

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Jones, Mrs Phibbs, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Winnett

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

Apologies: Cllrs Walker, Wright

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1. Apologies

Apologies from Cllrs Walker (unwell) and Wright (holiday) were noted and accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests 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 - Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction.

Kent Highways feasibility study produced and meeting with KCC and Bull Lane Safety Group being held on 20 April. Attended by Cllr Gledhill and the Clerk.

The report contains 6 options ranging from minor signage and road marking changes through to a traffic calming project costing £60,000 and a major junction or road alignment improvement costing up to £250,000 which could only be funded from development in the area.

Kent Highways have offered funding of £20,000 for signage including a solar powered speed warning sign, additional road markings and other minor improvements.

Although local residents had a preference for the traffic calming scheme, it was accepted that this was not financially viable in the short term. The strategy moving forward following the signing improvements, was to pursue traffic calming in the medium term for which there was currently no funding and then a development led scheme in the long term.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - **Planters** – In house installation completed.

3.2 – **Slip Road** – Lighting is still out. Report from Kent Highways received stating that repairs will not be undertaken until August when a road closure is scheduled for the area.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Aylesford Village Square** - Awaiting revised plans from Amey following the consultation with residents. Personnel dealing with this project at Amey have changed but the Clerk is in touch with them to pursue action. They have apologised for the delay and hope to have designs to us within the next few weeks.

4.2 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford

A20/Hermitage Lane - Clerk reported on the Joint Parish meeting with representatives of KCC, TMBC, Aylesford, Ditton and East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council held on 20 April attended by Cllr Balcombe and himself. Feasibility study has been completed and was presented to the group

Work on the A20/Hermitage Lane junction to install two lanes at the bottom of Hermitage Lane between the A20 and the right hand turn for the retail development, will be undertaken in the school summer holidays July/August 2017.

There are a number of minor works proposed for the other various junctions along the A20. Some can be undertaken in the fairly near future, other works may be spread over this financial year and the next with S106 funding. Maps with details of the proposals are available in the Parish Office.

Members expressed satisfaction at the progress with this project. The availability of the feasibility study with upto date traffic movement data will be a useful tool in considering future planning applications potentially arising from the Local Plan.

4.3 – **Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter** – Highways England have promised Tracey Crouch MP that fence repairs and litter clearance will take place in April. However no progress to date.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

Cllr Winnett expressed his continued concern at the speed of traffic around Fostington Way/Tunbury Avenue, particularly leading up to the zebra crossing. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should seek to reopen this matter with Kent Highways and Medway Council.
Clerk

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - River Medway Towpath MR 473 – Work is progressing on this project although slightly behind schedule. Due to be fully opened 11 May.

Cllr Rillie asked if was really necessary to have a ‘Liable to Flood’ sign on a towpath next to the river when there is a move to try and reduce street furniture around the village.

7. Street Lighting

7.1 - Old Bridge Gardens lights painting will be done in house.

7.2 – Streetlights maintenance contract. Revised price has been received and Clerk has gone back with further questions for which a response is awaited.

8. Car Parks - No report to this meeting.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence

9.1 – Southern Rail Franchise Consultation Document

Consultation period ends 23 May 2017. Clerk reported on his review of the document and it was **agreed** that as there are no aspects particularly involving Aylesford, the Parish Council would make no comments.

9.2 – HGVs in Blue Bell Hill Village

Resident’s detailed report of recent HGV activity in the village, was forwarded to Kent Highways with a repeated request for improved signage and Sat Nav updates. Response received that a ‘No HGV pictorial sign’ will be installed at the entrance to the village. The Clerk was asked to pursue a date for installation.
Clerk

9.3 – Proposed 20mph Speed Limit in Eccles

The Clerk reported to the committee on a proposal from KCC re the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit on a number of roads in Eccles including Bull Lane. This was **agreed** in principle by Members but with the suggestion that speed signs should only be installed at the entrances to the village on Bull Lane – 20mph zone – which would then cover all the side roads.
Clerk

9.4 – Highways Stopping Up Order on land at 222/224 Bull Lane, Eccles

The Clerk reported on a consultation from the KCC on the Stopping Up of Highway to the front of 222/224 Bull Lane, Eccles. This will then become non-highway land and can be used for private parking spaces. The footway will be retained. Members **agreed** this in principle but asked the Clerk to request that it is ensured that the retained footway is wide enough for two people to pass/buggies/mobility scooters/wheelchairs. **Clerk**

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - Local **history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this following on from the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

1.2 - **2018 Grass Maintenance Contracts/In house** – This item to remain on agenda as an ad memoire until Clerk is ready to make his report to a future meeting on additional work to be carried out in-house and equipment required.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Rugby Club – overflow car parking for festival 23 April 2017. Already agreed.

3.2 - Dog Show 13 – 14 May 2017. Already agreed

3.3 – Charity Rugby Event 5 – 7 May 2017. Event cancelled

3.4 – Circus visit – 24 April for 3 nights. Already agreed.

3.5 – Culverstone Dog Show Club – 21 (set up), 22 and 23 July. Already agreed.

3.6 – Upgrade of multi-play equipment – Clerk to report back to Committee on progress in due course.

3.7 – Height barrier replacement – quotation received £835. **Agreed.** **Clerk**

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Aylesford Scout Group 16 July Fun Day Fund Raising event. Already agreed.

5. Allotments

Pricing for 2019/20. Clerk to report to future meeting.

6. Eccles Recreation Ground – No report to this meeting.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park - No report to this meeting.

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

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

10. Cemetery

Long term future extension. This item will appear on the ESC agenda each month for progress report from the Clerk as appropriate.

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

12.1 - Request to use OBG for Big Lunch on Sunday 18 June. Already agreed.

12.2 – Request to use OBG for cake sale in aid of Aylesford Scout Group – 27 April - 3 – 5pm. Already agreed.

12.3 – TMBC Environment Department have discussed with The Hengist improved methods for storing of their refuse to discourage rats.

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

14. Yoakley Land - No report to this meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces - No report to this meeting.

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

Minor repair to tarmac access road being investigated in order to prevent water accessing neighbouring property. Initial specification and quotation of £7200 considered to be excessive. Clerk still discussing with contractor a more basic solution.

17. Podkin Meadow

On-going project, work well received so far.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.17pm.