

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2018

MINUTES

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Present: Cllr Ludlow (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Kennedy, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllr Rillie

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1. Apologies

Cllr Rillie, family commitment. Noted and accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests

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

3. Phyllis Sinclair-Lee – Cllr Balcombe announced with regret the death of former Parish Councillor Mrs Sinclair-Lee, aged 99, peacefully at her nursing home in St Albans. The condolences of the Parish Council to be sent to her family. **Clerk**

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

1. General Highway

1.1 - KCC Highway Improvement Plan

Clerk still awaiting a response from KCC on the implementation of a Highways Improvement Plan.

2. Eccles Highway Matters

Cllr Ludlow reported on traffic issues relating to the Winter Wonderland parking at The Friars and on-going traffic light problems at the Bull Lane/Pilgrims Road junction. He will report details to the Clerk for report to Kent Highways as appropriate. **Ludlow**

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Lights on the slip road off the A229 – Kent Highways have reported that work to repair these lights took place on 9 December but local members reported the lights were not working this evening. Office will continue to pursue this long outstanding matter.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Aylesford Village Square

Kent Highways have now withdrawn their offer of assistance with this project. Clerk will continue to consider what enhancement work could be carried out by the Parish Council and to enlist the assistance of the engineer who worked on the Eccles Car Park project for advice on how to develop a scheme to take forward. Works within budget could include removal of the ‘spikey’ tree, painting and brickwork tidying. Bench slat replacement has already been done by TMBC. **Clerk**

4.2 – **A20/Homebase Flooding** – During recent heavy rainfall there was some improvement to the drainage in this area following works carried to date but there was some collection of water. Clerk has passed photographic evidence to Kent Highways asking what future work is planned and a response is awaited.

4.3 – Village Entrance (Cage Hill)

Road surface repairs and gate painting awaited – Continuing to pursue a date for this long outstanding matter.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

6. Public Footpaths

7. **Street Lighting** 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. No reports to this meeting.

8. Car Parks

9. Bus Services

10. Any Other Business/Correspondence

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **Play Equipment** - Following the Annual Inspection, Wicksteed repairs and In house works are in progress.

1.2 - **Caloo Outdoor Gym Equipment** – Annual inspection due to include minor repairs – 3 sites - £948. **Agreed Clerk**

1.3 - **Resurfacing Works** – Resurfacing of various play equipment areas in Forstal Road, Eccles and Tunbury recreation grounds. Report to the meeting on quotations received to date.

Wicksteed - £24,399 Playspaces £14,420.

Clerk will discuss exact specifications with Playspaces. Other quotes to be sought including enquiring with Ditton Parish Council regarding their recent new play equipment/surfacing installation. Further report to then be made to next ESC meeting. **Clerk**

1.4 - **Grounds Maintenance Work** – The Clerk reported on contractors to be appointed for next year.

Forstal Road Recreation Ground – Will be added to in-house schedule of work. **Agreed**
This will represent an annual saving of £1700.

Ferryfield, grass enhancement programme (2 sites) and hedge cutting etc in line with previous contract – Landscape Services at a total cost of £7172.80. **Agreed Clerk**

Goal Mouths – Kent Turf Care at £100 each. **Agreed Clerk**

Cemetery – Kent Turf Care at £315 per cut. Station Haulage at £405 per cut.
Station Haulage is the existing contractor who, after some initial issues, have worked to a high standard this year including the clearing of grass cuttings from individual memorials. It was **agreed** that the high standard of grass maintenance in the cemetery must be maintained.

It was **agreed** that Kent Turf Care be appointed subject to the Clerk being satisfied that they can meet the required specification and standard for the price they have quoted. If the Clerk is not satisfied with the response from Kent Turf Care or they wish to revise their quote then the Clerk be authorised, in consultation with the Chairman, to accept a quotation up to £405 from the most appropriate contractor which satisfies both the standard required and price. **Clerk**

2. The Hollow

Clerk is meeting with contractors regarding enhancement of equipment at this site and will report to the next meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Play Equipment Replacement Phase 1 – The Clerk has received one proposal and is awaiting one further. On receipt he will invite Aylesford South Members and any other interested Members to view the detailed proposals before his report to the next meeting.

3.2 – Request from North West Kent Dog Training Club for 2019 Show on 26/27/28 July. Already agreed.

3.3 – Ferryfield Additional Security Measures – Work ordered. Start date awaited.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Installation of replacement litter bins in play equipment area and teenage shelter due to existing bins rotting away has been undertaken but are not satisfactory. TMBC to rectify.

5. **Allotments** - No report to this meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground – No report to this meeting.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

CCTV - Clerk reported that the Tunbury Hall Committee have agreed in principle to a joint project with the Parish Council on a 50/50 payment basis. They have requested information re on going maintenance responsibilities.

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. – No reports to this meeting.

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge) .

14. Yoakley Land

Clerk reported on progress with the Yoakley Land enhancement project. He will be holding a site meeting with the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership in early January to discuss their proposals in more detail. There is also the possibility of support from a local company.

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

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

Belgrave Street/Car Park approach road repairs – Clerk is progressing with research on land ownership and quotations for remedial work.

17. Podkin Meadow

17.1 - Awaiting installation of new dual purpose litter/dog bins.

17.2 - Long term project continuing and wild flower and grass seed sowing will take place in the near future subject to ground and weather conditions. Clerk in regular contact with contractor.

18. Christmas Lights

Blue Bell Hill – There have been some on-going issues with lights in BBH. Some repairs have been carried out but one tree remains unlit. Contractor is continuing to try and resolve the problem. Clerk suggested that an overall review of all Christmas Lights in BBH is carried out in the New Year. **Agreed.** Cllr Smith to be involved. **Clerk**

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

19.1 – Purchase of long reach hedge cutter - £425. Request from Ground Maintenance Supervisor. Proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Smith. **Agreed Clerk**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.15pm.