



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 27 October 2020 via a Zoom meeting link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89215367329?pwd=SjF4ZUxxUXFRaG5wcW1tQmVwbktaQT09>

commencing at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interests

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 September 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** – Following further discussions with KCC it has become clear that the second tree is also causing damage to the pavement. Therefore, they intend to replace both trees. KCC also intend to replace the existing concrete blocks with block paving similar to that on the other side of the road. It is intended that this work will be done in this financial year. KCC have also indicated that they will complete the remaining block paving of the Square over the next few years.

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 – Claimed Bridleways running around the perimeter and across both diagonals of the land known as The Peafield at Barming, Aylesford and Ditton – The Council is being consulted by KCC Public Rights of Way on an application they have received for claimed Bridleways at the Peafield. The Peafield is the site right at the southern end of the Parish at its boundary with Barming Parish which Members visited as part of the tour of sites and is currently the subject of a significant planning application to both Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's. The claimed Bridleways are as set out on the attached plan. KCC PROW are seeking the Council's views on this application including any evidence the Council might have to support these views.

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 will update the Committee at the meeting.

10. Any Other Business/Correspondence.

10.1 – Kent Downs Line Community Rail Partnership (KDLGRP) – The notes of a recent meeting of the KDLGRP attended by Councillor Shelley are attached.

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. This is still the case.

10.3 – Mill Hall Speed Signs – At the last meeting the Clerk reported that a local resident of Mill Hall had written to the Council concerned about the speed of traffic in Mill Hall. The resident asked that the Council take up with KCC the provision of speed signs or speed markings on the road as a means of slowing the speed of traffic. It was agreed that the Clerk write to KCC asking for the provision of speed signs or speed markings in Mill Hall. KCC have replied that for them to take any action in this matter it would have to be part of a Parish Highway Improvement Plan.

10.4 – The Avenue – Request for Double Yellow Lines – At the last meeting the Clerk reported that a local resident had written in indicating that yellow lines were being put in Firs Close and asked if the Parish Council would support double yellow lines going in at the bend in The Avenue by the parade of shops and also at the bend travelling towards The Oaks. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask TMBC to consider the possible inclusion of these double yellow lines as part of their annual review. TMBC have replied that this request had been placed on the waiting list for parking restrictions under the phased approach of the Parking Action Plan but it was possible that this site would not be looked at for 2-3 years.

10.5 – Phase 12 of the Parking Action Plan – The Council is being consulted on Phase 12 of the TMBC Parking Action Plan which has only one site in Aylesford Parish namely at Hurst Hill, Walderslade where there have been issues of obstructive parking. A copy of the plan highlighting the proposal is attached to the Agenda. TMBC are seeking the Council's views on the proposal.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 – Play Area Inspection Report – At the last meeting it was agreed to seek quotes for resurfacing the whole of the Forstal Road Recreation Ground Play Area and quotes are currently being sought from 3 companies which should be reported to the next meeting of the Committee. Currently there is a water pipe that serves the Allotments that runs under this play area and has always caused a problem if there has been leaks in the vicinity or within the play area. With a new play surface being laid it was possible that such a leak could lead to the need to bring up part of the new surface and any subsequent cost of repair. Therefore, the Council has consulted with South East Water to find the best solution. They suggested 2 possible solutions one to move the pipe so that it goes around the outside of the play area, a quite significant diversion which would cost £3125. The second option was to take a new pipe off the main that runs along the Forstal Road and run it directly into the allotments site. This would require some traffic restriction along Forstal Road whilst the work is undertaken. It is expected that this work would only take 1 day. This option would cost £2892.19. Members Instructions are Requested.

2. The Hollow

3. Ferryfield

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – **Soakaway and Drainage Serving the site** – This work should finish on Friday 23 October. However, the contractor has recommended that the site works including the tarmac are allowed to settle and it is proposed that the car park would re-open on 31 October..

5. Allotments

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

19. Remembrance Sunday – At the last meeting the committee considered what would happen in respect of the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday at Eccles. The committee agreed that the gate to the Monument at Eccles should not be locked on Remembrance Sunday to enable individuals and small groups to undertake their own act of remembrance. Subsequent to that decision the Church in Eccles (who have previously held the service at the Monument) have made the following request:-

“the Church in Eccles is seeking permission to hold an adapted form of its annual act of remembrance at the war memorial on Sunday 8 November, we propose:

- The act of remembrance would begin at 10.45 and last for no more than half an hour.
- Unlike other years, attendees would not be invited to go into the church afterwards.
- Only the speakers (and perhaps the person operating the PA system) would stand inside the railings, observing social distancing. There would be no sharing of microphones.
- Members of the public would be permitted to 'spectate' (in the language of the Government guidance), standing outside the railings and maintaining 2m between household 'bubbles.' We have two stewards, who would be wearing high-vis, to ensure that people maintain social distancing and do not gather in groups of more than six. We would use a PA system to ensure that no-one feels the need to 'gather' closer to the speakers.
- There would be no singing or interaction between different households.
- We would inform the local police prior to the event.”

Members instructions are requested.

20. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

Neil Harris
Clerk to the Council

Date: 22 October 2020