

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 MAY 2016

Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Base, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Jones, Rillie, Shelley, Walker, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Homewood

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1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Base was proposed as Committee Chairman by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Wright and **agreed.**

Cllr Elvy was proposed as Committee Vice Chairman by Cllr Base, seconded Cllr Mrs Gadd and **agreed.**

2. Apologies

Received from Cllrs Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Homewood (KCC meeting).
Noted and reasons accepted.

3. 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

2.1 - Proposed **pedestrian crossing** in Bull Lane. Cllr Homewood reported to Council on 17 May that he hopes KCC will commence this project in August 2016.

2.2 – **Verges** – Cllr Gledhill queries KCC policy for verge cutting in Bull Lane where some areas have not been cut. Clerk to query with KCC. **Clerk**

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Milestone – Work completed. Awaiting installation by KCC.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Contractor has suggested upgrading lights at both ends of the bridge to LED which can be adjusted to the required lighting strength. £880 for supply and installation plus £715 for specialist equipment hire. **Agreed** subject to Clerk confirming hire costs are appropriate for the work. **Clerk**

4.2 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Clerk has made contact with KCC Member Grant Section and next step is for the KCC Highways Member Grant Officer to contact the Council.

4.3 – **A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford** – A meeting with the other parishes, TMBC and KCC has been arranged for 7 June at the TMBC Offices.

4.4 – **Hall Road** – Resurfacing and road closure to take place on 3 Sunday afternoons commencing 26 June 2016.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters - No report to this meeting.

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 – **River Medway Towpath** – The Diversion order for Footpath MR473 to implement the towpath proposal has been received and the Council’s comments have been sought by 3 June. This is the scheme to which the Council has agreed to give funding of £20k. Support for the diversion was **agreed**. **Clerk**

7. Street Lighting

7.1 Street Lighting Works arising out of Survey of all Parish Lights

Work has commenced and good progress is being made.

7.2 – **Christmas Lighting** – No report to this meeting.

8. Car Parks – No report to this meeting.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – **Lower Bell Layby** – Cllr Rillie reported that following the success of the trial length of fencing to discourage littering of the bank installed some years ago, KCC have now fenced the full length of the layby. However it was disappointing to note that they did not arrange a litter clearance before installing the fence which now prevents any access for clearance.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **Local history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this in conjunction with the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

1.2 – **Annual Tree Maintenance** – Work completed

1.3 – Grass Maintenance – All Sports Sites

Clerk reported on proposals for a future grass maintenance enhancement programme following discussions with Landscape Services.

In order to maintain and improve the main sports areas in the Parish the following works are suggested:

2016 - Ferryfield, Forstal Road, Bull Lane, Tunbury and Blue Bell Hill - it is suggested that all sites receive an annual verti drain – total cost £1675 and a 4 yearly selective weed spray – total cost £1600.

In addition Ferryfield, Forstal Road, Bull Lane and Tunbury to receive bi-annual enhancement of fertilizer, spikes and quad plays as follows:

2016 – Ferryfield - £1679.88 and Bull Lane - £1025.23

2017 – Forstal Road - £1112.75 and Tunbury - £1055

Currently there is a four yearly rolling enhancement programme so the additional works will cost approximately an additional £3500 per year.

Members considered this represented good value and a worthwhile expenditure to ensure our grounds are maintained in good condition. Proposed for acceptance by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Winnett and **agreed.** **Clerk**

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

Hire of part field for overflow carparking for dog show event at Rugby Club – 23/24 July.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Disabled Children's Play Equipment – Bucket style seat at Forstal Road recreation ground in place of one of the flat seats received. Instructions received but wrong chains despatched, Chains now being adapted in accordance with contractor's instructions.

5. Allotments – No report to this meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Two new picnic benches and bin installed.

6.2 – Fayre visit for business weekend 20/21/22 May 2016 - cancelled.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park -

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

10. Cemetery No reports on items 7 – 11.

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

The Aylesford Big Lunch – 12 June 2016. Thanks received for donation and open invitation to all Councillors to attend.

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

14. Yoakley Land

15. Walderslade Open Spaces No reports on items 13 – 16.

16. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, New car park

17. Podkin Meadow

Clerk reported on discussions held with the adjoining landowner to the south of the site re the repositioning of Footpath MR438A from within the trees on his land to follow the tree line but within Podkin Meadow. All costs will be met by the landowner. **Agreed. Clerk**

The Clerk suggested to Members that a quote be obtained from the grass maintenance contractor to undertake a long term bramble clearance exercise in order to revert more of the site back to a traditional meadow. Dew pond areas to be looked at and assessed. **Agreed Clerk**

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

18.1 – **Summer Playscheme.** TMBC have advised the Clerk that a Summer Playscheme will be run at St Peters School, Aylesford under the auspices of Premier Sports. They appear to imply that the £2500 earmarked by this Parish Council will be used to support the Leisure Pass Scheme that will continue to be funded by TMBC across the Borough. Members expressed their concern at this which appears to be using Parish Council funds towards a scheme that TMBC had already stated they would be continuing to fund. Members would wish to ensure its £2500 only being used for Aylesford Parish residents. **Clerk** to hold further discussions with TMBC.

There being no further business meeting closed at 8.17pm.