

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

held at Eccles Church Hall on

Tuesday 19 July 2016

Present: Cllrs Balcombe (Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Jones, Rillie, Shelley, Winnett, Wright

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

Others: 23 Members of the Public

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Smith, Walker

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AGENDA ITEM 1 - **Declarations of Interest additional to those contained in the Registry of Members' Interests**

21. - There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - **Apologies for absence**

22. - Cllrs Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Smith (personal engagement), Walker (family illness).

Apologies and the reasons for their absence were noted and accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – **Chairman's Announcements**

23. - No report to this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - **Adjournment of the meeting to allow for public participation (subject to the limitations of Standing Order 29 d)**

24.1 – **Bull Lane Zebra Crossing**

The Chairman was aware that the majority of the public attending this evening wished to discuss the proposed Bull Lane zebra crossing with the Council following the recent leaflet drop by KCC. As the project is being led by Kent County Council he invited County Councillor Homewood to speak on the subject before taking questions from the public.

C. Cllr Homewood summarised the history of the project since 2014 when he first agreed to support the idea of a crossing in Bull Lane following the requests he received when canvassing the village. KCC were unable to commit to funding but when alternative funding arrangements were agreed they then became responsible for drawing up the plans in line with regulations relating to crossings.

Following the responses now received to the recent KCC leaflet drop to Bull Lane residents giving precise details of the proposed crossing and its location, the project has been put on hold. It will not proceed in its proposed location. Cllr Homewood distributed a map to all present indicating 5 options in Bull Lane where KCC could consider placing the crossing and asked residents and councillors for their views so that a decision can be taken based on the majority view. He also reminded residents that installation of a crossing will inevitably lead to the loss of parking spaces on Bull Lane with parking restrictions in the immediate vicinity of the crossing caused by the zig zag lines.

Cllr Gledhill (Eccles) added that he had been involved in discussions with the school over the past several years. It was initially suggested that a ‘lollipop’ crossing patrol at arrival and leaving school times would be the most appropriate solution but despite several attempts there had been no success in recruiting a suitable person or persons. Cllr Gledhill added that the challenge was finding a suitable location for a crossing which would benefit all of Eccles residents - those visiting the school, the recreation ground, the church and its hall, the shop, the pub, the doctors – all of which are spread from one end of Bull Lane to the other.

Cllr Jones (Eccles) commented that the survey carried out by KCC to ascertain if Bull Lane met the criteria for a crossing (ie. the number of people crossing the road and where, traffic speeds etc) had been done on one day. He suggested a longer period of surveying was necessary as use varied greatly from day to day. It needed to be established where the greatest use and need is – school, recreation ground or other area.

The Clerk detailed the Parish Council’s involvement, which having been made aware by C. Cllr Homewood of the representations for a crossing in 2014 the Parish Council had agreed to support. The Clerk indicated that it is KCC’s function and responsibility to supply crossings but having been informed that KCC were not able to fund the project the Parish Council agreed to part fund it in conjunction with C Cllr Homewood’s Highway Member Grant.

The Chairman then asked members of the public for their comments:

Residents nearby the original proposed site for the crossing explained their objections: – loss of parking outside their homes, flashing lights outside their front windows, noise and pollution from vehicles (particularly sewage works lorries) waiting when crossing is in use.

Other residents stated the original site did not serve any members of the community.

An alternative of speed restrictions of some sort would slow traffic down and make crossing Bull Lane safer without the need for an actual crossing

A need for double yellow lines around Eccles Row junction with Bull Lane to prevent parking on the corner and consequent obstruction of sight lines.

Anna Morrell (resident) stated she felt residents in attendance this evening were not fully representative of the village as a whole, particularly the elderly and young who were not able to attend this meeting. Greater consultation on the need and siting of a crossing was needed across the whole village. She offered (with the support of the Parish Council) to undertake such a survey to get a wider view. This offer to undertake this survey was **accepted** and it was **agreed** that the survey would be drawn up and distributed by local residents following agreement of the content by local Members.

AM/RG/CJ

24.2 – Sewage Works

Mr Sturgeon asked what arrangements were being made for disposal of waste from all the new developments being planned for Eccles and the surrounding areas. Is it going to result in expansion of the Bull Lane sewage works and subsequent increase in the number of lorries travelling through Eccles village.

Other residents added that existing lorries are still travelling too fast through the village.

The Clerk responded that because detailed plans on new developments have not yet been received, there have been no details of waste disposal plans long term. There has been no indication of any plans to expand the existing sewage works in respect of developments already agreed ie. Preston Hall.

The Clerk indicated that he would report speeding lorries through the village to and from Southern Water if registration numbers can be noted and reported to him.

24.3 – Local Plan – Bushey Wood

Resident asked for the Parish Council's stand on proposals in the TMBC Draft Local Plan to build approximately 4500 houses surrounding Eccles. He referred to a previous Local Plan in 1996 where the Parish Council had lobbied and achieved assurances that a 'buffer' zone would be provided to enable Eccles to remain an independent village. Resident was aware that East Malling and Larkfield have already made comments on the Plan as reported in the local press and he was concerned that there seemed to be no comment yet from APC.

