

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2016
7.30pm
MINUTES

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

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Shelley, Smith, Wright

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1. Apologies and the reasons from them were noted and accepted:

Cllrs Mrs Brooks (holiday), Homewood (KCC meeting), Shelley (holiday), Smith (holiday), Wright (holiday).

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 - Proposed pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane/Bull Lane-Pilgrims Way junction. The Clerk reported on the results of the zebra crossing survey – see **Appendix A** - and Members considered the way forward. Additionally Members considered the negative response from Kent Highways on the Parish Council's request for consideration of safety improvements to

Bull Lane/Pilgrims Way junction and the deputation received from Eccles residents at the September Council meeting. Members agreed that junction improvements were a greater priority than the crossing and Cllr Mrs Phibbs confirmed that from her conversations with residents, the majority of them would give greater priority to the junction rather than a zebra crossing.

It was therefore **agreed** to prioritise the junction over the zebra crossing in order to offer the use of the funding from County Councillor Homewood and that set aside by the Parish Council for the crossing to Kent Highways towards junction improvements. The crossing project will not be completely shelved but would be aside for the time being to be reviewed again when the outcome of the junction negotiations with Kent Highways are known.

The Clerk has a provisional October date for a meeting with Kent Highways to discuss the junction and it was **agreed** this should be confirmed. **Clerk**

2.2 – **155 Evening Bus Service** – Service extended for a further six months.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 – **Village Entrance from Lord Lees roundabout** – Clerk has written to Kent Highways asking how to deal with the situation whereby vehicles wanting to access the A229 are entering BBH Village including getting Sat Nav companies to ensure their routes are updated. KH have responded stating that they have identified some systems that have not been upgraded to show the slip road is now closed and they will be contacting them accordingly. Cllr Smith will be asked to monitor this situation. **Smith**

3.2 – **Planters** – Quotes received for two additional planters on the central reservation. £570 and £733. BBH Local Members micro grants to fund. It was **agreed** to accept the lower quotation and to seek Kent Highway approval for their installation. **JAC**

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Work completed. Effectiveness to be monitored as darker evenings come on.

4.2 - Aylesford Village Square

Members considered the Clerk's report on the results of consultation which ended on 23 September including options on the way forward – attached at **Appendix B**.

Members **agreed** to proceed based on option c). The 'spiked' tree will be removed and replaced with a mature tree. The other existing tree will be retained if possible but if it is found to be causing damage to the surface it will be removed and replaced with a more suitable mature tree. TMBC Tree Officer advice will be sought on the type of trees suitable. It was agreed that as existing benches are to be refurbished, it would not be aesthetically appropriate to include the installation of a new table in the scheme so this will be deleted. Finger post and litter bin to be included in a design in keeping with the street scene.

Cllr Rillie asked that we ensure the brick paving all matches and is all laid correctly. Further discussion on this project will take place with Kent Highways at the meeting to be held in October (see 2.1 above).

4.3 – **A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford** – No report to this meeting.

4.4 – **Hall Road Motorway Bridge Broken Fencing and Litter** - Tracey Crouch MP has now taken this matter up with Highways England. Response awaited.

4.5 – **Rochester Road Water** – Leaking valve now repaired.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

Local Members reported the continuing problems with speeding traffic in Fostington Way. Noted.

6. Public Footpaths

6.1 - River Medway Towpath – Commencement of work between Aylesford and Allington awaited. Footpath Orders now made and in consultation process. It has been noted that work has commenced between the Malta Inn and Maidstone.

6.2 – **Modification Orders** for MR474 (Mill Hall, Aylesford) MR 29, 606, 607, 611, 30 (Between Burham and Eccles) and MR613 (Blue Bell Hill). Noted.

7. Street Lighting

The Clerk reported on the current position regarding the review and upgrading of Parish Council street lights – attached at **Appendix C**. Members welcomed the progress that has been made.

The Clerk's recommendation at paragraph 5. to establish a replacement programme for converting all lights to LED over a three year programme was **agreed**.

The Clerk's recommendation at paragraph 6 **not** to undertake a five year programme of painting was **agreed**.

Cllr Rillie reported the poor appearance of the lights in Old Bridge Gardens. The Clerk was asked to look at these columns to see whether in-house painting would be appropriate. **Clerk**

8. **Car Parks** – No report to this meeting.

9. **Any Other Business/Correspondence** – No report to this meeting.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

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

Annual Play Equipment Inspection - Ordered. Should take place in October.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting.

3. Ferryfield

3.1 - Rugby Club – pitch marking on Ferryfield **agreed.** **JAC**

3.2 - Rugby Club – overflow car parking – 6 November 2016 for Minis Festival on Ferryfield **agreed.** **JAC**

3.3 - Dog Show request for May 2017. Proposed site plan **agreed.** **JAC**
Charge for 2 days full use - £250. Half day set up charge £62.50.

3.4 – Cllr Walker reported the newly established Baseball Club on the Rugby Club side have enjoyed a successful first season and thanked the Parish Council for their assistance with this.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

Resident request for a Petanque pitch. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should research this further including location, construction, maintenance and local league details.

5. Allotments

Eccles – On-going slight water leak issue. Quote from Southern Water to investigate - £1630. To be further investigated in-house and monitored before any further work is authorised. **Clerk**

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 – Local stonemason has been asked to inspect and quote to clean whole structure and reinstate names on clock memorial:

To renovate the two name panels in time for Remembrance Sunday - £300 plus extra charge for any letter recutting required – **agreed.** **Clerk**

To renovate the remainder of the whole clock tower to include scaffold tower hire, to be done after Remembrance Sunday - £2600 – **agreed.** **Clerk**

6.2 – Happy Hedgehog repair ordered.

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

Clerk's report on site meeting following resident's concerns regarding fences and general appearance.

Fence is the responsibility of the property owner. The Clerk will look at additional planting in front of it for additional protection. General tidying of the whole area will be carried out in-house.

10. Cemetery

Additional roses for rose beds - £10 each from Spadework – 24 - £240 **agreed. JAC**

11. Churchyard - No report to this meeting.

12. Old Bridge Gardens

Request from TMBC Environmental Health for rat baiting survey following incidents at The Hengist. Final report following four visits/inspections attached at **Appendix D**.

Members **agreed** in principle to continuing with a programme to control rat activity in Old Bridge Gardens, **subject to** a combined programme with The Hengist being agreed, and consultation with TMBC regarding enforcement to clear the overgrown area at the rear of the Business Centre which is also seen as a likely rat habitat. **Clerk**

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 – No report to this meeting.

17. Podkin Meadow

Clerk looking at how Podkin Meadow can revert back to a more traditional meadow. Brambles at the rear of properties will be retained together with small trees growing within the brambles as far as is practical. Dew pond areas to be looked at and assessed. Site meeting with contractor arranged. Likely to be a 2/3 year project.

Dog fouling – Signage installed.

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

18.1 – Allington Waste Management Facility. Cllr Walker reported that capacity at this site is due to be increased. Consultation is taking place and Cllr Walker asked that any reports of smells etc be passed to him.

Cllr Walker also reported that the Facility is offering 2 apprentice places per year and he has passed these details to local schools.

18.2 – Children’s Play Equipment, Base Camp, Royal British Legion Village. The Clerk reported that RBLV have received a quote from Wicksteed of between £35-40,000. There Focus Group is continuing to fund raise, including a nomination for a grant from Tesco. APC have already indicated their willingness to contribute.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.48pm.