

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2018

MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Ms Dorrington, Winnett

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1. Apologies

Cllrs Base (holiday), Ms Dorrington (personal commitment), Winnett (family commitment).
Noted and reasons accepted.

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

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

1. General Highway – No report to this meeting.

2. Eccles Highway Matters

2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction

The Clerk updated the Committee on discussion with Kent Highways re Traffic Management Consultant. Still awaiting formal response from KH. However the Clerk advised that if this was to progress, as KH have already stated they are not prepared to fund any further improvement, the Parish Council would have to fund the scheme. This would involve three stages – design, traffic orders and construction – costs could total approximately £10,000 plus and would take at least 6 – 12 months to complete.

Local Members clarified that local residents priorities are to further reduce the speed limit in Pilgrims Way approaching the Bull Lane junction and to reduce the speed limit on Bull Lane in the village to 20mph.

Cllr Gledhill queried Trenport's long term plans which should include road improvements but the Clerk advised these are not likely to be implemented for at least five to ten years or possibly longer.

Cllr Ludlow asked if Kent Highways have reviewed the success or otherwise of the safety measures they have installed. Clerk stated he was not aware of any review but that KH have been clear to him that they are not prepared to carry out any further works.

Some Members queried why the Parish Council were considering funding a highway scheme which should come under Kent Highways. The Clerk advised that the scheme would not be funded by KH as they have already stated they do not consider it necessary.

Cllr Walker suggested an approach to County Councillor Homewood for his support and possible funding from his Member's grant. Clerk advised CC Homewood had funded the initial survey of the junction at the Parish Council's request following concerns about the junction from residents. He could be asked to contribute again.

The Clerk stated that other Parish Councils have undertaken similar projects. It was up to Members to prioritise projects for funding. If Members agreed a highway project had the greatest precedent and gave best value for money over for example new play equipment it was within the Council's right to fund a highway project.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk be asked to obtain more accurate figures for the design, traffic orders and construction of the project, before any further decisions are taken. **Clerk**

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Slow sign on slip road off the A229 towards Aylesford currently situated under the bridge. Request to be moved further up the slip road will be followed up again now the lighting repairs have been completed. **Clerk**

3.2 - Lighting repairs on the slip road completed.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - TMBC Conservation Department have agreed to the revised KCC materials specification for this project. Clerk has taken up the matter of updating the pricing schedule with KCC. Response awaited.

4.2 – **A20/Homebase Flooding** – It is understood that Kent Highways will be undertaking works in March/April to alleviate this problem. There has been no information regarding start date or sign of work being done. However in recent periods of heavy rain there does not appear to have been any flooding. Clarification requested from Kent Highways.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

6. Public Footpaths

Items 5, 6, and 7. – No report to this meeting.

7. Street Lighting

8. Car Parks - No report to this meeting.

9. Bus Services

Meeting held with Arriva representatives, County Councillor Homewood, County Council Officers, Borough Councillors and Parish Council representatives – 17 April 2018. The Clerk reported that KCC and Arriva are holding further discussions regarding services as a whole in the area, including the 155 service, and a further meeting with Parish Councils will be arranged.

Cllr Ludlow asked if Arriva could be asked to install at least one bus stop in each village with a live feed for those waiting for buses not able to access the 'App' on a mobile phone.

10. Any Other Business/Correspondence - No report to this meeting.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Play Equipment Enhancement Programme.

The Play Equipment Enhancement Programme will be included in the Clerk's report to Policy & Resources on 5 June on future special project funding allocations.

1.2 - Grass Maintenance

New in-house grass maintenance schedule has commenced. Has been affected by weather but Clerk is monitoring progress.

2. The Hollow

Enhancement of play equipment in The Hollow will be included in the Clerk's report to P&R 5 June as above at 1.1.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 –North West Kent Dog Training Club event – 20 – 22 July 2018 – Already agreed.

3.3 – Replacement dog bin required - £209.49. Already agreed and awaited.

3.3 – Additional litter bin Coldharbour entrance. TMBC to supply, install and add to emptying schedule - approximate cost £300. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

3.4 – Rugby Club car parking for Festivals provisional request – Sun 13 May and Sat 19 May. **Agreed** if required. **Clerk**

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - Scout Fun Day – 15 July 2018. Date already agreed

4.2 – Barrier repair works – Cost £525. Completed.

4.3 – Use of outside area in conjunction with AVCC bookings. Clerk reported on a number of enquiries to use the area immediately outside the AVCC for equipment such as bouncy castles and stalls. It is important that the Parish Council keep control of these requests, ensuing adequate insurance cover etc. and therefore there are administrative costs/time involved. It was **agreed** that a charge for use of this area be introduced at £25 for smaller events with one item and £50 for larger events. **Clerk**

5. Allotments – No report to this meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Additional dog bin request (Hawkes Road end) – £267.72. Already agreed and awaited.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Changing rooms condition and key situation. Clerk report on inspection and discussions with Real 60 regarding changing room use and condition.

The changing rooms had been found to be in a very poor condition, both in terms of maintenance (including damp and a broken window), general rubbish and their use which appears to be mainly storage. The Football Club have been advised that it must be completely cleared at the end of the season in order for remedial works to be assessed, priced and carried out. Further discussions will then take place with the Club regarding their future use of the changing rooms and the costs involved for this remedial work. In future the Parish Council will carry out regular inspections of the changing rooms. The Club have enquired about a container for storage but Members agreed Tunbury Recreation was not a suitable site for a container. **Clerk**

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

Items 8, 9, 10 and 11 – No report to this meeting.

10. Cemetery

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

12.1 - Clerk reported on progress with retrospective application for private planting. The Environment Agency have stated they are concerned regarding the tree planting which could affect access to the flood defences in the immediate vicinity. The Council have **agreed** to refuse the resident's retrospective application to plant a tree at the located requested and

therefore instructed the Clerk to arrange for the removal of this tree preferably by the resident. **Clerk**

12.2 – Request for use for Aylesford Big Lunch – Sunday 3 June. **Agreed** free of charge subject to receipt of normal insurance/ risk assessment documents. **Clerk**

12.3 – Remedial work required following UK Power Network works. Clerk has received an estimate to level and replace with top soil the ruts left after these works - £595. It was **agreed** that these works should be ordered but that the Clerk should continue to pursue UKPN for recompense. Cllr Hammond will advise the Clerk whether the British Legion can assist with these works by the end of the week. **Clerk**

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

14. Yoakley Land

15. Walderslade Open Spaces Items 13, 14, 15 and 16. No report to this meeting.

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

17. Podkin Meadow

Long term project continuing and wild flower and grass seed sowing will now take place when ground conditions allow.

18. Christmas Lights

Blue Bell Hill - Clerk to report on quotation to replace/repair the Blue Bell Hill tree lights - £2746 following Members' request to ensure best value. Following further enquires the Clerk reported this cost can be reduced to £2380 or £2700 for a low voltage system, the latter of which is more suitable for the site and with less faults likely. The low voltage system (£2700) was **agreed**.

Clerk

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

19.1 – Flood Warning Training run by the Environment Agency – Saturday 27 April. Parish Councillors are invited to attend. Cllrs Balcombe and Hammond hope to attend.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.51pm.