

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2016
MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Mrs Brooks, Hammond

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received and reasons accepted as follows: Cllr Base, holiday, Cllr Mrs Brooks, care of elderly relative; Cllr Hammond, working.

2. Declarations of Interests – There were no declarations of interest 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

2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction.

Kent Highways have agreed to do a traffic survey and feasibility study in the New Year.

Local Bull Lane Safety Group continues to keep up the pressure on Kent Highways for improvements to this junction. Public meeting arranged for 19 January 2017 at Eccles Primary School starting at 7pm.

The Group have requested a grant for the purchase of a banner to be sited at the junction making drivers aware of the Group - £78.50. Recommended to FASC that this be funded from local members' micro grants.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - **Planters** – Ready. ‘Supplied by Aylesford Parish Council’ signs ready. Application and fee to Kent Highways made for installation on central reservation. Response awaited.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Clerk reported that following his site visit, he feels the new lighting has improved the illumination of the bridge to some extent for pedestrians walking over it at night.

4.2 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Awaiting revised plans from Amey following the consultation with residents.

4.3 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

A20/Hermitage Lane – Kent Highways have agreed with the developers a number of improvements to the traffic light sequence in a bid to relieve traffic congestion. Kent Highways have also agreed to widen part of the junction, this work to be undertaken as part of the developers snagging list but will be at Kent Highways expense.

4.4 – **Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter** - Tracey Crouch MP has now taken this matter up with Highways England. Response awaited.

4.5 – **Rochester Road Water** – Second leak from Tottingham Farm pond overflow where the pipe appears to be blocked has been reported to Kent Highways as a potential hazard. Concern was expressed that no action has been taken and if weather conditions drop to freezing the road surface will be a major hazard. Response from KH to be pursued. **Clerk**

5. Walderslade Highway Matters - No report to this meeting.

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - **River Medway Towpath MR 473** – Work has commenced on this project for completion by the end of March. Compound has been set up on Yoakley paddock (adjacent to allotments on Forstal Road).

7. Street Lighting

7.1 - Old Bridge Gardens lights painting will be done in house.

7.2 – Greenfield Close – All lights have been reported out following recent bad weather. Contractor asked to investigate as soon as possible.

7.3 – Blue Bell Hill Slip road towards Rochester Road – All lights out. Reported to Kent Highways.

7.4 – Tunbury Hall Car Park – One column requires complete replacement - £850 **agreed**. Whilst on site contractor will upgrade this and other columns to LED. **Clerk**

7.5 – Clerk has met with Streetlights contractor to discuss the maintenance contract going forward. Full report to next meeting.

8. Car Parks.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – KCC Local Transport Plan consultation – Response submitted to KCC.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Local **history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this following on from the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

1.2 - **Annual Play Equipment Inspection** - Inspection has taken place. Some issues raised (see 3.3 and 7.2 below). Full report awaited.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Rugby Club – overflow car parking for festivals –26 March and 23 April 2017. Both **agreed**. **Clerk**

3.2 - Dog Show 13 – 14 May 2017.

3.3 – Long term future of wooden multi-play equipment – Wicksteed and Playdale units. Clerk to report to Committee following consideration of Inspector’s report. The full report has not yet been received, however the Inspector’s verbal report on the day indicated that the Wicksteed unit (approximately 20 years old) has reached the end of its useful life and the Playdale unit (approximately 10 years old) requires some major repairs. Quote obtained for the Playdale repairs and depending on the extent of the repairs will be £1000 - £2000.

The Playdale Area Manager visited the office today and the Clerk discussed options with her – repairs and/or complete replacement of one or both units. She undertook to visit the site and to come back to the Clerk with options for the Committee to consider in the new year. Meanwhile the **Clerk was authorised** to agree repairs to the Playdale equipment up to a value of £2000 if following the full inspection report he deems this good value and would extend the life and safety of this area of equipment. **Clerk**

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Clerk has contacted the Kent Petanque Association and requested information regarding the potential installation of a petanque pitch. Response still awaited.

5. Allotments

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Renovation works to clock memorial completed and has been well received. Cllr Gledhill asked that the Clerk make enquiries with the stonemason regarding painting in the lettering of names recorded on the memorial to make them easier to read. **Clerk**

6.2 - Electrical supply at the memorial for PA systems for events such as Remembrance Sunday and Christmas being investigated.

