

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2016
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Balcombe, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Ms Dorrington, Homewood, Ms Neimer,

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1. Apologies

Apologies were noted and reasons accepted as follows: Cllrs Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Ms Dorrington (personal engagement), Homewood (KCC meeting), Ms Neimer (personal engagement).

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. Update received from Cllr Homewood at Council on 19 January 2016 that this project is progressing with KCC. Clerk has now been advised that there has been a change of KCC Officer dealing with Members Grants and he will continue to pursue for progress.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Milestone – The Milestone is still with the contractor. Work has been delayed due to an injury to the Council's usual stonemason but he has passed the work to a colleague and the Clerk is researching details of original wording.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Planning permission granted for tree work required. Work has commenced this week. The need for any changes to the lighting will be considered when the impact of tree work is assessed.

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 now been advised that there has been a change of KCC Officer dealing with Members Grants and he will continue to pursue for progress.

Cllr Rillie suggested that residents of the Square be informed of plans and offered the opportunity to comment. Clerk will endeavour to do this 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 awaited by Highways England. Members reiterated their preference for wooden rail fencing on both sides of the road which would prevent the build up of litter and make litter clearance easier than from behind the existing 6ft wire fencing.

4.5 – Faults To be reported to KCC Highways

Rochester Road Pinch Point (near Sandpit entrance) – Bollard knocked over **Clerk**

107 Rochester Road/Pratling Street junction – Gully requires clearance **Clerk**

4.6 – **Greenacres Estate Yellow Lining** – Notification has gone up around the estate re proposed yellow lining. Resident has asked why Elm Walk/The Oaks has not been included. Clerk to advise that this area was on TMBC's original proposals but was withdrawn following local resident objections. **Clerk**

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

6. Public Footpaths

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

23 February 2016 – Public Inquiry start date scheduled to last for 6 days and being held at Burham Old School Community Centre. Commenced and Cllr Gledhill and the Clerk will be attending in part.

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 - Works in progress report:

7.1.1 – Repairs Ordered

4 lamp columns which are in a very poor condition and to provide LED lanterns - £5690. Work delayed due to UKPN not having provided a price for the part of the work. It was also indicated that there could be further columns in need of replacement.

Various other works of a minor nature - £1545. Work in progress.

7.1.2 - Victoria Road and York Avenue

Streetlights have checked the condition of the lighting columns being proposed for replacement before KCC will adopt and advised some work is required but not the amount envisaged by KCC. Clerk awaiting detailed written report before discussing further with KCC.

7.1.3 - Maintenance Agreement

Clerk has set up the 1 year maintenance contract with Streetlights - £5250. This contract commenced on 1 December 2015. Payment will be made in two halves (2015/16 and 2016/17).

7.1.4 – Survey of all Parish Lights

Streetlights are working on a full survey of all Parish lights which is nearly completed. This has highlighted some additional repairs required but will also provide an up to date detailed record of all our lights which can be presented to UK Power Networks to ensure our future unmetered energy costs are accurate.

7.1.5 – Eccles Car Park

Clerk is investigating with Streetlighting the extent of the alleged light pollution nuisance and whether all night lighting is necessary in the new car park and the costs of rectifying the reported nuisance with shielding around lamps.

7.2 – Christmas Lighting

Eccles - Residents have requested a small number of street light motifs in the 'hub' of the village (similar to those in Aylesford village). Following the site meeting, the Clerk reported on cost of 4 motifs proposed for the 'hub' of the village (near the Memorial Clock).

Depending on the options chosen cost will be £1200 - £1800 for the lights, £984 initial installation, approximately £500 per year on going costs for putting up and taking down.

These costs were proposed for agreement by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Winnett and **agreed**. Funding will be vired from the Eccles Church Hall grant budget underspend.

Members further **agreed** that the local Eccles Members should select the design of lights.

RG/AN/Clerk

Blue Bell Hill – The Clerk reported that the contractor has advised the three central reservation trees which failed on a number of occasions in Christmas 2015 should be rewired individually to prevent one failure tripping out all three trees – cost £1089.62. **Agreed Clerk**

The problem with the lighting in the tree outside the church should have been resolved by the contractor free of charge.

