

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
AT ST ALBANS CHURCH HALL, BLUE BELL HILL
21 JANUARY 2014
MINUTES**

[Draft – to be confirmed at next Meeting]

Present: Cllrs Gledhill (Chairman), Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Mrs Gadd, Homewood, Rillie, Smith, Tiller, Winnett, Wright

In Attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk
 PCSOs Negus and Tiller (part meeting)
 Borough Councillor Davis
 4 Members of the Public

Apologies: Cllrs Ambrose, Base, Elvy, Ms Hurley
 Cllrs Dalton, Smith, Sullivan

AGENDA ITEM 1

130. Declarations of Interest additional to those disclosed in the Members' Register of Interests

There were no other declarations of interest additional to those listed in the Members' Register of Interests.

AGENDA ITEM 2

131. Apologies for absence - Noted.

AGENDA ITEM 3

132. Chairman's Announcements

132.1 – Chairman informed Members of the planned Aylesford level crossing closure – 15 – 23 February 2014. Pedestrian access available, parking available 24/7 in Ferryfield. Details to be circulated on noticeboards, website, etc.

132.2 – Chairman informed Members that PCSO Roxanne Negus is leaving her post to join the regular police force. Members congratulated Roxanne and wished her every success. They thanked her for her efforts around the parish of Aylesford during the last two years. Roxanne thanked the Parish Council for their support.

AGENDA ITEM 4

133. **Adjournment of the meeting to allow for public participation (subject to the provisions of Standing Order 1(d))**

Mr Kahl, resident of Laurie Grey Avenue, Blue Bell Hill

133.1 - Mr Kahl asked that the Parish Council review trees in the Pond Site, particularly an oak tree which is now seriously shading his garden. Clerk was asked to give these trees priority attendance in the tree survey for the parish authorised at P&R on 7 January, and seeking advice from TMBC Tree Officer if required. **Clerk**

133.2 – Mr Kahl asked the Parish Council to request the reinstatement of double yellow lines on the corner by the bus stop in Maidstone Road, BBH where there is a ‘no parking’ sign but the yellow lines no longer exist. To be referred to TMBC parking enforcement. **Clerk**

133.3 – Mr Kahl referred a recent burglary in his area which he thought related to an evening when he made several calls to the police regarding a suspicious person and vehicle but they did not attend for over two hours. PCSO Negus stated she was aware of these reports and the matter is being further investigated.

133.4 – Mr Kahl asked if there was any information regarding the future and legal situation of the Upper Bell. Cllr Homewood advised that enforcement matters are in the hands of the TMBC Legal Department and he will make enquiries as to the latest situation. The Deputy Clerk confirmed the Parish Council have received no recent information from TMBC. Mr Kahl and local members advised that some works appear to have restarted on the site this week.

Mr Friend, resident of Laurie Grey Avenue, Blue Bell Hill

133.5 – Mr Friend reported that he has asked Kent Highways to attend and maintain street lighting in LGA. Noted.

133.6 – Mr Friend has also reported to Kent Highways manhole covers where water is regularly overflowing in recent wet conditions.

Cllr Mrs Gadd added that there is a major increase in the number of pot holes following the wet weather and she was concerned at the standard of repairs

133.7 – There is a need for road surface repairs in Maidstone Road, BBH near J D Autos garage where the surface was burnt following a bus fire last year. To be reported to Kent Highways. **Clerk**

133.8 – Mr Friend thanked the Parish Council for the Christmas lights in BBH. Although there were some teething problems the overall effect was appreciated by residents.

There being no further public participation, the Chairman thanked residents for their attendance and reopened the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5

134. **Law and Order in the Parish**

PCSO Roxane Negus introduced the Crime report for December distributed to Members and attached in the minutes at **Appendix A**.

She emphasised the need for car security, removing all items of value from the car when parked, particularly sat navs, and ensuring the vehicle is locked.

Roxane referred to the report of anti social behaviour in Teapot Lane and advised that PCSO Tony Iscanto is on duty there this evening.

Roxane introduced PCSO Joanne Tiller who is replacing her. Joanne's contact details will be passed to the Parish Office. The Chairman welcomed Joanne and again thanked Roxane for her efforts.

AGENDA ITEM 6

135. **To confirm as a correct record and to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 17 December 2013**

The Minutes were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Balcombe and the actions contained therein **agreed**. **AGREED**

AGENDA ITEM 7

136. **Matters Arising from the previous minutes (including those which required Members' action)**

There were no matters arising.

AGENDA ITEM 8

137. **To receive the report of the County Councillor**

137.1 - Cllr Homewood referred to Council Minute – 17 December 2013 – 120.1 regarding the meeting with the new quarry owners and endorsed the view that the new owners wish to work in harmony with the village regarding the future of the quarry. Cllr Homewood looked forward to continued liaison between the management, himself and the Parish Council.

137.2 - Following the report to Cllr Homewood at the Council meeting regarding lorries damaging grass verges in BBH, Cllr Homewood confirmed that he has passed these concerns

to Kent Highways and indicated that he is willing to assist with his Members Grant funding to find a solution to this problem.