The Clerk advised that the Plan refers to a 'maximum yield' of 4500. This figure is calculated purely on the maximum number of houses that could be built on the land available. It does not take into account services and access roads which will affect the final number agreed and therefore the eventual number will be reduced.

The Clerk stated that the Draft Plan will formally go out to consultation in September and therefore East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council had not yet made any formal comments on the Plan. The APC will not comment either formally or informally until it has the document in front of it.

Mrs Johnson stated she would like to see the Parish Council getting fully involved, lobbying strongly for the best outcome for Eccles as it has done on previous matters in the past.

24.4 – Eccles Pop In Centre

Resident asked what would happen if the existing privately owned Pop In Centre closed. It is a well used and essential meeting point on a Monday and Friday for elderly residents of the village.

The Clerk responded that the Council was not aware that the Centre had any plans to close. The Parish Council had been asked for a regular contribution towards general running costs and in order to consider this further had asked for sight of the Club's accounts. These had not been received to date.

The Council has supported the Club previously with funding towards specific items such as coach trips and would be happy to consider further requests for donations towards capital expenditure items such as this again.

24.5 – **Bull Lane Verges**

Mrs Johnson asked why some verges bordering the recreation ground in Bull Lane were being left uncut making the village look very untidy. The Clerk responded that this has been reported by a local Member and taken up with the appropriate responsible body within Kent Highways.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their attendance and comments.

The meeting was reopened.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – **Law and Order in the Parish**

25. **Police Reports**

The Clerk reported that the Line Manager for PCSOs Iantosca (Aylesford) and Tiller (Eccles, BBH and Walderslade) has advised that crime reports will no longer be issued to Parish Councils for their meetings. All information formerly contained in them is available on their website. PCSOs will still be available to attend meetings personally subject to workload and shift patterns.

The Clerk advised that he has looked at the website and the information is there but perhaps not so easily accessible as the Parish is split and merged with other areas. He will however review the website before each Council meeting to extract information of interest.

Cllr Elvy proposed APC should register its objection to this withdrawal of reports which Members have always found of interest and in particular because PCSO attendance at meetings was very rare. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Kent Police accordingly. **Clerk**

Members noted that PCSO Iantosca was in regular contact with the Parish Office and appreciated this.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - **To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 17 May 2016**

26. 1 - Annual Meeting of the Council - These Minutes were proposed as a correct record of the meeting by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

26.2 – Annual Parish Meeting – These Minutes were proposed as a correct record of the meeting by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Wright and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

AGENDA ITEM 7 - Matters Arising from the previous minutes (including those which required Members' action)

27. There were no Matters Arising.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - To receive the observations of the County Councillor

28. County Cllr Homewood had no further report to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - To receive the observations of the Borough Councillors

29. There were no Borough Councillor reports.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - Committee Reports/Minutes: to consider and adopt; to deal with any matters arising

30.1 - Policy and Resources – 7 June 2016

Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Mrs Dorrington as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

Matters arising

30.2 – Page 1. 3. FASC Minutes item 3.4 – Cllr Elvy thanked the Council for the donation in memory of his late wife. £530 in total had been sent to the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary.

30.3 – Policy and Resources – 5 July 2016

Proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Wright as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

Matters Arising

30.4 – Page 2, 8.3 Council Vacancies applications

The Eccles vacancy is expected to be authorised for co-option by TMBC on or shortly after 22 July. Clerk reported that one application has been withdrawn. He introduced Mrs Phibbs who was attending the meeting this evening and whose application for co-option was before Members. Mrs Phibbs introduced herself and offered to answer any questions from Members. Cllr Wright asked if as a busy landlady of the local pub Mrs Phibbs felt able to commit the necessary time to the Council, particularly evening meetings. Mrs Phibbs replied her family and pub team were supportive of her interest in the Council and she was confident of being available for meetings. She also felt that as the local pub landlady she was in a good position to be able to hear local views and concerns and bring them to the attention of the Council and to pass Council information on to residents.

The Clerk thanked Mrs Phibbs for her attendance. Members will consider her application at P&R on 2 August subject to co-option clearance from TMBC.

30.5 – Planning – 7 June 2016

Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

There were no matters arising.

30.6 - Planning – 5 July 2016

Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Gledhill as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

There were no matters arising

30.7 – Environmental Services 2016

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Elvy as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

There were no matters arising.

30.8 – Environmental Services 2016

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Elvy as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

Matters Arising

30.9 – Page 5, 18. Summer Playscheme

The Clerk has clarified with TMBC that any funding provided by the Parish Council is likely to be used by TMBC to subsidise the Leisure Pass scheme. He is seeking further clarification as to whether this would be just for Aylesford Parish residents.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - Accounts for Payment

31 - Payment list distributed to all Members and attached at **Appendix A** to these minutes.

22 payments totalling £16,733.98 were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Elvy. **AGREED**

AGENDA ITEM 12 - To consider any other items of correspondence/Any Other Business

32. There were no other items of correspondence or business.

AGENDA ITEM 13 - Chairman to move that: 'The press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as publicity for any confidential aspects of the business identified in agenda items 1 – 19 above would be likely to prejudice the public interest.'

33. There were no confidential items of business this evening.

AGENDA ITEM 14 - Closure of the meeting

There being no further items of business, meeting closed at 8.47mpm.