Royal British Legion – It was suggested by Members that the Council should look at providing a lit Christmas tree in the British Legion Village area. Clerk to contact the Estates Manager to see if this would be welcomed. **Clerk**

7.3 – KCC Lighting Upgrade to LED

Clerk reported that at the Parish Partnership Panel KCC advised that they 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 will look at this opportunity in more detail as appropriate. **Clerk**

8. Car Parks

APC Forstal Road car park – One tree branch to be removed as part of annual tree survey/maintenance work which is causing a nuisance to hirer of space with bird fouling.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – Aylesford Sandpit – Cllr Rillie queried trees being cut back on the Aylesford Sandpit border. He asked if the Clerk could investigate whether permission has been obtained/is required for these works. **Clerk**

9.2 – Lower Thames Crossing – Consultation. Clerk will be attending an information session on 7 March at KCC and will report back to Members in time for comments to be made by the deadline of 24 March 2016. Of particular interest to Members will be the likely impact on the A229 (Blue Bell Hill).

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 play equipment inspection

Play equipment – General Wicksteed repairs completed.

1.3 - Children’s Play Areas – Smoking Ban

No smoking signs installed.

1.4 – **Annual Tree Survey** – Work has commenced - £3075

1.5 – ‘Clean for the Queen’

Initiative being carried out nationally to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday including TMBC proposals. Aimed at the weekend of 4-6 March 2016. TMBC are looking to be actively involved providing equipment etc to volunteer groups and are keen to involve local schools. Parish Council’s enquiry to Tunbury and St Peters Primary Schools has received no response and it was therefore **agreed** not proceed further with this. There are no parish council owned land areas of concern as all are regularly maintained by Council staff.

2. The Hollow – No report to this area.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Hirings:

Wednesday 2 March – Girls Rugby Tournament using pitches

Sunday 20 March – Junior Rugby Festival using pitches and overflow car parking

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.

New enquiry - Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 July – North West Kent Dog Training Club – Overflow car parking – exact site to be agreed – Charge £100 per day. **Agreed Clerk**

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 - Memorial Stone – Local stonemason has reinstated wording free of charge.

3.3 – Rugby Pitches – For information the Clerk reported to Members that the Rugby Club have sublet use of part of their ground at the top right hand corner (Coldharbour entrance) to the Baseball Club and a ‘diamond’ is to be installed. Access for works only to the area has been agreed through the Coldharbour gate.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - Disabled Children’s Play Equipment – Bucket style seat at Forstal Road recreation ground in place of one of the flat seats ordered – approximately £1000. The appropriate harness for the seat to be provided but the Clerk to consider further management of harness availability if it becomes a problem

4.2 – Hiring – Initial enquiry received from a local company for use of a small area of Forstal Road recreation ground for a team building session at the beginning of March. Looking at the hire of the Football Club pavilion facilities as well. In view of the short notice the Clerk was given authority to **agree** use of the recreation subject to the normal conditions and charges if appropriate.

5. Allotments – No report to this meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Two new picnic benches ordered for installation just outside the new fenced play equipment area for residents with dogs to use whilst supervising children on the equipment. Additional litter bin also ordered.

6.2 – Request for Fayre visit from 16 or 17 May to be open for business weekend 20/21/22 May 2016. **Agreed** subject to normal conditions and charges. **Clerk**

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – **Dog Fouling/Litter** - Bag and Flag event and litter clearance to be planned with TMBC for Spring 2016. School have been invited to get involved but no response received. Clerk will continue with requesting a date with TMBC for a bag and flag day. Litter is not problem as the site is regularly cleared by Council staff. **Clerk**

7.2 – **Ground Condition** – Concern has been raised by Real 60 on the poor condition of the ground – long grass and muddy. Clerk will discuss with contractor any advice they can offer and check when grass cutting for the 2016 season will commence. **Clerk**

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery

Items 8. To 11. – No report to this meeting.

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Request to use OBG for The Aylesford Big Lunch – 12 June 2016. **Agreed** free of charge subject to normal conditons. **Clerk**

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

Permission granted for tree works to improve lighting of Old Bridge. Work commenced.

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

The increased use of the access road to the car park has caused large pot holes to appear. Clerk has researched quotes for reinstatement with a tarmac surface. Received as follows:
Kent Turf Care - £7250 Station Haulage - £5325.

Proposed by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Balcombe that the quote from Station Haulage be accepted and requested that work commences as soon as possible. **Agreed Clerk**

17. Podkin Meadow – No report to this meeting.

18. Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site

KCC have withdrawn their intention to dispose of this site. Noted.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further meeting, meeting closed at 8.20pm.