

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2013
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Tiller (Chairman), Balcombe, Base, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Green, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Ambrose, Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Ms Hurley

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

Parking issues in various parts of Aylesford parish. Consultation by TMBC on proposed parking restrictions as follows with agreed responses by appropriate Ward Members present this evening. Full details available in the Parish Office

Bull Lane, Eccles – Agreed with two amendments: 1) Double yellow lines should be extended to telegraph pole on access road from Bull Lane to Old Post Office/Walnut Tree development to prevent extended damage to grass land on island site. 2) Extend half on, half off parking on Bull Lane pavement up to house no. 293 where there is a lamp post. Then double yellow lines from lamp post opposite house no. 293 to house number 320 - pavement is too narrow here for use as a half on, half off scheme.

Barling Close, Blue Bell Hill – Agreed with one amendment: There is no need for double yellow lines in the turning circle. Single yellow lines would be sufficient.

Robin Hood Lane, Blue Bell Hill – Agreed.

Maidstone Road, Blue Bell Hill – Agreed.

Hurst Hill, Waldersalde – Agreed.

Tunbury Avenue near Sarsen Heights, Walderlade – Agreed.

Woodbury Road near nos. 68 and 70, Walderslade – Agreed.

Rowan Close/Elm Walk/The Oaks/The Beeches/The Avenue, Aylesford - Agreed

2. Eccles Highway Matters

2.1 - **Proposed new zebra crossing** for Bull Lane. Further discussions with local residents re preferred siting. Cllr Gledhill reported that he is still to consult with residents regarding this.

2.2 – **Dog Bin** – Request to be made to TMBC for a dog bin on Bull Lane. Cllr Gledhill to identify exact location. **Agreed** that APC will fund provided it is added to TMBC emptying schedule.

Dep Clerk

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - **Queens Golden Jubilee Bench – Layby opposite the Lower Bell** – Replacement base in and bench ordered.

3.2 – **Parking Restrictions** - Cllr Tiller commented on the amount of yellow lining now in Blue Bell Hill and queried the success of the restrictions and the amount of tickets issued and money raised by TMBC since their installation. Cllr Balcombe undertook to do some research on this. Cllr Smith commented that many drivers appear to ignore the three hour limit on Maidstone Road, Blue Bell Hill, and park vehicles all day without any comeback or enforcement.

JB

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting** – The Clerk reported he has now completed a review of the file and the quotes received to date. Phillips have quoted for **supply only** at £13,000 or £25,000 depending on the scheme chosen; Gala Lights quoted 18 months ago at £20,000 for **supply and fit**. When the Council have selected their preferred contractor the formal agreement of KCC (Highway involvement) and English Heritage will be required. This will include completion of lengthy Scheduled Monument Consent forms.

It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Green, that Gala Lights be asked to update their quote requesting a soft, low level style of lighting and a possible reduction on the number of lights originally proposed. Site meeting to demonstrate the lights proposed to be requested. Gala Lights have worked on the Old Bridge previously and are aware of the restrictions regarding the structure of the bridge and can assist the Clerk in the completion of the forms.

AGREED Clerk

4.2 – **Station Road level crossing** night time closure dates from September through to December distributed to all members, available in the parish office and on the website.

4.3 – **Friars Events** – Clerk has held a meeting with the Friars management who were also concerned with the problems caused by the classic car show and they were going to contact KCC re the best method of controlling traffic. They agreed to keep the Parish Council informed.

4.4 – **Flooding** – A20, Hall Road, Firs Close, Station Road (opposite the Brassey Centre). All reported to Kent Highways. Work already in hand on A20; some inspection work carried out on Hall Road, more to come; Firs Close awaiting response and Station Road opposite Brassey Centre survey has been requested.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

5.1 - **Parking Restrictions** – Cllr Elvy commented that he understood double yellow lining in Catkin Close, Walderslade, opposite the Tunbury Hall car park entrance, had been agreed by TMBC about two years ago. However these have never been installed. Cllr Elvy undertook to contact TMBC as to why. **DE**

5.2 – **Litter and Dog Bins** – Cllr Elvy requested one new litter bin and one new dog bin in the Walderslade Woods and Tunbury Avenue area. Exact location details to be provided to the Parish Office. **Agreed** Parish Council will fund if TMBC agree to add to emptying schedule. **Dep Clerk**

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - **Aylesford to Allington Towpath** – Meeting held on 25 September with Kent PROW team, ramblers and local members explored the options including a KCC consultants report and felt that the best option was the one incorporating a footbridge so the path was on the south side where there was no erosion of the river. Cllr Rillie commented that he personally was still not convinced that taking the path in landward was not an option. No further action for the Parish Council at this stage - awaiting Kent PROW further proposals.

