

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2020

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Gadd (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker, Williams and Winnett.

**In Attendance:** Neil Harris (Clerk), Melanie Randall (Assistant Clerk and Finance Officer)

**Apologies:** Councillors Base, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi, Ms Papagno, and Wright.

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Base (personal commitment), Ludlow (work commitment), Ms Oyewusi (work commitment), Ms Papagno (personal commitment), and Wright (personal commitment) were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

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

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2020

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. General Highway Matters - A20 Corridor – Meetings with KCC and TMBC

The Clerk reported that in the past the Council, together with Ditton and East Malling and Larkfield Parishes, had met with KCC and TMBC to discuss proposals for road improvements along the A20 corridor. TMBC had recently organised a meeting for their local members and KCC but due to an oversight failed to invite the Parish Councils for which they have apologised and sent out a copy of the notes of the meeting.

Following a discussion with the Chairman of the Council the Clerk wrote to TMBC expressing the Council's disappointment at not being invited and asking the following questions which the Council would have raised if it had been there:-

1. Is the funding for the Mill Road/Hall Road roundabout in place and is that funding still dependant on S106 money from the Gladman's application at Whitepost Lane?
2. If it is too early to take into account the expansion of the Allington Incinerator in the transport modelling when will it be taken into account. The Council is very concerned about this as the number of vehicles from this site will significantly increase and as such could have an impact on the design over both roundabout schemes but particularly Coldharbour.
3. When the Mill Road/Hall Road roundabout scheme was discussed previously there was no intention to have signals but these have now been added and perhaps the reasons for this change could be explained.
4. The notes state that these improvements are likely to have a beneficial effect on the air quality and perhaps it would be possible to have a more detailed explanation of this and the places where this improvement will take place.
5. It sets out that 3 new soakaways will be built to relieve the flooding issues in the vicinity of the Mill Road/Hall Road junction and this sounds different to what had previously been proposed and perhaps the Council could receive an explanation of how this would work and the proposed location of the soakaways.

It was noted that the Council had not yet received a response to these questions.

#### **5. Eccles Highway Matters – Speed of Traffic in Bull Lane**

The Clerk reported that the traffic surveys had been undertaken and KCC had informed the Council that the mean speeds at the northern location was 29.9 and 28.8 mph and at the southern location was 32.7 and 34.5 mph. In response to what was the next step KCC had informed the Council that any options could be considered as part of any Highway Improvement Plan discussion. The Council has previously decided not to have a Highway Improvement Plan with KCC. The results of the survey were noted.

#### **6. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters – A229 Accidents**

The Clerk reported that he had asked Peter Homewood if he could obtain from the Director of Highways the accident record for the A229 Blue Bell Hill for the last 2 years but had still not yet received a reply. He would continue to chase.

#### **7. Aylesford Highway Matters – Aylesford Village Square**

The Clerk reported that a meeting was being arranged for the Chairman of the Council and himself with Emma Keefe and the Conservation officer at TMBC to discuss a possible grant funding scheme from Historic England. The Clerk was continuing to chase a date for this meeting.

#### **8. Walderslade Highway Matters – Walderslade Woods Road**

The Clerk reported that he had been informed by KCC Officers that they were promoting this scheme internally to seek funding and the Clerk had written in support on behalf of the Council. Awaiting the result of the KCC discussions.

## **9. Public Footpaths**

There were no public footpath matters reported to the meeting.

## **10. Street Lighting**

There were no street lighting matters reported to the meeting.

## **11. Car Parks - Aylesford Car Parks**

The Clerk reported that the Council's objection to the TMBC proposal to introduce car parking charges at their car parks in Aylesford had been submitted. The Council objection had suggested a proposal for the Council to lease and operate the car park. No response from TMBC had been received to any part of the response including the leasing and operating proposal. The Committee were also aware that alternative proposals had come forward from Borough Councillor Kennedy but before considering in detail any other ideas the Committee wished to see a response from TMBC to its positive suggestions and that following on from that to look at holding a further meeting with TMBC. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should look to seek a response from TMBC to the proposals put forward in its objection and following that response seek to hold a meeting with TMBC to discuss options further and that the Council be represented at the meeting by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Sullivan and the Clerk.

## **12. Bus Services – 155 Bus Service**

The Clerk reported that discussions were continuing.

## **13. All Sites**

There were no matters relating to all sites reported to the meeting.

## **14. The Hollow**

There were no matters relating to the Hollow reported to the meeting.

## **15. Ferryfield**

There were no matters relating to the Ferryfield reported to the meeting.

## **16. Forstal Road Recreation Ground – Soakaway and Drainage serving the Site**

The Clerk reported that the contractor had informed him that this work should be undertaken next week.

## **17. Allotments**

There were no matters relating to the Allotments reported to the meeting.

## **18. Eccles Recreation Ground**

There were no matters relating to the Eccles Recreation Ground reported to the meeting.

## **19. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park**

There were no matters relating to the Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park reported to the meeting

## **20. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

There were no matters relating to the Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground reported to the meeting.

## **21. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site**

There were no matters relating to the Blue Bell Hill Pond Site reported to the meeting.

## **22. Cemetery**

There were no matters relating to the Cemetery reported to the meeting.

## **23. Churchyard**

There were no matters relating to the Churchyard reported to the meeting.

## **24. Old Bridge Gardens**

There were no matters relating to the Old Bridge Gardens reported to the meeting.

## **25. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge)**

There were no matters relating to Mill Hall reported to the meeting.

## **26. Aylesford Old Pit (Yoakley Land) – Tree Work**

The Clerk reported that work had commenced on the trees in the Aylesford Old Pit but some work would not be completed in the immediate future as part of the area for the tree work was flooded and it may be a little time before work in this area can take place.

The Clerk also reported some additional tree work required at the Forstal Road Recreation Ground which the Council's contractor QualiTree Services had quoted a price of £445. It

was **Agreed** to undertake the additional work and to accept the quote from QualiTree Services.

### **27. Walderslade Open Spaces**

There were no matters relating to Walderslade Open Spaces reported to the meeting.

### **28. St Mark's Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park**

There were no matters relating to St Mark's Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park reported to the meeting.

### **29. Podkin Meadow**

There were no matters relating to Podkin Meadow reported to the meeting.

### **30. Christmas Lights**

There were no matters relating to Christmas Lights reported to the meeting.

### **31. Y2 Crew Youth Scheme**

The Clerk reported that the Council had for a number of years made a contribution to the Y2 Crew Youth Scheme run by TMBC. In the past the Council had given £500 towards the running of this scheme as it was used by youths from the Aylesford area. TMBC have made a request again for some funding support from the Council to this scheme for the forthcoming financial year. They have informed the Council that 71 children took part in the scheme last year of which 4 were from Aylesford. It was **Agreed** that a contribution of £500 towards the running of the scheme be approved.

### **32. Potential S106 Contribution for Sports Facility Improvements arising from the development of 840 dwellings to the east of Hermitage Lane**

The Clerk reported that TMBC had approached the Council regarding potential contributions arising from the proposed development of 840 dwellings to the east of Hermitage Lane and in particular referring to the Tennis Courts at the Forstal Road Recreation Ground. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should respond to TMBC indicating that discussion on these matters was premature and was pre-empting any decision by the Secretary of State on whether to call in this application to be determined at a national level rather than by TMBC.

### **37. Duration of Meeting**

7.30pm to 8.01pm