

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**held at Aylesford Football Club Pavilion
Forstal Road, Aylesford on**

Tuesday 20 September 2016

Present: Cllrs Balcombe (Chairman), Base, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Gledhill, Jones, Mrs Phibbs, Rillie, Shelley, Walker, Winnett, Wright

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

Others: 15 Members of the Public

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Mrs Gadd, Homewood, Smith

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 2 - Apologies for absence

35. - Cllrs Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Mrs Gadd (holiday), Homewood (KCC meeting), Smith (holiday).
Apologies and the reasons for their absence were noted and accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Chairman's Announcements

36.1 – Cllr Balcombe welcomed Cllr Mrs Kylie Phibbs (Eccles Ward) to her first full Council meeting.

36.2 – Cllr Shelley (Deputy Chairman) reported on his attendance at the formal opening of Peters Bridge – 15 September 2016.

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

37.1 – Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way Junction

The Chairman was aware that the majority of the public attending this evening wished to discuss their concerns regarding the safety of the Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction. Before inviting comments from the public, the Chairman asked the Clerk to summarise the Parish Council's position to date on this matter.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has for many years recognised and supported residents' concerns relating to this junction but requests to Kent Highways for solutions have been unsuccessful apart from getting vegetation cut back to improve sight lines. The latest cut has been carried out within the last week. The Clerk has recently written to Kent Highways again following concerns raised that the junction will become even more dangerous due to increased traffic flow to and from the new Peters Bridge. He has received a response today stating that there is still insufficient significant personal injury accidents at this junction to warrant further investigation but they will continue to monitor the junction.

The following points were raised by Members of the Public led by Mrs Trudy Clark.

1. The increase in traffic to and fro from the new bridge will increase the number of near misses and potential for accidents.
2. There have been a number of near misses and non-injury accidents which Kent Highways are not taking into account. Kent Police data has records of minor accidents. Why are KH not taking these into account.
3. A local resident who is an Advanced Driver Examiner states that the main problem is the speed of the traffic on the Pilgrims Way approaching Bull Lane exceeding the 30mph speed limit. This is a particular problem for traffic turning right out of Bull Lane. The solution is to slow this traffic down.
4. Would like to see consultation with Kent Highways on the installation of a roundabout, traffic lights or traffic calming.
5. We cannot wait for someone to be seriously or fatally injured before action is taken.
6. Can a joint pressure group with Wouldham and Burham Parish Councils be set up.
7. The increased number of cycle lanes in the Peters Village development could lead to more cyclists using this road adding to the dangers both for the cyclist and driver.
8. Why were road improvements at this junction not included when other schemes were implemented in preparation for the Peters Village development and new bridge.
9. When temporary traffic lights are installed at this junction for roadworks, the situation is solved and the junction becomes safe.

The Clerk and Members of the Council responded that this matter is entirely in the hand of Kent Highways. The Parish Council has no highway powers and can only lobby on behalf of its Members and local residents. This it has been doing for the past 20 years regarding this junction. It asked for the junction to be included in road improvements for the new developments but was only successful in getting the 30mph speed limit introduced. TMBC Councillors are also fully supportive of local concerns. Any schemes, whatever they are and their cost, still have to have the approval of Kent Highways.

Members agreed to support residents in their continued efforts to get improvements at this junction. The Clerk will reply to KH stating that the Council finds their latest response unsatisfactory and this will be copied to Peter Homewood, County Councillor, Tracey Crouch MP, Matthew Balfour (KCC Member for Transportation), TMBC Councillors, Burham and Wouldham Parish Councils and Mrs Clark (Eccles residents' representative).

In addition members of the public were asked to ensure that all near misses and accidents, however minor, are reported to Kent Highways, the Police and the Parish Council. Residents might also wish to consider writing themselves to Kent Highways and/or a petition and involving the Kent Messenger.

37.2 – **Improvement to Aylesford Village Square**

Mr Leipnik, resident of the Village, commented on the proposals for improvements to the Square. Whilst welcoming the overall plans he referred to strong opposition to removal of the trees and the continuing problems of parking on the existing block paving.

The Clerk responded that local consultation on the proposals concludes this week. Several residents have objected to the removal of the trees and these views will be taken into account.

Cllr Base responded that TMBC are the responsible authority for parking enforcement and he is strongly pursuing better enforcement measures for the village.

The Chairman thanked the public for their attendance and involvement and reopened the meeting.

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

38. **Police Reports**

The Clerk reported that Kent Police have confirmed PCSO reports are no longer considered viable and economical when all the information is available to Members on the Kent Police website. There are problems with this site which are being addressed and when solved the Clerk will endeavour to research and make a report to Council based on the information it contains. Meanwhile the Parish Office retains a close contact with our two PCSOs so any matters of concern can be reported to the office to be passed on.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - **To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 19 July 2016**

39. 1 - 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)**

40.1 – Page 1, 24.1 – Bull Lane Zebra Crossing – Closing date for return of surveys 23 September. Clerk to report to ESC 27 September.

40.2 – Page 2, 24.2 – Sewage Works – Clerk has established a point of contact with Southern Water for the report of any concerns. Members of the public are encouraged to report the registration numbers of any speeding lorries to the Clerk who will forward them to Southern Water.

40.3 – Page 4, 24.5 – Bull Lane Verges – Uncut areas of verges will now be cut by Parish Council staff.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - Committee Reports/Minutes: to consider and adopt; to deal with any matters arising

41 - Policy and Resources – 2 August 2016

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

There were no Matters arising

42 – Policy and Resources – 6 September 2016

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

Matters Arising

42.1 – Page 1, 5. Law and Order – Eccles Vandalism – Arrangements in hand for formal apologies to be made to the Council. Equipment repair has been ordered.

43 – Planning – 2 August 2016

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

There were no matters arising.

44 - Planning – 6 September 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

45 – Environmental Services 26 July 2016

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

There were no matters arising.

46 – Environmental Services 23 August 2016

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

Matters Arising

46.1 – Page 2, 4.6 – Rochester Road Water Leak – The faulty valve causing this leak has now been repaired.

46.2 – Page 4, 5. Allotments – Leak to water supply to the Eccles allotments has been repaired although some further investigation work may be required. Further report to ESC on 27 September.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - To receive the observations of the County Councillor

47. Cllr Homewood was not in attendance and there was no report.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - To receive the observations of the Borough Councillors

48. Cllr Base (Aylesford North, Eccles and Walderslade)

48.1 – The Draft TMBC Local Plan 2018-2031 will be released for public consultation on 30 September for 8 weeks. All individuals are encouraged to read and comment. This document is likely to be the most important to be issued for the next few years concerning future developments in the whole Borough and particularly potentially affecting the Aylesford Parish.

The Clerk stated he will be in receipt of a copy and there will be an opportunity at a date to be agreed for the Council as a whole to consider a Parish Council response.

48.2 – The TMBC Scrutiny Committee have considered mayoral expenditure and agreed reductions in travel expenditure. This will go towards the £250,000 savings required this year. Savings required in 2017/18 amount to £685,000. Overall funding to Parish Councils is not likely to be majorly affected although there may be changes to the way the funding is allocated.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - Accounts for Payment

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

22 payments totalling £2,174.16 were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Elvy. **AGREE**

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

50. 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.’

51. 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 8.19pm.