will appear on the ESC agenda each month for progress report from the Clerk as appropriate.

Clerk has met with Clerk of Hadlow PC on 22 February who are currently going through the process of expanding their cemetery.

Clerk has established that a Change of Use Planning Application will need to be made to TMBC and that groundwork pollution test/surveys/assessments will be required.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

12.1 - Rat baiting programme – Latest update. Baits continue to be taken from most of the boxes on site.

12.2 – Removal of old grass cuttings deemed to be a rat environment - £690. Work completed.

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

14. Yoakley Land - No report to this meeting.

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

16. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, New car park

Minor repair to tarmac access road being investigated in order to prevent water accessing neighbouring property. Initial specification and quotation of £7200 considered to be excessive. Clerk met on site with the contractors and they are preparing a revised quotation.

17. Podkin Meadow

Clearance work has commenced and has been well received so far. On-going project.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

18.1 – TMBC Proposal for Public Spaces Protection Order.

TMBC have consulted the Council on the above a copy of which is attached. The order is about controlling and restricting anti-social behaviour or potential anti-social behaviour in public spaces. Members **agreed** this is a measure that the Parish Council can support.

Clerk

18.2 – **A20/M20 Junction 5 land.** Queries have been received regarding tree clearance on the land to the west of the roundabout. Cllrs Balcombe and Walker advised that this could be in preparation for the proposed slip road to the motorway planned for construction in 2018/19. Noted.

18.3 – Parish Council Grounds Maintenance Equipment

The Clerk sought authority to purchase:

Strimmer - £540

Telescopic Pruner – £788

Both these purchases were considered by Members to represent good value to the Council and were **agreed.**

Clerk

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.30pm