



Aylesford Parish Council

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To All Members of the Environmental Services Committee

Agenda for the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee to be held on Tuesday 22 September 2020 via a Zoom meeting link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87207598856> commencing at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interests

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 28 July 2020

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

1. General Highways Matters

2. Eccles Highway Matters.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** – At the last meeting the Committee were informed of the negative reply from TMBC regarding whether they would be willing to promote a scheme with Historic England. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should pursue with KCC the remedial works required at this site including the removal of the tree causing the damage. The Clerk has taken this up with KCC who are progressing the matter including the removal and replacement of the aforementioned tree.

4.2 – **Aylesford Village Forstal Road Entrance** – The Council previously agreed to ask KCC to tidy up the site and look to remove the 2 conifers and look at a replacement such as a bed of crocuses. The conifers have now been removed and the Clerk is still pursuing the bed of crocuses with KCC.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 – Diversion of Public Footpath MR438A at Podkin Meadow – Members will recall that they previously agreed to allow the diversion of Public Footpath MR438A onto Podkin Meadow to run closely following the tree line just within the meadow. In response to the consultation on this proposal a number of objections were received principally concerning the line of the path and the condition of the surface in view of the fact that Podkin Meadow can get very muddy. There was a recent site meeting which Councillor Smith attended and these issues were aired and the Council was asked to give their views on these issues. The views of the site meeting generally expressed support for retaining a line running generally along the tree line and if the applicant was willing to place and maintain a type I surface for the path that this could help maintain a reasonable walking condition for the path. As the County Council are responsible for the surface of the path the responsibility for maintaining the condition of the path will fall on them and the applicant. There will be no comeback on the Council.

6.2 – MR462 in the Eccles Recreation Ground – The Council recently became aware of some concerns regarding the condition of path which forms part of MR462 and which goes through Eccles Recreation Ground. The Clerk has discussed the issue with KCC Public Rights of Way team and they have accepted responsibility for the path as it forms part of MR462 and they will take on the works needed to be done to the path.

7. Street Lighting

8. Car Parks

8.1 – Aylesford Car Parks – The Clerk is continuing to monitor the position.

9. Bus Services

9.1 – 155 Bus Service – The Clerk is continuing to follow up on this matter with KCC and will report at the meeting if he has any new information.

10. Any Other Business/Correspondence.

10.1 – Kent Downs Line Community Rail Partnership (KDLGRP) – The KDLGRP have written to the Council with their Annual Report (a copy of which is attached) and inviting the Council to become more involved in the organisation. In support of that they have invited representatives of the Council join in a Zoom meeting on an Introduction to and Opportunities along the Kent Downs Railway Line. Members instructions are requested.

10.2 - Traffic Speed and the new Sandpit Entrance on Rochester Road Aylesford

At the last meeting it was reported that the Council had received a reply from KCC regarding this matter which indicated that as there had been no recorded personal injury crashes at this site in the last 3 years they would not plan to undertake any improvement works at this location. The response also indicated that the Council could place this scheme in the Parish

Highway Improvement Plan. The Council has previously decided not to have such a Plan as these schemes were the responsibility of the KCC and that it would promote individual schemes with them as these schemes come forward.

The Committee expressed their disappointment at the response from KCC regarding this new entrance in Rochester Road and the speed of traffic highlighting that it would be impossible to have 3 years of data as the junction had only just been completed. It was felt that KCC needed to act now before a fatal accident happened at this site. Councillor Rillie highlighted a specific incident where a car had because of the wider road speeded up to overtake 4 cyclists before entering into the narrower road of the village with the reduced speed limit and that could very easily have been a major accident. In accordance with the decision of the committee the Clerk took this matter up with KCC raising the concerns highlighted above but has yet not received a reply.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 – Drinks and Food Service at Council Recreation Grounds and Land – Back in November 2018 the Council adopted a policy that no drinks or food service would be allowed at the Ferryfield other than on one off occasions linked with events in the park. The Chairman of the Council has now asked the committee whether it would consider extending this policy to all Council Recreation Grounds and land.

1.2 – Play Area Inspection Report – The Council has now received its quarterly report from the qualified Play Area Inspector who highlighted the following issues:-

a) A number of minor repairs that can be dealt with in house though the parts will come to £650, £553 of which is for 1 item a scramble net assembly for the multi play area at the Hollow.

b) At Tunbury Recreation Ground the Happy Hedgehog Spring Mobile is split and in need of repair. This work cannot be done in house and it is recommended that this work is done sooner rather than later. It is a Wicksteed piece of equipment and they can repair it at a cost of £838.

c) At the Forstal Road Recreation Ground the surfacing for all of the equipment pieces requires some work done or replacing and some require the work to be done in the next few months. It is therefore suggested that quotes are obtained for replacing the surfacing at this site including surfacing the whole area.

2. The Hollow

3. Ferryfield

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Soakaway and Drainage Serving the site – Work is starting on 28 September and will take 7 working days.

5. Allotments

5.1 – **Allotment Tenancies** – A copy of the report of the Clerk is attached to this Agenda.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

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

14. Aylesford Old Pit (Yoakley Land)

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

16. St Mark's Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park – The Clerk will update the committee at the meeting

17. Podkin Meadow.

18. Christmas Lights

20. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

Neil Harris
Clerk to the Council

Date: 17 September 2020