Cllr Gledhill reported there is a similar problem in Eccles and undertook to discuss this with Cllr Homewood, providing photographs as evidence to be passed to Kent Highways.

137.3 – Cllr Tiller asked Cllr Homewood for his opinion on the decision by KCC to restrict students bus Freedom Passes. Cllr Tiller found this particularly disappointing considering the ‘fanfare introduction’ of the scheme less than two years ago. Cllr Homewood responded that it was purely a funding issue. The full scheme can no longer be afforded. KCC have to make substantial cuts over the next few years and all budgets will be affected.

AGENDA ITEM 9

138. To receive the reports of the Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor Balcombe (Aylesford)

138.1 – Cllr Balcombe thanked Parish Council maintenance staff and the Environment Agency for their diligence over the Christmas/New Year period and was pleased to report there had been no incidences of flooding. The additional pump provided was not because the pumping station pipes were faulty, it was to increase their capacity based on the flood warnings issued. The Clerk reported the EA had appreciated our letter of thanks sent recently.

138.2 - The new owners of the Hengist have been developing the site including works in the gardens. There have been concerns from neighbours that these works may increase the flood risk but the EA have now visited and are happy that the works may actually improve the situation. They will continue to monitor the works.

Borough Councillor Davis (Eccles)

138.3 – Cllr Davis reported on flooding issues in the Eccles area. Hawkes Road/Bull Lane did not experience any problems so it is hoped the problem is solved at this location. End of Mackenders Lane is still flooded, there is a remedial plan but it cannot be started until the adjacent saturated land dries. Alex Lane is partially cured but work is still required to desilt the nearby byway. Kent PROW will undertake this work.

Cllr Davis judged that overall Aylesford parish coped well with the excessively wet conditions.

The Chairman thanked the Borough Councillors for their attendance and reports.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Committee reports/minutes: to consider and adopt minutes, and to deal with any matters arising

139. Policy and Resources – 7 January 2014

It was proposed by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Smith that these minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting and the actions proposed agreed. **AGREED**

There were no Matters Arising

140. **PLANNING – 7 January 2014**

140.1 – Item 16. TM/13/03784 – Land to rear of 2 Roman Close, Blue Bell Hill
After ‘*Parish Council Comments:*’ insert ‘*No objection*’

Subject to this amendment, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded by Cllr Mrs Brooks, that these minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting and the actions proposed agreed. **AGREED**

There were no Matters Arising

AGENDA ITEM 11

141. **Accounts for Payment** – Cheque list distributed to all Members and attached at **Appendix B.**

141.1 – 22 payments totalling £22,841.74 were proposed for payment by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Tiller and **agreed.**

Cllr Gledhill drew members attention to cheque 09838 – Kent Flooring for AVCC. He confirmed this used up their 2013/14 grant and an advance payment of their 2014/15 grant.

Cllr Gledhill drew members attention to cheque 09846 – Gala lights. Blue Bell Hill Members confirmed that the new lights were successful and the invoice should be paid.

AGENDA ITEM 12

142. **2014/2015 Budget and Precept Confirmation**

Figures as detailed in the P&R Minutes of 7 January were proposed by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd, as the Council’s 2014/15 Budget and Precept to be forwarded to TMBC. **Agreed Clerk**

AGENDA ITEM 13

143. **To consider any other items of correspondence/Any Other Business**
Available at this meeting or in the Parish Office

143.1 – Thank you card from the Brownie for donation and sports equipment (Cllr Tiller microgrant).

143.2 – Cllr Gledhill informed Members of e mail correspondence and subsequent discussions he has held with Mr Churcher, resident of Wouldham. Mr Churcher is arranging a public meeting on 1st February in relation to the development of Peters Village. He is asking residents of Eccles, Burham and Wouldham to attend to express their views and has requested Cllr Gledhill attend as Chairman of APC. His concerns have also extended to a potential project between Trenport and Wouldham Parish Council which could result in the development by Trenport of Wouldham’s current allotment site for housing, resiting of the allotments and provision of a Community Centre for the village by Trenport.

The Clerk reported that he has spoken to the Clerk of Wouldham PC who stated that this project is only in the very early discussion stage. They are looking to carry out a housing need survey first and depending on the results of this they will then consult with residents. They are aware that resiting the allotments could cause discontent among existing plot holders.

It was clarified that the development of Peters Village was agreed in 2006 after lengthy consultation and negotiation in which the views of Aylesford Parish Council were considered by all parties concerned and certain concessions granted. Members agreed that they had no wish to make any changes to their view on the development at this stage and therefore it would not be appropriate for Cllr Gledhill to attend the meeting on 1 February.

Regarding the potential allotment development, it was agreed by all present that this is Wouldham Parish Council’s business and it was not appropriate for Aylesford Parish Council to express any views.

AGENDA ITEM 14

144. Chairman to move that: ‘The press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as publicity for any confidential aspects of the business identified in agenda items 1 – 13 above would be likely to prejudice the public interest.’

Not required.

AGENDA ITEM 15

145. Closure of the meeting at or before 9.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.