

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

held at Eccles Church Hall, Bull Lane, Eccles, on

Tuesday 21 July 2015

Present: Cllrs Gledhill, Ambrose, Balcombe, Base, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Hammond, Homewood, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Winnett

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

Others: 3 Members of the Public

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Wright

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

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

21.2 – Cllr Elvy referred to a recent meeting of the TMBC Standards Committee he attended where revisions to the Code of Conduct were discussed. It is likely that in future Members declaring an interest in any subject will be required to leave the room rather than just not taking part in the discussion/decision. Clerk will research further and report back to Council. **Clerk**

AGENDA ITEM 2 - **Apologies for absence**

22. Cllr Mrs Brooks – care of elderly relative. Cllr Wright – personal engagement. Apologies and the reasons for them were noted and accepted.

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

22.1 – Cllr Gledhill attended the celebration marking the 150th anniversary of **Wouldham All Saints Primary School**. An excellent event for which he will send his congratulations and thanks for the invitation to the organisers. **Clerk**

22.2 – Cllr Gledhill and the Clerk attended a meeting with Trenport regarding **public transport arrangements for Peters Village**. These will include an additional bus service between Medway and Maidstone calling at Eccles and Aylesford making a 2 per hour service, quite exceptional for semi-rural locations. The additional service will commence in approximately 18 months when an agreed proportion of the development is occupied.

22.3 – Cllr Gledhill attended a recent ‘bag and flag’ **dog fouling** event on Eccles recreation ground with the local PCSO and TMBC representatives. 47 ‘deposits’ were marked. Cllr Gledhill expressed his strong concern about this on-going problem in all areas of the parish and the need for it to be firmly addressed and solutions found. He referred to an offender actually observed by the PCSO who was spoken to on the spot.

It was agreed that this matter would be an agenda item for a future **Environmental Services Committee (ESC)** meeting including what local powers the Parish Council has in this matter. **Clerk**

Further discussion on this matter took place later in the meeting – item 23 below.

22.4 – Cllr Gledhill will be attending the **Mayor’s Garden Party** at Hadlow tomorrow (22 July).

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

23. Amanda Neimer – resident of Eccles and TMBC Litter Enforcement Officer

1. Ms Neimer confirmed that TMBC have zero tolerance on **dog fouling** and that any offender observed by an official should immediately receive a fixed penalty notice. TMBC will also act on any fouling observed by a member of the public who are aware of the owner responsible and report them.

Members referred to various options for consideration by **ESC**:

DNA testing; keeping dogs on leads; fenced areas for dogs with prohibition in remainder of the open space; wider publication of dog owner responsibilities/fines; publicity on how the public can report offenders to TMBC

The Clerk commented that for some of the above items byelaw changes would be required. He will research this matter for report to **ESC**. **Clerk**

2. Ms Neimer referred to the **Open Gardens Scheme** which will see 5 gardens in Eccles open to the public this weekend. Noted.

3. Ms Neimer asked if the Parish Council were aware of who was responsible for fencing recently erected around **the reservoir to the east of Bull Lane**. Clerk will make enquiries with Trenport and Southern Water. **Clerk**

4. Ms Neimer asked for an progress report on the **new Eccles car park**. Clerk advised he is seeking agreements to the details of the conditions of planning permission regarding lighting and the bund from TMBC. The contractor has been appointed and as soon as planning permission is confirmed work will begin. Anticipated within weeks rather than months.

She asked whether on completion of the car park, additional double yellow lining will be installed around the Victoria Road area. Clerk advised this was a matter for TMBC as the Parish Council have no authority for parking enforcement.

24. Sue Barnes – resident of Eccles.

Ms Barnes asked the Parish Council to consider **fencing the children’s play equipment** in Eccles, an area particularly affected by dog fouling. Clerk reported initial enquiries regarding cost have been sought and will be considered by **ESC**.

25. Anna Morrell – resident of Eccles.

1. Ms Morrell asked who she should contact regarding the reestablishment of **Neighbourhood Watch** in Eccles. Clerk advised this was a police initiative.

2. Ms Morrell asked for clarification re the **Eccles Community Warden**. The Clerk confirmed Warden John Newton also serves Aylesford and Ditton. He visits Eccles at least once a week and regularly attends the Pop In Club on a Friday.

