

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Walker, Winnett, Wright

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Elvy, Hammond, Homewood, Smith

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**1. Apologies**

Cllr Elvy - Unwell  
Cllrs Hammond – Borough Council meeting  
Cllr Mrs Brooks – Care of elderly relative  
Cllr Homewood – County Council meeting  
Cllr Smith – Personal engagement

Apologies and reasons accepted.

**2. Declarations of Interests**

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

**A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS**

**1. General Highway Report** - No report to this meeting.

**2. Eccles Highway Matters**

Proposed pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane. It was agreed at Council on 15 September 2015 that the Parish Council would offer to fund 50% of the cost of the crossing up to maximum of

£10,000. Clerk has been advised that there has been a change of KCC Officer dealing with Members Grants and continues to pursue for progress.

### **3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

3.1 - Milestone – The Milestone is still with the contractor, though he has now asked a colleague to complete the work. Clerk is in regular contact re progress.

### **4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Tree work completed and has improved the lighting over the Old Bridge. Clerk in discussion with Streetlighting contractor whether it could be improved further with direction adjustment to existing lights, change to LED and possibly a new light.

#### **4.2 - Aylesford Village Square**

Awaiting response from KCC Officer re incorporating Gallagher furniture into the design. Clerk and Cllr Homewood (who is providing some funding from his KCC's Members Allowance) are actively pursuing to get this project progressed. Clerk has been advised that there has been a change of KCC Officer dealing with Members Grants and he will continue to pursue for progress.

Clerk will endeavour to involve local residents when there is clarification re progress on the project from KCC.

#### **4.3 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford**

KCC have engaged Amey to undertake the study of traffic flows on the A20 and they are expected to report back in Spring 2016. These results will give the baseline information from which ways forward can be identified.

#### **4.4 – Hall Road Motorway Bridge**

Fencing repairs and rubbish clearance still awaited by Highways England.

### **5. Walderslade Highway Matters**

### **6. Public Footpaths**

#### **6.1 - Kent County Council Definitive Map Modification Orders for the Creation of Bridleways in the Parishes of Aylesford and Burham.**

Public Inquiry completed. Decision expected in 2 months.

**6.2 – River Medway Towpath** – Work expected to commence after April 2016. APC has committed £20,000 to the project. KCC have informed the Clerk that TMBC are unlikely to be making a contribution to this scheme. This will probably not stop the project but could impact on the detail of the scheme in the Aylesford Parish area. Awaiting further update on this scheme in due course.

## **7. Street Lighting**

### **7.1 Survey of all Parish Lights**

This has now been completed and has identified that out of 157 lights, 133 have major or minor defects. Photographs of all lights were circulated to Members. Streetlighting (our maintenance contractor) has prioritised the work required into two groups:

1<sup>st</sup> Priority – Works which should take place within the next 6 months, includes 10 completely new columns at £1580 each and incorporating a change to the lights in the Eccles car park as recommended by the contractor, plus other works – total quote £32,378.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Priority – Works which should take place within the next 12 months – £9026.00

These works will see 66 of our columns upgraded to LED lights.

It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Winnett, that these quotations be accepted with 1<sup>st</sup> priority being undertaken in 2016/17 and 2<sup>nd</sup> priority being undertaken in 2017/18. **Agreed.** The Clerk recommended to ESC how £50,000 should be allocated for this project and it was **agreed** to take this forward to FASC and P&R for approval.

### **7.2 – Eccles Car Park**

See 7.1 above. 1<sup>st</sup> priority.

### **7.3 – Christmas Lighting**

Royal British Legion – Deputy Clerk to contact the Estates Manager to see a Christmas tree in the region of the Base Camp would be welcomed. **Dep Clerk**

### **7.4 – KCC Lighting Upgrade to LED**

KCC will be progressing with upgrading all lights to LED with the return of all night lighting where applicable and a dimming option available elsewhere. Work on lights in the TMBC area is due to commence in the Autumn of 2016. The opportunity for Parish lighting to be upgraded as part of this scheme (with the appropriate charge) will be available. The Clerk is looking into this matter in conjunction with the works agreed at 7.1 above and will report back when further information is available.

## **8. Car Parks**

New Eccles Car Park – Access road has now been tarmacked and is much improved.

## **9. Lower Thames Crossing Consultation**

Following a series of studies and a public consultation in 2013, the Government commissioned Highways England to consider options for a new Thames crossing at two locations. These are at the site of the current crossing at Dartford and a new crossing location east of Gravesend. At the crossing to the east of Gravesend three potential route options have been identified north of the river in Essex and two south of the river in Kent. The two options on the Kent side of the Thames include a direct link into the M2 motorway at Junction 1 (the Eastern Southern Link) and an alternative that joins the A2 further to the West (the Western Southern Link).

Earlier consultations included an option to improve connections between the M2 and M20 via the A229 at Bluebell Hill. This option seems to have now been dropped on the grounds that it does not assist with the delivery of the LTC project objectives.