6.3 – Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. Eccles Community Group have invited all Parish Councillors and staff to the event at 5pm on Friday 2nd December.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – Winter tree maintenance work to be undertaken including tree overhanging garden of 83 Woodbury Road.

7.2 – Rocking Hedgehog – Vandalised and removed. Awaiting repair report as part of Annual Inspection.

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground - No report to this meeting.

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

In house tidying and new planting is in hand.

10. Cemetery

The future. The Clerk introduced his report attached at **Appendix A, B, C and D** for consideration.

Appendix A

1. Future Space Requirements:

Following discussion on all three options, it was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Rillie that option c – expansion into Ferryfield – be agreed. Cllr Shelley proposed an amendment that option b – reuse of the middle section be agreed – there was no seconder and therefore the amendment was rejected.

Following a vote (13 for, 1 against) option c was **agreed**. The Clerk will proceed with research on this basis.

2. Future Grants of Rights Lease Period

It was **agreed** that the length of G of RLP for graves in the newly extended part of the cemetery will be reviewed and is likely to be reduced to between 30 and 60 years.

3. New Regulations

New regulations at Appendix B and C were **agreed**. It was emphasised that the maximum area any plot and its memorials, kerbing, planting etc may take up is 7ft x 3ft.

Discussion took place on whether restrictions on what can be placed on plots, decorations, lights, type of kerbing etc should be enforced. It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd, that no restrictions be enforced but that everything must be contained within the 7ft x 3ft limit. Following a vote of 12 for, 2 against, the New Regulations as submitted to the Committee were **agreed**.

4. Specific Issues Relating to a number of Existing Graves

The Clerk identified a number of existing graves which have established an area in excess of the now agreed 7ft x 3ft. Members expressed concern at this but following a vote of 12 for, 2 against, **agreed** that no action be taken provided no further extensions are made to the plots concerned. Dated photographic evidence has been taken.

5. Cemetery Fees

Fees for 2017/18 were **agreed** and are attached at Appendix D.

Appendix B - Information and Regulations

This document was **agreed** for distribution to all future Grant of Right purchasers, funeral directors and stonemasons, and to be placed on the Council's website and cemetery noticeboard.

Clerk

Appendix C – Rules for the Management of Aylesford Cemetery

This document was **agreed** for distribution to all future Grant of Right purchasers, funeral directors and stonemasons, and to be placed on the Council's website and cemetery noticeboard. **Clerk**

Appendix D – Cemetery Fees 2017/18

These fees were **agreed** and document was **agreed** for distribution to all, funeral directors and stonemasons and to be placed on the Council's website and cemetery noticeboard. **Clerk**

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

12.1 - Rat baiting programme – Still awaiting report from contractor as to whether The Hengist will enter into a joint programme of baiting with the Parish Council. As no response has been received it was **agreed** to proceed alone at a cost of £1690 for a 12 month contract.

Clerk

Removal of old grass cuttings pile to be arranged as it has been identified as a potential rat site following clearance from the Contractor.

13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge) - No report to this meeting.

14. Yoakley Land - No report to this meeting.

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

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

Minor repair to tarmac access road being investigated in order to prevent water accessing neighbouring property.

17. Podkin Meadow

Clerk reported on meeting with contractor, Kent Turf Care, on proposed work over the next three years to re-establish the whole area as a meadow. Details attached at **Appendix E** to the bound copy of these minutes. These proposals were considered well planned out and welcomed by Members. Costs involved as follows:

2016/17 - £3245 to include scrub clearance and mowing

2017/18 - £11,800 to include renovation, preparation work, chemicals, seeds and mowing

2018/19 - £2240 to include ongoing maintenance and mowing

It was proposed by Cllr Elvy, seconded Cllr Shelley that these costs be **agreed. Clerk**

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

18.1 – TMBC Consultation on BT Telephone Boxes

It is proposed to remove the following public telephones due to lack of use from the following Aylesford sites:

The Friars
Barming Station
Mount Pleasant/High Street

Members raised no objections to these removals. They did not wish to take up the option of adopting the boxes for other purposes and requested they be completely removed. In addition they asked that the disused box at Premier Parade also be removed. **Clerk**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.50pm.