3. Ms Morrell asked for clarification re the **Eccles PCSO** who has cancelled a number of scheduled meetings with residents and is not responding to emails. Cllr Gledhill advised that any complaints should be addressed to the Chief Constable.

4. Ms Morrell asked if the Parish Council had any information regarding the 150,000 additional houses reportedly required in Kent and what plans there were for the Aylesford area. The Clerk reported that we are awaiting publication of the **TMBC Local Plan** expected in the Autumn on which the Parish Council will have an opportunity to comment. Bushey Wood development is likely to be included.

5. Ms Morrell asked if the Parish Council had considered membership of any social media sites ie. facebook or twitter. She felt this would give more opportunity for connection/information with local residents. Clerk to consider this for report to **Policy & Resources Committee**.

There being no further public participation, the Chairman thanked members of the public for their attendance and reports, and reopened the meeting.

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

26. Report from PCSO Iantosca (Aylesford) was distributed to all Members and attached at **Appendix A** to the bound copy of these Minutes.

Members were concerned not to receive any report on Eccles/Blue Bell Hill/Walderslade. Clerk to contact PCSO Tiller.

Clerk

AGENDA ITEM 6 - **To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 19 May 2015**

27. These Minutes were proposed as a correct record of the meeting by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Elvy and actions included accepted. **AGREED**

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

28. Page 1, 1,1 – **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Elvy reported that at a recent meeting of the TMBC Standards Committee which was considering revisions to the

Code of Conduct, it was proposed that Members declaring an interest in any matter to be discussed would in future actually have to leave the room rather than just take no part in the discussion/decision. Noted – Clerk will research further. **Clerk**

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

29.1 - Policy and Resources – 2 June 2015

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

There were no matters arising.

29.2 – Policy and Resources – 7 July 2015

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

There were no matters arising.

29.3 - Environment Services – 26 May 2015

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.

29.4 – Environmental Services – 23 June 2015

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

There were no matters arising.

29.5 – Planning – 2 June 2015

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

There were no matters arising.

29.6 – Planning – 7 July 2015

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

Matters Arising

Item 33. TM/15/02222 – 218 Woodlands Road, Aylesford. TMBC Tree Officer has raised no objections to the proposed tree works, so local members also agreed no objections.

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

30. Cllr Homewood reported that:

30.1 - KCC intend that their project to change all street lighting to LED lighting will be completed by the end of 2017.

The Clerk proposed that at some time in the future the KCC should be approached to ascertain whether Parish lighting could be incorporated into their scheme to convert all lighting to LED adoptable standard.

30.2 – Pedestrian Crossing, Bull Lane, Eccles – Monitoring re traffic speed and pedestrian numbers has now taken place and indications are that the required criteria on both counts have been met. When confirmation is received funding will be further discussed, with the Parish Council also considering whether it can offer financial support.

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

31. Cllr Base (Aylesford North & Walderslade)

31.1 – TMBC Parking Enforcement Officers’ base has recently moved from Tonbridge to Kings Hill. It is hoped this will strengthen enforcement requirements in this parish.

31.2 – Issues relating to recent events concerning coaches travelling through Aylesford village to the Friars rather than going via Rochester Road continue to be addressed.

31.3 – Confirmed that the TMBC Local Plan will be published in the Autumn and the Parish Council will be consulted on it.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - **Accounts for Payment**

32.1 - Payment list distributed to all Members and attached at **Appendix B** to these minutes.

22 payments totalling £47,503.41 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**

33.1 – Thank you letter from student and Bower Grove School following recent work experience week.

33.2 – Thank you letter from Heart of Kent Hospice for recent donation.

33.3 – Membership of Joint Parish Council Transport Consultative Group – Membership fee of £50 **agreed**. Cllr Walker will be main APC representative but membership also allow 2 other APC representatives to attend. Noted. **Clerk**

33.4 – Notice of Station Road south to north closure for water pipe replacement from 3 August to 1 September. Noted.

33.5 – Trenport have invited Parish Councillors to a site visit to Peters Village. 11 August agreed as the most mutually date.

33.6 – Trenport are arranging an evening relating to archaeological finds at Peters Village on 14 September, Burham Village Hall. Limited tickets available. Clerk will distribute details to all members for them to respond individually.

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 – 18 above would be likely to prejudice the public interest.’

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 8.35pm.