

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2019

**Present:** Councillors Ludlow (Chairman), and Councillors Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker, and Wright.

**In Attendance:** Neil Harris (Clerk) and Melanie Randall (Assistant Clerk and Finance Officer)

**Apologies:** Councillors Balcombe, Base, Ms Oyewusi and Winnett

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Balcombe (Holiday), Base (TMBC Meeting), Ms Oyewusi (unwell) and Winnett (unwell) were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

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

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 May 2019

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. General Highway Matters – Highway Improvement Plan

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the suggestion of KALC he had taken up this matter with the Local KCC Highways team and was awaiting a response in order to start discussions on how the Plan would work in detail.

#### 5. Eccles Highway Matters – Speed of Traffic in Bull Lane

The Clerk reported that the issue of the speed of traffic in Bull Lane will now be taken up as a potential item for the Highway Improvement Plan.

## **6. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters – A229 Slip Road Lights**

The Clerk reported that KCC had indicated that they had partial lights working but more work was required. The Clerk is continuing to press them for a conclusion to this project.

## **7. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters – A229 Accidents**

The Chairman reported that he had made a Freedom of Information request to the KCC regarding the numbers of fatal and serious accidents that had taken place on the A229. They indicated that the cost of supplying this information would be between £253 and £352. They suggested that he look for the information on a website called Crashmap which he did and he identified that in the last 5 years there had been 22 fatal or serious accidents on the A229 on the stretch from Blue Bell Hill until you reach the 50mph speed limit zone as you approach Maidstone.

The Committee were very concerned and felt that the Council should push for a 50mph speed limit that should run the whole length of the A229 from Blue Bell Hill until the 50mph zone as you enter Maidstone. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should write to KCC requesting that they introduce this change.

## **8. Aylesford Highway Matters – Aylesford Village Square**

The Clerk reported that previously it was agreed that with the cost of the whole scheme, including the Consultants fee, being in the region of £40k-50k that it was too much for the Council to fund on its own. It was felt that the right approach was for the Council to look for match funding from other bodies to enable the scheme to proceed.

The Council's local MP Tracey Crouch brought to the Council's attention a new Government initiative about breathing new life into historic high streets across the country. The Clerk has researched in more detail into this scheme which is known as the High Streets Heritage Action Zones programme and considered that it was not appropriate for the village square scheme as grants started at £250k. This has been confirmed by Historic England. In raising this with Historic England the Clerk asked whether any other funds were available and this has been referred to their London and South East Regional Team. The Clerk will continue to follow this up with Historic England.

## **9. Aylesford Highway Matters – Closure of Forstal Road**

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting he had indicated that a local resident speaking on behalf of other residents had commented to the Council how much better have been the roads in the village with the stretch of Forstal Road entering the village being closed. It was also reported that Councillor Base had taken up this matter with the KCC Cabinet Member who had asked his Officers to look at the possible options. No further information has been received as yet but the Clerk will continue to follow this up.

## **10. Walderslade Highway Matters – Pedestrian Crossing at Tunbury Avenue**

The Clerk reported that, at the last meeting, he had received correspondence from a local resident that had been sent to the KCC requesting a pelican crossing in Tunbury Avenue in the area of the school or the reinstatement of the school crossing patrol. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should follow the matter of the pelican crossing and the removal of the school crossing patrol with KCC.

KCC had responded in respect of the school crossing patrol that this site was allocated a patrol but following several adverts no one had come forward to take up the post. This is the position with 17 other school sites across the County. They did indicate that they will continue to advertise it on a regular basis. No response had been received from KCC re a crossing. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should continue to pursue the KCC for a response on the on the installation of a pelican crossing.

## **11. Public Footpaths**

There were no public footpath matters reported to the meeting.

## **12. Street Lighting**

There were no street lighting matters reported to the meeting.

## **13. Car Parks**

There were no car parks matters reported to the meeting.