6.2 – **Aylesford circular walks** leaflets – Reprint received. Available from the Parish Office for members to distribute to appropriate venues.

6.3 – **MR481** – Clerk has received a request from Ditton Parish Council for assistance with the clearance of this path which runs from Ditton Community Centre to the rear of Acorn Grove, Gorse Crescent and Ffinch Close. Clerk has walked the path and is not clear what work is required so will go back to Ditton PC for more information on their proposals and report to the next meeting. **Clerk**

7. Lighting

7.1 – Bull Lane - Awaiting maintenance responsibility acceptance from Kent Highways following upgrading. Lights have been counted and information will be passed to Kent Highways. **Dep Clerk**

7.2 – Teapot Lane – Awaiting maintenance responsibility acceptance from Kent Highways following upgrading. Lights have been counted and information will be passed to Kent Highways. **Dep Clerk**

7.3 - Potential upgrade/adoption lighting scheme. Rochester Road/Powell Close/Unwin Close. Still no response from the contact at Kent Highways. Not to be pursued until Bull Lane and Teapot Lane administration matters are completed.

8. Car Parks.

Cllr Base reported a number of cars for sale in the Aylesford Bridge TMBC car park, together with a trailer taking up a number of spaces. To be reported to TMBC. **Dep Clerk**

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence – No report to this meeting.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **Annual play equipment inspection report** – Summary presented to meeting, attached at **Appendix A**. Full details available in the Parish Office. The Clerk requested authority to carry out the contractor works as listed up to a maximum total of £11,500. It was noted that a large proportion of these costs (£7642) related to the Alien piece of equipment for which the office would be requesting a second quote from the original supplier SMP. It was proposed by Cllr Green, seconded Cllr Winnett that these repairs be authorised with the Clerk given authority to select between SMP and Wicksteed regarding the best value for money repair of the Alien.

Agreed Dep Clerk

1.2 – **Two extra contractor cuts** of sports area recreation ground sites requested by Football Clubs due to the continuing growing season and recommended by Landscape Services.

Agreed Dep Clerk

1.3 – **Quotes for 2014 grass maintenance** requested from Landscape Services and Kent Turf Care. Some comparison figures requested but it was accepted that it was not feasible to do a full tender exercise for gang mowing this year.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 – **MUGA** progress – Site meeting being held on 15 October and site agreed between existing play equipment and the railway line. Ground works have commenced, likely to take about a week, then equipment installation will commence, likely to take a further two weeks. Timetable subject to weather conditions.

It was **agreed** to promote this facility when completed with a press release and formal opening ceremony. Tracy Crouch MP to be invited together with local children. Clerk will work on this when completion date is known.

3.2 – **Trim trail** reinstatement – agreed as a possible future project on Ferryfield site. Clerk reviewing contractors and then quotes to be obtained.

Clerk

3.3 – **Pedestrian gate** repair ordered - £295. Delayed due to ragstone thought to be suitable for reuse not being useable. New stones ordered by the contractor from Gallagher which may increase the cost slightly.

3.4 – **Football Pitch** – Holtwood Football Club have reported a currently small area of exposed concrete on the football pitch site. This was inspected in the summer and agreed with the Club and Landscape Services that by moving the pitch over slightly this area could be avoided. Holtwood are however now asking whether the Council is proposing any further investigation of the concrete.

It was **agreed** that firstly Holtwood Club having notified the Council of the existence of the concrete must undertake their own risk assessment and responsibility for whether the area is fit to play on. They should be made aware that if the Council decides to undertake further

investigations as to the size of the area of concrete that might be involved, this could have implications on the future of the pitch area even in its adjusted position. **Clerk**

The Clerk and Council grounds staff will look at the site, involving further contractor advice if required and report back to the next meeting. **Clerk**

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. Quote and advice received from Kent Turf Care earlier in the year of between £9150 and £14150 depending on whether area is seeded or turfed after repair, was considered not appropriate and a quote was requested to repair the individual dips which cause the most problems to the Football Club. This has been received at £3400 for seeding after repair or £5200 for turfing. It was proposed by Cllr Tiller, seconded Cllr Balcombe to accept the seeding quotation. **Agreed.** It was noted that the work will need to commence early in the Spring of 2014 in order to ensure the pitch is back in use for the 2014/15 season and will require the Club to cease using pitch 3 before the end of the 2013/14 football season (they are aware of this). There will also be maintenance implications involving watering and it hoped the Club will assist with this. **Clerk**

4.3 – Redundant Tennis Court – Awaiting progress report from Football Club.

