

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2017
7.30pm – Parish Office

MINUTES

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Present: Cllr Shelley (Chairman), Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Ludlow, Rillie, Winnett, and Wright

In attendance: Mr Harris Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Base, Brooks, Hammond, Smith and Walker

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received, noted and reasons accepted as follows:

Cllrs Balcombe(unwell), Base(TMBC meeting), Brooks (holiday), Hammond(TMBC meeting), Smith (holiday) and Walker(TMBC meeting).

2. Declarations of Interest – 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

2.1 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction

Cllr Homewood has received a report from KCC that junction improvement works should commence in November. They will include speed limits, red rumble strips, improved

visibility with bollards to prevent parking, improved directional signage, new 30mph roundels and SLOW markings. Vehicle Actuated Speed signs will not be included due to insufficient road widths to accommodate the equipment and no space for maintenance inspections.

The Council has been consulted by the KCC on the traffic regulation orders bringing into place the proposed speed limits indicated above seeking any comments by 2 October. It was agreed to respond to the KCC in respect of the traffic regulation order that whilst the Council welcomed the lowering of these speed limits that it would wish to see a 30mph speed limit along the whole length of Pilgrims Way between its junctions with Bull Lane and Rochester Road. **Clerk**

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Speedwatch – Equipment now working. Clerk has completed first stage of training. Awaiting news of the volunteers’ completion of same training.

3.2 – 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.

3.3 - Lighting repairs still awaited on the slip road which were scheduled for August.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - The Clerk reported that KCC had now informed him that three quotations had been received in respect of the proposed works to the Village Square and that the lowest was approximately £68k, the second £78k and the third £91k. The Clerk expressed his concern to KCC about the difference in price between these quotations and the original estimate for these works received from KCC of £10300. In response KCC indicated that the original estimate was only an outline design estimate and not a detailed costing. The estimate probably did not include labour costs, though this was not highlighted in the estimate, and also only looked at cleaning and relaying existing materials again not highlighted in the estimate. As the square is in a conservation area specific materials were required and were very expensive e.g. the coping bricks were £12 each. KCC had tried to contact TMBC conservation team to see if cheaper materials could be used but no reply had been received. The Clerk indicated that he had personally followed that up to ensure a reply was received.

The next steps would be to ensure a reply is received from TMBC conservation and if they are happy with the cheaper materials what the revised price would be. If as expected the price would still be quite high perhaps well over £50k that the Clerk work with the KCC re alternative options which reflect the level of funding that the Council has available. **Clerk**

4.2 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

Work has commenced to widen the road at the A20/Hermitage Lane junction. Completion due by December.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

It was reported that the underpass going under the M2 opposite Tunbury Avenue was suffering from flooding and it was agreed that the Clerk should visit the site to investigate to determine to whom the matter should be reported. **Clerk**

6. Public Footpaths - No report to this meeting.

7. Street Lighting

Upgrade to LED and painting of Old Bridge Gardens lights completed.

8. Car Parks

Parish Council private car park at entrance to AVCC/Parish Council. Relining completed in house.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence – There was no other business.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** - New mower received and in use.

1.2 – All Sites Security

All ordered security bollards and gates now installed. Padlock and key distribution being organised by the Clerk.

1.3 – **Play Equipment Inspection** – Annual inspection ordered. On completion Clerk will begin the review of all play equipment.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – Upgrade of multi-play equipment – Clerk to report back to Committee on progress in due course.

3.2 – Rugby parking and pitch request – 5 November 2017 – Already Agreed.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Aylesford Football Club Tournament – 2nd and 3rd September – Successful event but some parking issues to be addressed.

4.2 – Height barrier proposal at entrance – Initial quote for the work £760 agreed at the last meeting. In order for larger vehicles to gain access during normal working hours it will be necessary to put in place special arrangements which will mean having the barrier open for a few hours during the day and that the Community Centre caretaker has a key for those special out of hours arrangements. On this basis the barrier has been ordered and should be in place in the next few weeks.

4.3 – Scout Fun Day – Proposed date 15 July 2018. Already agreed.

4.4 – Aylesford Village Club – The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Aylesford Village Club to place a bouncy castle on the Forstal Road Recreation Ground immediately to the rear of their property on 14 October between 11am and 6pm. It was part of an event being held at the club to raise money for a prostate cancer charity in memory of a long standing member who had passed away. They had tried to contact the football club but have as yet not received a reply. It was **agreed** that the Aylesford Village Club be allowed to place a bouncy castle on the Forstal Road Recreation Ground at the rear of their property for their event being held on 14 October. **Clerk**

5. Allotments

Pricing for 2019/20. Clerk to report to future meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground – No report to this meeting

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 - Tunbury Hall **Car Park** – The Clerk reported that it is the Hall’s normal policy that during the school holidays and non use of the Hall the car park should remain shut due to a history of vehicles being driven recklessly around the car park during these periods.

7.2 – **Rotabounce** Play Equipment – Faulty piece of equipment, manufactured by Playdale, installed by Wicksteed. Wicksteed have now agreed to meet the full cost of this repair.

7.3 – **Fitness Equipment** – The Clerk reported that one of the arms of the Leg Press had been damaged probably by vandalism. The damage was such that it could not be repaired but would have to be replaced. The cost of replacing it was £690 but if done in conjunction with an inspection of all the equipment £1180.

The Clerk also reported that the cost of repairs to this equipment over the past 3 years was £2320 and taken with the inspection £4935. The equipment was also inspected during the annual inspection of all play equipment.

The committee **agreed** that the arm on the leg press should not be replaced and that the equipment be inspected under the regular annual inspection process. **Clerk**

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.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens - No report to this meeting.

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

It has previously been reported that a minor repair to the tarmac access road was being investigated in order to prevent water accessing neighbouring property. Initial specification and quotation of £7200 considered to be excessive. The Clerk reported that following meeting with the contractor a more basic solution costing £1095 had been received as a means of moving this issue forward. Additionally there were a number of potholes in the road to the rear of Belgrave Street and leading into the new car park and a quotation of £480 to repair these using road planings had been received. It was **agreed** that the above quotations be accepted and that the Clerk authorise the work to proceed. **Clerk**

17. Podkin Meadow

Long term project is continuing through the autumn.

18. Christmas Lighting

18.1 - **Old Bridge, Aylesford** – Repair of two arches and replacement as necessary - £1320. Completed.

18.2 - **Eccles** – Two more lamp post lights as agreed at the last meeting, ordered at a cost of £1200.

18.3 - Christmas Tree for **Eccles** to be ordered. The request for lighting up ceremony to be held on 1 December was agreed. **Clerk**

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence – There was no other business

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.28pm.