

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2018

MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Elvy (in the Chair), Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Shelley, Winnett, Wright

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

Others: Item 3. Mr Lee Dance and Ms Jo Shippey from South East Water

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Base, Walker

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1. Apologies from Cllrs Balcombe (personal commitment), Base and Walker (TMBC meeting) were noted and reasons accepted.

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

3. Presentation by South East Water on Water Resources Management Plan

Mr Dance and Ms Shippey distributed a presentation on the SEW Draft Water Resources Management Plan, copy attached at Appendix A to the bound copy of these minutes. This documents, which is updated every five years, will be going out to public consultation in the early Spring this year. A public exhibition is planned in Aylesford on 20 March.

Mr Dance took members through the document page by page, taking questions as raised. Particular note was made of the proposal for a local project at the Aylesford Newsprint site.

Members thanked Mr Dance and Ms Shippey for attending and for an interesting and informative presentation. They looked forward to the public exhibition in March.

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

The Clerk reported that a number of questions had been received from the Bull Lane Safety Group relating to 1) the cutting back of vegetation on both sides of the Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way/Rochester Road junction; 2) the 40mph zone at the top of Bull Lane and why this had not been replaced by 30mph; 3) why part of the main road through the villages of Burham and Wouldham had a 20mph zone and not Bull Lane through Eccles.

The Clerk indicated that in respect of the sight lines relating to Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way/Rochester Road junction, the County Council had indicated that they had a responsibility to maintain visibility and would cut back hedges etc to boundary lines 6 times a year. If this was not sufficient they could be asked to do more. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would monitor the situation and that the Committee would review the matter at each meeting.

Clerk

In respect of the 40mph speed limit at the top of Bull Lane, the Clerk reported that KCC had informed him that they had decided to retain the speed limit at 40mph. However if the Parish Council wishes to see a reduction in the speed to 30mph they could appoint a Traffic Management Consultant and start the process of change themselves. However as part of this they would need the agreement of the Police to the change and consult with residents and statutory consultees. The Council would also probably need the approval of the Highway Authority, KCC, who did not want to make the change.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has asked that a 20mph limit be introduced in Eccles but has been informed by KCC that it did not meet the criteria for a reduced speed limit of 20mph. He indicated that the Parish Council could also use the Traffic Management Consultant approach for this change as well. It was **agreed** that the Clerk investigate the approach of using a Traffic Management Consultant and report back to the Committee on how feasible this option was particularly in respect of the need for the approval by the Highway Authority.

Clerk

2.2 – **New Banner** – Clerk has received a request from the Bull Lane Action Group for the Parish Council to fund another banner for the site requesting information regarding accidents and near misses at the junction. This request was deferred to enable local members to have further discussions with the Group.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Slow sign on slip road off the A229 towards Aylesford currently situated under the bridge. Clerk has asked that Kent Highways move the sign to the actual slip road before the Lower Warren Road junction to improve safety at this junction as well as the junctions under the bridge. Response awaited. Clerk to pursue.

Clerk

3.2 - Lighting repairs still awaited on the slip road which were scheduled for August. KCC have reported they are still awaiting delivery of new columns. Date postponed from December to 21 January but Members reported lights still not working this evening. Clerk to pursue.

Clerk

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Awaiting conservation agreement to the proposed revised materials which will then allow the whole scheme to be re-priced.

4.2 – Aylesford Village/Forstal Road junction

Site meeting held with Kent Highways re proposed improvements to this junction to include safer pedestrian access and improved signage. KH took on board comments from local members but have now reported that the project did not make the approved list for works in 2018/19.

4.3 – **A20/Homebase Flooding** – Awaiting formal notification that pumping station is to be installed on Crown Estates Land (retail site). See Cllr Homewood’s report to Council 16 January 2018 – 89.1. Clerk will also raise this at the meeting to be held with Crown Estates tomorrow (24 January).

4.4 – **Somerfield Site, Vehicle Cleaning** – Awaiting response from TMBC Planning re muddy condition of Hall and Station Roads.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 – Robin Hood Lane - Local Members have noted that ‘speed/traffic counting’ wires have been installed in the Medway section of Robin Hood Lane. Clerk reported that KCC have stated they have not been installed by them. Clerk to enquire with Medway. **Clerk**

6. **Public Footpaths** – No report to this meeting.

7. **Street Lighting** – No report to this meeting.

8. Car Parks

Off street parking fees and charges in TMBC car parks – Blue Bell Hill car park fees will increase by approximately 5%.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – Bus Services

The Clerk reported that the office have been recording and passing on to County Cllr Homewood and Tracey Crouch MP the complaints received regarding the 155 bus service. There has also been considerable facebook reports regarding meetings with schools, KCC and bus company representatives.

Members **agreed** that the Clerk should ascertain what action is being taken in respect of this service. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** – Clerk has awarded contracts as detailed in the ESC minutes of 12 December 2017.

1.2 – **Play Equipment Inspection** – Following the annual play equipment inspection the Clerk proposes to prepare a play equipment enhancement programme for all sites with various options and funding implications for an ESC meeting in the New Year. Minor repairs and enhancement works to be carried out in-house have commenced including order for parts as required totalling £688.57.

2. 2018/19 Charges for Use of Parish Council Land for Sport and Non Sport Use

Proposed 2018/19 charges – Approx 5% increase. Charges **agreed** as at **Appendix B**.

It was further proposed and **agreed** that for 2018/19 the charges for junior pitches will be waived with the proviso that the Council may seek financial or manpower assistance towards pitch maintenance if required.

3. **The Hollow** – No report to this meeting.

4. Ferryfield

4.1 - Rugby Club car parking on Ferryfield – 31 March 2018 8.00am to 3.00pm. Already agreed.

4.2 –North West Kent Dog Training Club event – 20 – 22 July 2018 – Already agreed.
2018 fee to be advised to them. **Clerk**

4.3 – Bench renovation (sited near the football container) completed.

4.4 – Tree maintenance work taking place.

5. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

5.1 – Scout Fun Day – 15 July 2018. Date already agreed. It was **agreed** there would be no charge for use of the ground subject to receipt of usual documentation regarding insurance and risk assessment. **Clerk**

6. Allotments

6.1 - Charges for 2019/20 based on new sizing arrangements. Attached at **Appendix C** as previously agreed. 2018/19 charges already agreed and notified to plot holders.

6.2 – Complaint received from Aylesford plot holders regarding rat nuisance. Clerk will make enquiries with a ‘pest’ contractor for at the normal time for review of this matter in March. **Clerk**

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

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Rotabounce Play Equipment – Repair completed.

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site – No report to this meeting.

10. Cemetery

10.1 - Long term future **extension**. This item will appear on the ESC agenda each month for progress report from the Clerk as appropriate. Clerk is also working on proposals to change the regulations particularly in respect of pre-purchase and out of parish charges. Report to be made to ESC in February. **Clerk**

10.2 – **Charges for 2018/19**

Proposed charges for 2018/19 will be reported in February. **Clerk**

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Bench renovation completed.

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

Work to resolve minor flooding issue (£1095) and pothole repairs (£480) ordered. Work completed.

17. Podkin Meadow

Long term project continuing and wild flower and grass seed sowing will now take place in the Spring.

18. Christmas Lighting

Christmas lights being taken down.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 9.10pm.