## **14. Bus Services – 155 Bus Service**

The Clerk reported that a further meeting would be taking place shortly on the 155 bus service between local Borough and County Councillors the three parishes of Aylesford, Burham and Wouldham with Arriva and KCC. Before that meeting the Council had been asked to consider a proposal relating to the allocation of the S106 money from the Peters village development towards bus services which could be allocated to provide a new bus service running down Hall Road, the A20 into Maidstone or using all the funds to run a half hourly 155 bus service. The feeling of the committee was to support the half hourly 155 service though the representatives from the Council would look at all of the facts at the meeting

## **15. All Sites – Caloo Outdoor Gym Equipment**

The Clerk indicated that he would report back on the long term maintenance costs of this equipment including the significant cost of repairs and the approach going forward to a future meeting of the committee.

## **16. All Sites – Resurfacing Works**

The Clerk is further assessing the most appropriate/cost effective way to carry out the required surfacing work and will report to a future meeting.

## **17. The Hollow**

There were no matters relating to The Hollow reported to the meeting.

## **18. Ferryfield – Play Equipment**

The Clerk outlined the details of the 3 schemes submitted by Eibe, Kompan and Wicksteed to the meeting and reported that the meeting with the schoolchildren at St. Peters School highlighted a number of minor issues but clearly showed a strong preference for the scheme submitted by Kompan. The committee **Agreed** that Kompan should be appointed as the preferred contractor and that the Clerk should open discussions with Kompan regarding the means of funding of this project including seeking funding from other sources as a means of providing this scheme.

## **19. Forstal Road Recreation Ground – Charity Event**

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that the Council had received a request to hold a Charity 5 a side football tournament and family fun day event for a 10 year old boy with Ewing's Sarcoma so that the child could go to Disneyland. The Clerk indicated that he had written asking for more details of the event but as yet had not received a reply. He further reported that still no reply had been received. In light of no reply on this matter it was **Agreed** to take no further action.

## **20. Forstal Road Recreation Ground – Request from Aylesford Football Club**

The Clerk reported that the committee had previously agreed to move the container at the cemetery to just outside the Football Club Pavilion to assist in storage when the Pre School Nursery move into this location. The football club have now requested that they be allowed to place either a concrete hardstanding or paving slabs up to the location of the container as a means of preventing mud and other mess being transferred into the pavilion when access is being sought to the container. It was **Agreed** that the Aylesford Football Club be given permission to place either a concrete hardstanding or paving slabs up to the location of the container subject to the Clerk being satisfied with the details.

## **21. Allotments**

There were no matters relating to allotments reported to the meeting.

## **22. Eccles Recreation Ground**

There were no matters relating to the Eccles Recreation Ground reported to the meeting.

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

There were no matters relating to the Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and car park reported to the meeting.

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

There were no matters relating to the Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground reported to the meeting.

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

There were no matters relating to the Blue Bell Hill Pond Site reported to the meeting.

## **26. Cemetery**

There were no matters relating to the Cemetery reported to the meeting.

## **27. Churchyard**

There were no matters relating to the Churchyard reported to the meeting.

## **28. Old Bridge Gardens**

There were no matters relating to the Old Bridge Gardens reported to the meeting.

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

There were no matters relating to Mill Hall reported to the meeting.

## **30. Aylesford Old Pit (Yoakley Land)**

The Clerk updated the committee on the progress on works on the enhancement project with the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership. He indicated that the next stage would be the tree work which would be undertaken in the autumn.

## **31. Walderslade Open Spaces**

There were no matters relating to Walderslade Open Spaces reported to the meeting.

### **32. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park**

There were no matters relating to St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park reported to the meeting.

### **33. Podkin Meadow**

There were no matters relating to Podkin Meadow reported to the meeting.

### **34. Christmas Lights**

The Clerk has discussed with Gala Lighting a possible expansion of the Christmas lights scheme and will report back on the details including costings at a future meeting.

### **35. Aylesford Flood Plan**

The Clerk reported that the Flood Plan Exercise was being held at 11.00am on 27 June.

### **36. Parish Site Visit**

The Clerk reported that quotes had been received from a number of companies for the Parish site visit and the cheapest of which, by some margin, was Express at a cost of £350 for up to 8 hours. It was **Agreed** to proceed with the visit to the sites in the parish owned by the Council and that Express be appointed to provide the transport for this visit.

### **37. Duration of Meeting**

7.30pm to 8.42 pm