

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held via Zoom link on 27 April 2021

Present: Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker, Winnett and Wright.

In Attendance: Melanie Randall (Acting Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Hammond, Ms Oyewusi, Ms Papagno and Williams.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Hammond (Unwell), Ms Oyewusi (Personal Commitment), Ms Papagno (Personal Commitment) and Williams (Personal Commitment) were received, and the reason for absence agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests other than Councillor Mrs Gadd disclosed an interest in item 13 and she took no part in the discussion or decision.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 March 2021

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Small Works Programme

It was **Agreed** that the Spreadsheet is to be a Standing Agenda Item at this Committee

5. Aylesford Village Square

The Acting Clerk reported that the paving works were now due to take place in mid-May.

KCC will inform the Parish when they have a date.

Ongoing

6. Parking at the Upper Bell Slip Road

The matter of the lorries parking on this slip road is ongoing but there has been no further update received since the last meeting of this Committee.

Ongoing

7. Highway Improvement Plan

It was **Agreed** to submit the Plan to the KCC Highways Department and await further correspondence from them. Acting Clerk will report back once more information is received.

Ongoing

8. 155 Bus Service

No further updates had been received since the last meeting of this Committee. After a short discussion it was **Agreed** that Councillor Gledhill approach KCC, Trenport and Arriva to keep the communication going between all parties. Councillor Gledhill will provide relevant updates to this Committee. Acting Clerk to ask Larkfield and East Malling Parish Council how they got their 20mph limit put in place recently.

Ongoing

9. Skate Park for Ferryfield Aylesford

It was Agreed at the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting on 6 April 2021 that this project be included as a possible option for the S106 funding. As this subject started at this Committee, it has been brought back for closure.

Closed

10. Forstal Road Recreation Ground Play Area

At the last Meeting it was agreed that References were requested for M&M Developers LLP. Three were requested but only one was received and it was circulated to members ahead of this meeting. It was **Agreed** that M&M Developers LLP be appointed to carry out the resurfacing.

Closed

11. Container of Eccles Recreation Ground

The Acting Clerk reported that she had not yet received a response from the resident to the various questions she has asked. Councillor Ludlow confirmed that he had spoken to the resident a couple of weeks' ago and she is getting the required information together then will contact the Parish Office.

Ongoing

12. Entrance to Podkin Meadow

Councillor Smith had reported previously that the entrance to Podkin Meadow was quite muddy. A quote for £562.00 from Station Haulage was obtained to lay Type 1 in the area concerned from the road to the gate which will be compacted down with a whacker plate. It was **Agreed** to accept this quote but the Acting Clerk is to ask Station Haulage if they can defer the work until the Autumn. This will give KCC time to move the Footpath from private land onto Podkin Meadow and there may possibly be a need to move the kissing gate as well.

13. Forstal Road Recreation Ground Tennis Court – Metal Net

The metal net on the Tennis Court is broken. A quote was obtained from S & G Process Engineering for £480.00. It was Agreed to accept the quote.

Closed

14. Forstal Road Recreation Ground – Cross Rider

One of the Footplates has a hole in it and needs a replacement part. The quote received from the manufacturer is £690.00 including parts, labour and fitting. It was **Agreed** to proceed.

Closed

15. Access Road to Rugby Club – Pot Holes

A minor complaint has been received via the Rugby Club from a resident in the houses opposite stating that as there are a lot of loose stones on the access road that have come out of the pot holes over time, as the vehicles drive in and out it is making a crunching noise.

It was **Agreed** to arrange for a road sweeper to sweep the access road first then the pot holes can be assessed properly. **Ongoing**

16. Ferryfield Grass Cutting

The Acting Clerk reported that Health and Safety of staff and members of the public is becoming a real concern in Ferryfield when the Maintenance Supervisor is cutting the grass in the car park area. Despite a sign being put out that says ‘Warning grass cutting’ vehicles are parking right behind him where he is working and with the noise of the strimmer, he is not able to hear them pull up to be able to stop. There is a concern that stones may hit someone or even a child so it was **Agreed** that the gates are to be kept locked of the morning when he will be cutting the grass. This will only be for a few hours approximately once every couple of weeks’ and once he has finished he will open the gates. A sign will be put on the gate so people know why they are closed. **Closed**

17. Any Other Business

Councillor Smith raised the issue of a broken dog waste bin near the Blue Bell Hill Village Hall is broken and asked if this could be reported. The Acting Clerk informed Members she was copied into an email sent to TMBC regarding this bin and informed members that she had also yet again reported the dog waste bin that is still lying in the hedge in Tunbury Recreation Ground, which has been there for 19 months now. TMBC replied stating they are aware of delays dealing with bin replacements by their contractor and have been chasing them. They said the progress is slow and there is a huge backlog of work throughout the Borough. TMBC will continue to chase them. Members felt the situation is unacceptable and asked the Acting Clerk to contact Councillor Kennedy about this issue.

Ongoing

Councillor Mrs Gadd mentioned the gap in the hedge that goes from Ferryfield through to the Rugby Club and said that dogs are going through onto their pitches and asked if it would be possible to consider getting a fence/gate put in to stop this.

The Acting Clerk will go and look at the gap, will obtain a quote for the work and report back.

Ongoing

18. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 8.26pm