

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
27 JUNE 2017
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllr Winnett

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1. Apologies

Cllr Winnett on holiday. Noted and accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Registry 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 – No report to this meeting.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – Speedwatch – Following requests from local residents, the Clerk has checked out the Parish Council SW equipment. It required a new battery which has been purchased for £115. Two residents have indicated an interest in undertaking the on-line training course to be followed up by on-site training before commencing use of the equipment in Blue Bell Hill.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Awaiting revised plans from Amey. Clerk is regularly chasing up progress on this matter.

4.2 – **A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford** – No report to this meeting.

4.3 – Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter

Wire fencing and gate have been replaced. Overall rubbish clearance has been poor but replacement fencing is an improvement.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

Fostington Way/Tunbury Avenue – Traffic speeds, particularly leading up to the puffin crossing. Clerk has reopened this matter with Kent Highways who have replied that they have no plans to undertake any scheme at present.

Local Members were unhappy at this response and felt some effort must be made to try and reduce speed on this road. It was **agreed** to look further into the provision and cost of a Radar Speed Sign. The Parish Council's Speedwatch equipment is also available if volunteers can be found to undertake the training and use. **Clerk**

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 – **Eccles to Aylesford** – Due to the condition and number of complaints regarding this well used path between the two villages and the continued delay in getting Kent Highways and KPROW to undertake the work, the Clerk authorised an in-house cut of the whole path by Parish Council staff.

6.2 – **New River Footpath** – Village Flood Lagoon. Cllr Rillie reported that since the building of the new path, he has concerns that the level of the village flood lagoon has been compromised at high tides. Clerk will raise this query with KCC and the Environment Agency. **Clerk**

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

8. **Car Parks** - No report to this meeting.

9. **Any Other Business/Correspondence**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Local **history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this following on from the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

1.2 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** – The Clerk reported on this matter including the possible purchase of a new machine.

The Clerk has researched a new machine for the Council which would enable the following grass maintenance work, currently contracted out, to be undertaken in-house:

Old Bridge Gardens, The Hollow, Eccles Recreation Ground, Ferryfield surrounds, Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground, Tunbury Recreation Ground. Current annual costs - £.....

The Clerk and Maintenance Supervisor have trialled a Kubota Out-Front Mower at The Hollow, potentially the most difficult site with its steep banks, where it coped well and cut to a good standard.

Two sizes are available – 60 in and 72in. Priced £22500 and £22800 respectively. Trailer required £2700 and £2800 respectively. Annual servicing contract (twice a year) currently quoted at £152 per month.

The Clerk would revise the work schedule of both maintenance staff to ensure effective and efficient use of time and machinery,

The Clerk would recommend allocating £5000 per annum from the savings on contractors fees towards a replacement machine in the future in the same way as currently done for future replacement vans.

Leasing option was considered but rejected as not good value for money.

The Clerk would like to discuss further with the supplier whether the 60 or 72 in machine would be the most appropriate for the Council's needs. He would also discuss further servicing costs.

It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Smith, that the Council proceed with the purchase of a Kubota Out-Front Mower and Trailer up to a maximum cost of £26000, plus servicing costs up to a maximum of £152 and that the Clerk be authorised to decide on the size of machine. This was **agreed** with a vote of 10 for, 1 abstention. **Clerk**

1.3 – **All Sites Security**

Following the recent traveller encampments on various Parish Council owned sites and others, the Clerk has undertaken an all site security review. The following works are proposed:

Steel bund gate for Forstal Road recreation ground
Bollard at the entrance into the overflow Forstal Road recreation ground car park
Additional bollard between the Community Centre and the play equipment

Steel barrier in the gap between Ferryfield and the Rugby Club
Steel barrier in the gap beside the Rugby Club car park leading to the race track
(In addition the Rugby Club are also improving their own security measures)

Two retractable bollards at Eccles recreation ground inside the existing locked wooden gate

Work to be undertaken by local fencing contractor at a cost of £2730.

Agreed

In addition existing locks have had padlocks replaced to a stronger type with steel cases to cover. Ferryfield has also had its previously damaged height barrier replaced. Temporary boulders are still in place at Eccles and Forstal Road and will remain until new measures are installed.

Garage security has also been improved as, following cemetery storage break-in, all equipment is now stored in the garage.

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 – Dog show – 21/22/23 July 2017 – Already agreed

3.3 – Rugby parking and pitch request – 17 September and 5 November 2017 – Agreed.

3.4 – Culverstone Dog Club – Request for use of Ferryfield for dog show and parking next year – 11/12/13 May 2018. Event has now been cancelled.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Aylesford Scout Group 16 July Fun Day Fund Raising event. Already agreed.

4.2 – Aylesford Football Club Tournament – 2nd and 3rd September – Already agreed.

4.3 – Temporary boulders in place to prevent unauthorised access.

5. Allotments

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

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

Temporary boulder in place to prevent unauthorised access.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

7. 8. 9. No reports to this meeting.

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery

Long term future extension. This item will appear on the ESC agenda each month for progress report from the Clerk as appropriate.

11. Churchyard .

12. Old Bridge Gardens

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

11. to 15. No reports to this meeting.

14. Yoakley Land

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

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

16.1 - Minor repair to tarmac access road being investigated in order to prevent water accessing neighbouring property. Initial specification and quotation of £7200 considered to be excessive. Clerk still discussing with contractor a more basic solution.

17. Podkin Meadow

Clerk has held a site meeting with the contractor undertaking 'Meadow Project'. Planned planting has been postponed to the Autumn due to dry Spring conditions. Some bramble regrowth but overall site is improved and contractor is aware of work required. Long term project.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.25pm.