4.4 – Toilet. Work in progress to refurbish the redundant AVCC toilet for use by recreation ground users during the day.

5. Allotments - Aylesford – Fence repairs completed.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 – **Skateboard park** inspected and repairs completed. Report received from repairer and original constructor of the park. Reported as safe to use but there are concerns relating to its long term future. Painting project in house to tidy up area. Clerk to begin research on replacement as this is a popular facility in Eccles. Local youths views also to be sought.

6.2 – New item of **toddler equipment** – Quotation for 2 new pieces of equipment suitable for toddlers – turnstile roundabout £1479 and hedgehog spring mobile £1753, less discount, plus carriage total cost £3185. Proposed by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Balcombe.

Agreed Clerk

6.3 – Resident concerns re **entrances** and play equipment layout. There are two gaps in the fence, very close together near the play equipment, which were left open several years ago following repeated breaking down of the fence to gain access rather than going down to the main entrance. It was proposed by Cllr Gledhill, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd, that one gap be filled in with a fence panel and the second have a gate installed. Quotations to be sought.

Dep Clerk

6.4 – One new replacement bench ordered.

6.5 – Claim for injury incurred on metal bolt protruding in the grass – passed to insurers.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – **New benches** project – 2 new benches at cost of £500 each plus installation ordered. One replacement and one near children’s play area. Tunbury Hall Committee will fund a plaque on one of the benches in memory of Andrew Flindell.

One other bench under trees to be renovated in house – not viable, too rotten so removed completely.

7.2 – Litter Bins

One new metal liner installed.

One new concrete bin inside play area installed.

Replacement dog bin installed.

7.3 – Car park **entrance gate sign** re parking in front of gates installed.

7.4 – Swing **surface repair** completed.

7.5 – Grass/soil surface around the **contour slide** has deteriorated in dry weather conditions and disturbance following path installation. Following discussions Clerk awaiting further information from the contractor.

7.6 – Cllr Winnett asked that the Council consider purchasing two new pieces of **toddler play equipment** for Tunbury as it is some years since the area received any new equipment. This was **agreed** in principle and Cllr Winnett undertook to consult with local play groups.

RW

7.7 – **Outdoor Gym Equipment** – Resident has requested improved surface under the equipment as it gets very muddy in the winter. Agreed the condition should be monitored by local members and grounds staff through this winter with a view to remedial works in the Spring if considered necessary.

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond - No report to this meeting.

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.

11. Churchyard

Wall and pillar repairs completed in house.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Report on fallen willow tree. Tree came down in recent high winds and required urgent extensive pollarding work in order to make safe. It is hoped the tree will regenerate in time.

13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge - Replacement bin installed.

14. Yoakley Land

Life buoy will be reinstated in the autumn.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces – No report to this meeting

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16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds – No report to this meeting.

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17. Podkin Meadow

17.1 - Surfacing of Robin Hood Lane footpath entrance.

Edging – Contractor has carried out this work free of charge.

Weeds – Clerk has reviewed the condition of the path with a specialist weed contractor who advised that deep rooted weeds such as dandelions and thistles were coming through the newly laid tarmac and would require treatment before a new surface is laid. They considered the only solution is to take up the tarmac from the 25 metre area of the path affected, treat the weeds and relay. It was agreed that the Clerk should ensure that the path is treated for weeds as recommended by the specialist weed contractor and that he should discuss with the original contractor his contribution to the remedial work. **Clerk**

17.2 – Andrew’s Bench – Bench ordered. To be sited on the east side near the horse chestnut tree but not until the Spring when the boulders are removed and site can be fully accessed.

18. Christmas Lighting

Aylesford Bridge lighting repairs have been carried out. New lighting and installation of other original lights for Aylesford High Street and new Blue Bell Hill tree lights all ordered.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

19.1 – Playscheme 2014 – TMBC thanks for support of the 2013 scheme. Budget figure for 2014 - £2430.31. This was **agreed**. Likely to be a further request for £500 towards Y Crew summer scheme for teenagers which was agreed in principle subject to formal request.

19.2 – KALC Annual General Meeting – Saturday 23 November at Ditton. Any Members interested in attending to contact the Parish Office for formal voting papers.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.40pm.