The A229 is the main route between Maidstone and the Medway Towns and is the shortest link between the M2 and the M20. It is therefore the most likely route that will be taken by drivers using the Eurotunnel at Folkestone or the port at Dover with starting points or destinations north via the LTC. The A229 is expected to take the brunt of the additional traffic flows. It is also possible that some drivers may choose to use the A228. There is no real prospect that the A228 could be enhanced practically, but it may pose as an attractive alternative if the A229 cannot adequately cope with the additional traffic. This places even greater need to make improvements to the A229 itself and related junctions.

In some quarters the A249 link from junction 7 of the M20 to junction 5 of the M2 is being promoted as the preferred route between the new crossing and Dover/Eurotunnel, in order to attract the prospect of improvement invests to that route. However, that presents a considerably longer travelling time than the A229 and seems highly unlikely to be the choice for drivers.

The information available shows that the A229 will have an increase in traffic. It can be inferred that a high proportion of the decrease in traffic volumes on the M20 through the Borough would have diverted to the M2, via the A229. This is in the order of 5,000 vehicles a day.

In conclusion, whilst the consultation is focused on route options, the impact on the existing local road network and junctions are not adequately considered. As a result of the changing traffic flows created by the LTC, improvements to the A229, the Lord Lees roundabout, M20 junction 6 and M2 junction 3 should be given serious consideration, designed and funded in parallel with the LTC scheme to avoid future problems and to provide the most comprehensive and agreeable solution to strategic traffic movement through the area.

It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Wright that the comment of the Council is to offer no view on the LTC preferred route but to comment that it is imperative that the project be considered in conjunction with the implications for the A229 as detailed above.

**Clerk**

**10. Any Other Business/Correspondence** – There was no report to this meeting.

## **B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS**

### **1. All Sites**

**1.1 - Local history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this in conjunction with the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project as at A.4.2 above.

**1.2 – Annual Tree Survey** – Work completed apart from one minor job.

### **1.3 – Grass Maintenance – All Sports Sites**

Clerk will report on proposals for future grass maintenance enhancement programme following discussions with Landscape Services to be held on 23 March.

### **2. The Hollow** – No report to this meeting.

### **3. Ferryfield**

#### **3.1 - Hirings:**

Sunday 20 March – Junior Rugby Festival using pitches and overflow car parking. No major problems.

Sunday 24 April. Junior Rugby Festival - Use of Ferryfield pitches and overflow car parking

Monday 25 April – 3 nights - Lawsons Circus

Tuesday 3 May – 6 nights – Forrests Funfair

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May – Culverstone Dog Club - Overflow car parking around the Rugby Club/Ferryfield gated gap in the hedge.

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 July – North West Kent Dog Training Club – Overflow car parking – exact site to be agreed

In view of the number of the above uses of Ferryfield, advance warning notices for the general users of the site will be put up and details on the website.

**3.2** - Unauthorised access to ‘race track’ causing damage to surface. Being investigated. Installation of barriers at either end to be considered. Any further unauthorised access to be monitored before further consideration re barriers. **Dep Clerk**

#### **4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground**

**Disabled Children’s Play Equipment** – Bucket style seat at Forstal Road recreation ground in place of one of the flat seats received. However no chains or harness received and these are being chased and installation will take place on receipt.

#### **5. Allotments**

Rent requests for 2016/17 going out this week.

#### **6. Eccles Recreation Ground**

6.1 - Two new picnic benches and bin received. Awaiting installation.

6.2 –Fayre visit from 16 or 17 May to be open for business weekend 20/21/22 May 2016.

#### **7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park**

**Dog Fouling** - Bag and Flag event and litter clearance to be requested with TMBC.

#### **8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

#### **9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site**

**10. Cemetery** No reports to this meeting on 8, 9, 10 and 11

#### **11. Churchyard**

#### **12. Old Bridge Gardens**

The Aylesford Big Lunch – 12 June 2016.

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

Tree works to improve lighting of Old Bridge completed. Replacement trees installed.

#### **14. Yoakley Land**

Work on a long term plan and strategy for the area as a whole being considered by the Clerk for further discussion with Members at a future meeting. Clerk has had initial discussions with Kent Wildlife Trust.

## **15. Walderslade Open Spaces**

One bollard received from Kent PROW. The need for further bollards has been assessed and two more are required. Implementation delayed to enable discussions to be held with landowners (Boxley Parish Council) and the Walderslade Woods Group as to whether they are looking at an alternative option.

## **16. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, New car park**

Work on improvements to access road surface completed successfully.

## **17. Podkin Meadow – No report to this meeting.**

## **18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence**

**TMBC Summer Playscheme** – TMBC have confirmed that they will relinquish responsibility for the Playschemes and Activate for 2016. They have identified an alternative supplier – Premier Education Group to operate the Playscheme sites and new and existing partners for Activate type activities. They asked if the Parish Council are willing to continue to financially support the Playscheme/Activate (£2000). Members **agreed** in principle to continue their support subject to the Clerk researching and being happy with the Premier Education Group set up and that Playscheme continues to directly benefit residents of the Parish.

**Clerk**

In addition the Parish Council has normally supported the Y2Crew programme (£500). It appears this will continue to be run in conjunction by TMBC and KCC. It was **agreed** the Parish Council will continue to give consideration to the financial support for this Scheme.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.10pm