

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Mrs Doddington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Tiller

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1. Apologies from Cllrs Balcombe (TMBC meeting), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Homewood (KCC meeting), Tiller (work commitment) were noted and reasons accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests – There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

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

2. Eccles Highway Matters

Forthcoming roadworks/road closures:

Hale House – Pilgrims Way – Rochester Road – Closure at night from 7 April to 17 May. Diversion through Aylesford Village. Clerk awaiting call back from Southern Water to discuss tanker movements during this period. Clerk was asked to also raise again the speed of vehicles through Eccles. Kent Highways have been asked to undertake clearance of vegetation along the Pilgrims Way during the closure. **Clerk**

Pilgrims Way – Rochester Road – Lower Bell – Three way traffic signalling from 30 March to 17 May for footway installation. Cllr Rillie raised concerns that the speed of vehicles on this bend is often misjudged and pedestrians on the footway may be at risk if vehicles overshoot the junction. He suggested that the 40mph speed limit needs to be extended to this part of Rochester Road and that safety barriers should be installed around the footway. Clerk to raise with Kent Highways. **Clerk**

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Milestone – Delay in KCC removing stone and delivering to stonemason.

3.2 – HGV Parking Restrictions on Maidstone bound Old Chatham Road – possible repercussions within the Parish. Cllr Rillie raised his concerns at the installation of bollards to prevent parking of vehicles in this area. Will particularly lorry parking be pushed into other less suitable sites within Aylesford Parish? Cllr Smith stated his support for these restrictions as the road is within a residential area but also stated his concern as to where lorries were going to park now. His view was that they should be encouraged/required to only park in designated parking areas, the nearest being junction 8 of the M20.

It was **agreed** not to make a formal comment to KCC regarding this matter at present but to monitor lorry parking in the area over the next few weeks.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project –English Heritage have now responded to the Council's proposals.

The surface depth varies over the bridge from 73cm to 20cm. Tarmac is approximately 7cm with rubble underneath. Before the works are done however EH would wish to see an archaeological investigation take place of the material below the tarmac.

Scheduled Monument Consent will be required.

Clerk will need to discuss with the Conservation Officer for TMBC regarding whatever planning permission would be required.

Kent Highways have confirmed they are responsible for the bridge as part of the highway and have agreed to the project in principle but have set a number of conditions which the Parish Council must consider.

All these matters will be discussed with the contractor to ascertain whether any changes are necessary to the original specification/quotation and whether this will affect the price quoted in July 2014 of £27617. **Clerk**

4.2 – Flooding: Opposite Brassey Centre - Work awaited.

4.3 – Rochester Road speed humps to be re-profiled by Kent Highways. Work to be programmed and will require the road to be closed. Date awaited.

4.4 – Notification received that Rochester Road between Pratling Street and Unwin Close will be closed for one day on 22 March (date was postponed).

4.5 - Aylesford Village Square

1. Design site meeting was held on 11 March with KCC design team representative and local members. She will design a draft scheme around suggestions made at the meeting and will at this point give an estimated cost of the scheme. She did give the view that it is most likely to be in the region of £70,000. The scheme and estimated cost is expected in late June.

2. BT broadband box in Square – BT have now agreed to resite. Exact position awaited.

3. Temporary litter bin requested from TMBC

4.6 – A20 between Larkfield and Aylesford – Joint initiative between Ditton, E Malling & Larkfield and Aylesford Parish Councils re traffic flow problems. Further meeting arranged for 15 April.

4.7 – Bench repair – A20/Teapot Lane junction. Completed in house.

4.8 – Parking restriction request from local company in St Michaels Close. Local members have visited the site but consider restrictions would not be viable as it is an industrial/commercial area.

4.9 – Request for a vehicle activated speed sign for centre of Aylesford village. Local members agreed this would not be appropriate in a conservation area.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

Concerns about rubbish from a private extension project in Sheraton Court remains on the grass verge. Being monitored by local members who have been informed that the project owners have confirmed to KCC they will clear the site at the end of the project and reinstate the grass verge.

6. Public Footpaths - No report to this meeting.

7. Lighting

7.1 - Bull Lane – Upgrade project to allow lights to be adopted by Kent Highways is virtually complete. Certification costing £554 required and authorised by the Clerk.

7.2 – Outside 74 High Street, Aylesford – On-going problem with this light. May require complete replacement. Appears to have been solved. Light was completely stripped down.

Deputy Clerk reported that the lighting contractors the office has been using for the past year are working out well providing a quick and efficient repair service.

8. Car Parks

Expansion of TMBC Aylesford Bridge car park – Clerk’s report on response from TMBC re caveat on future parking charges. TMBC will not agree to a caveat with the Parish Council regarding parking charges but have agreed that they will consult and consider the views of the Parish Council on any future proposals. It was **agreed** to proceed with the funding of 18 extra spaces on this basis. **Clerk**

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – Pratling Street

Local Members requested litter picking on verges between Pratling Street and Beddow Way and reported fly tipping of horse manure. Both to be reported to TMBC. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

Local history signs – Clerk to make contact with potential suppliers and to look at updating historical content of original signs.

Contract and in house grass maintenance programme has commenced.

2. The Hollow - No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Information sign installed.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Redundant tennis courts - Clerk reported on progress since awarding contract to Kent Turf Care. Provisional starting date 27 April, 3 to 4 week project. Grass protection will be put in after 9 May (end of football season) when tarmacing commences.

4.2 – Information sign installed.

5. Allotments

New numbering signs installed at Eccles. Aylesford to be done in the next few days.

Rent demands for 2015/16 will go out at the end of March.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Skateboard park replacement – Clerk report on progress since contract was awarded to Urban Ramps. Awaiting start date.

6.2 – Information sign installed.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

Information sign installed.

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

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site – No report to this meeting.

10. Cemetery - No report to this meeting.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Request from church to use OBG for a Pet Service on 12 July. **Agreed** **Clerk**

Big Lunch – 7 June 2015

Dumped rubbish around the pumping reported. Arrangements to be made to clear. **Clerk**

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

14. Yoakley Land

Work on a long term plan and strategy for the area as a whole being considered by the Clerk for further discussion with Members at a future meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

Local members have requested the installation of bollards at two entrances to the woodlands – Tunbury Avenue entrance – locking bollard required
Walderslade Road/Impton Lane entrance – solid concrete bollard required.

Clerk to research and price. Local members will identify exact locations for bollards and site meeting to be arranged with local members if required.

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

17. Podkin Meadow - No report to this meeting.

18. Christmas Lighting

Additional Christmas lighting in Blue Bell Hill, Walderslade and Aylesford for 2015. Site meeting arranged with supplier and local members – 1 April.

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

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.14.