

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2014
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Mrs Gadd (in the Chair), Ambrose, Elvy, Rillie, Smith, Winnett

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk
Two members of the public observing

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Base, Mrs Brooks, Gledhill, Homewood, Ms Hurley, Tiller, Wright

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

2. Apologies for absence – Noted.

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

1. General Highway Report - No report to this meeting.

2. Eccles Highway Matters

Proposed new zebra crossing for Bull Lane – No report to this meeting.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

Jubilee Bench – Layby opposite the Lower Bell – Installation due in February.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project – Clerk reported investigations are continuing with involved parties. Tarmac depth varies over the bridge so this will need further investigation. Gala Lights are looking at demonstrating and quoting for ‘softer’ lights.

4.2 – Station Road level crossing closure dates during February half term distributed to all members, available in the parish office and on the website. Ferryfield car park will be left open 24/7 for parking at owners own risk in order to avoid long diversion.

4.3 – Flooding – Hall Road/Station Road junction and opposite Brassey Centre still on going problems. Kent Highways are aware.

4.4 – Pinch bollard in Rochester Road has been knocked over. To be reported to Kent Highways. **Clerk**

5. Walderslade Highway Matters – No report to this meeting.

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - MR481 – Acorn Grove/Gorse Crescent/Ffinch Close – Meeting held with Ditton PC and Kent PROW. Agreed no action to be taken as the footpath was in a very good condition.

7. Lighting

7.1 – Bull Lane - Awaiting maintenance responsibility acceptance from Kent Highways following upgrading. Lights counted and information passed to Kent Highways. Awaiting response.

7.2 – Teapot Lane – Awaiting maintenance responsibility acceptance from Kent Highways following upgrading. Lights counted and information passed to Kent Highways. Awaiting response.

7.3 - Potential upgrade/adoption lighting scheme. Rochester Road/Powell Close/Unwin Close. Not to be pursued until Bull Lane and Teapot Lane administration matters are completed.

7.4 – Clerk was asked to investigate which lights within the parish will be affected by the Kent Highways plans for part night lighting. **Clerk**

8. Car Parks.

8.1 - Tree work required at AVCC entrance affecting car park spaces. Report of damage to a vehicle from falling pine needles. The condition of the tree will be taken up as part of the tree survey.

8.2 – Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – Confirmation at TMBC JTB that Aylesford car parks will remain free of charge. Members considered whether to resurrect the Parish offer to fund an extension which would provide approximately 10 further places – 2012 price £8183 - but agreed to wait and discuss this further with Cllr Balcombe.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – **Salt Bins, Kits Coty** – 2 bins purchased and installed.

9.2 – **Dog Bin, Village Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill** - Reported as overflowing and not emptied for several weeks. TMBC to be advised. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Annual play equipment inspection report – contractor work completed.

1.2 – Grass maintenance quotations for 2014

Three companies have been approached. Not all wished to quote for all works. The following were **agreed**:

Gangmowing – (Forstal Road, Ferryfield, Eccles, Blue Bell Hill, Tunbury Rec) - Remains with Landscape Services – 2.5% price increase

Cemetery – Remains with Kent Turf Care

Hollow – Changes to Landscape Service in combination with enhancement works

Goal Mouths – Changes to Kent Turf Care in combination with trench work on Forstal Road rec already agreed

Old Bridge Gardens – Remains with Landscape Services

Podkin Meadow – Remains with Station Haulage

Hedge Cutting – Remain with Landscape Services

Companies to be advised.

Clerk

2. The Hollow – Landscape Services to be asked to repair badly puddling areas as part of grass enhancement due this year.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – MUGA completed and opened officially 21 December. Just awaiting signage. Installation of a path from the car park to the play equipment and MUGA was suggested. Clerk to obtain an estimate of the cost for further consideration. **Clerk**

3.2 – Trim trail reinstatement – Clerk presented three alternative schemes and quotations. After discussion it was **agreed** to proceed with the scheme which offered the more serious ‘fitness equipment’ – Sports Equip - £13993. Clerk to order. **Clerk**

3.3 – Pedestrian gate repair ordered – Brickwork completed. Gate reinstatement due 29 January.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Football Club’s request for trench/shallow basin in pitch 3 to be filled in as a Council project. Work to commence in the Spring before the end of the season so pitch 3 will be out of use (awaiting exact dates). Football Club has been informed.

4.2 – Redundant Tennis Court – Clerk has pursued discussions with Football Club. Awaiting further contact from the Football Club re a meeting to discuss further. Clerk will also contact St Peters Primary School re their interest in the future of the area.

4.3 – Toilet – Open!

5. Allotments

Water switched off until end of February.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 – Skateboard park long term future. Painting project in house to tidy up area. Clerk has begun research on replacement as this is a popular facility in Eccles including a visit and discussion with Burham Parish Council re their facility which cost £67,500.

6.2 – New items of toddler equipment – installation due this week.

6.3 – Gaps in fencing to be filled in with replacement fence panel and gate. Installation due this week.

6.4 – One new replacement bench – installation due in February.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – Two new benches – installation due in February.

7.2 – Grass/soil surface around the contour slide – Artificial grass surface – installation due this week.

7.3 – Two new items of toddler equipment – installation due this week.

7.4 – Drainage problem at the bottom of the road section leading into the new path to be investigated.

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond

Trees causing excessive shading to neighbouring properties to be made priority one for tree survey report. **Clerk**

Pond is currently full of water. To be risk assessed as to whether fencing is required. **Clerk**

10. Cemetery

Move surplus soil pile – ordered. Site will then be landscaped in-house and new surplus soil pile established at the rear of the cemetery. Work awaited.

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Tree removed that fell into Hengist garden. Likely liability for Hengist garden wall repair and trellis work replacement in neighbouring property. Noted.

13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge - No report to this meeting.

14. Yoakley Land

Life buoy to be reinstated.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces - No report to this meeting.

16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds

Car park light repair ordered.

17. Podkin Meadow

17.1 - Surfacing of Robin Hood Lane footpath entrance. Weeds – Still awaiting price and work to be undertaken in the spring.

17.2 – Andrew’s Bench – Bench ordered but not to be installed until the Spring.

17.3 – Boulder removal in two months time to allow for grass maintenance, bench installation and any other ground works required to begin.

18. Christmas Lighting

Aylesford – Well received. Repairs authorised to existing lights ready for 2014 - £393

Eccles Tree – Well received. New lights required for 2014 (existing sets 5 years old). **Clerk**

Blue Bell Hill – Well received. Some minor issues with new trees (one tree had to remain on 24/7). Confirmation that labour costs for the original 2012/13 trees will now be paid - £987.

Claim made to TMBC for Christmas lighting grant - £1000 – received.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.06pm.