

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 January 2020

Present: Councillor Ludlow (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Base, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ms Oyewusi, Shelley, Smith, Sullivan, Walker and Williams.

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

Apologies: Councillors Hammond, Rillie, Winnett and Wright.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Hammond (personal commitment), Rillie (unwell), Winnett (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 17 December 2019

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. General Highway Matters

There were no general highway matters reported to the meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that KCC had informed him that they would now fund the surveys.

6. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters – A229 Slip Road Lights

The Clerk reported that all the lights seemed to be working. This was confirmed by the local Members.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Public Footpaths

There were no public footpath matters reported to the meeting.

11. Street Lighting

There were no street lighting matters reported to the meeting.

12. Car Parks – Eccles Car Park to rear of Belgrave Street

The Clerk reported that the Committee had asked that he obtain a price for filling in of the pot holes to the entrance to this car park. It was **Agreed** that the quote of £595 from Station Haulage to do this work be approved.

13. Car Parks – Aylesford Car Parks

The Clerk reported that TMBC were consulting on their proposal to introduce car parking charges at their car parks in Aylesford. He further reported that Councillors Balcombe and Sullivan and he had met with TMBC Officers to discuss their proposals for the car park. Following that meeting a draft objection to the TMBC proposal to introduce car parking charges at the Aylesford car parks was drafted and a copy of which was circulated at the meeting. The Committee then discussed the matter in great detail expressing their

disappointment that TMBC had decided to introduce car parking charges and agreed to oppose these charges. It was **Agreed** that the objection to the TMBC proposals for charging at the Aylesford car parks as attached to these minutes be approved.

14. Bus Services – 155 Bus Service

The Clerk reported that the further meeting of the 155 Bus Working Group had still not met. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should pursue this matter both with Borough Councillor Dave Davis and KCC to bring this issue to a swift conclusion.

15. All Sites – Grounds Maintenance Quotes

The Clerk reported that he had not been able to bring this matter to a position where he could report to the Committee until the Staffing Committee had met to agree a structure for the Council going forward. They had now agreed a way forward and the Clerk indicated that he would be in a position to report on this matter next week. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk report on the Grounds Maintenance Quotes to a special meeting of the Environmental Services Committee to be held after the Policy and Resources Committee next week.

16. The Hollow – Steps next to Slide

The Clerk reported that the work on the steps next to the slide in the Hollow had been completed.

17. Ferryfield – Boot Scraper

The Clerk reported that a request from one person had been received for a boot scraper at the Ferryfield. The cheapest price for installing a boot scraper including the needed concrete base was £1005. The Committee felt that this was not good value for money and **Agreed** to take no further action on this matter.

18. Ferryfield – Use of Ferryfield for Dog Show

The Clerk reported that the NW Kent Dog Training Club have asked to use the Ferryfield again for a dog show on the weekend of 24, 25 and 26 July. They had used it previously and there had been no significant issues. It was **Agreed** that the request from the NW Kent Dog Training Club to use the Ferryfield for a dog show on the weekend of 24, 25 and 26 July be approved.

19. 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 in the next couple of weeks.

20. Allotments

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

21. Eccles Recreation Ground

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

22. 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

23. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

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

24. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site

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

25. Cemetery

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

26. Churchyard

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

27. Old Bridge Gardens

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

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

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

29. Aylesford Old Pit (Yoakley Land) – Tree Work

The Clerk reported that work will commence on the trees in the Aylesford Old Pit in early February.

30. Walderslade Open Spaces

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

31. 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.

32. Podkin Meadow

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

33. Christmas Lights - Repairs to Christmas Light Motifs in Aylesford Village

The Clerk reported that the Contractor had reported that 7 of the oldest motifs in the village were in need of repair and the cost of repair would be £990. The Clerk reported that there were sufficient funds within the Christmas lights budget to fund these repairs. It was **Agreed** that the repair works to 7 of the oldest motifs in the Aylesford village be undertaken at a cost of £990.

34. Aylesford Flood Plan

There were no matters relating to the Aylesford Flood Plan reported to the meeting.

35. Parish Tree Work

The Clerk reported that 2 quotes had been received to undertake the Parish Tree Work contract. These quotes were from QualiTree Services and Kent Turf Care. The detailed quotes were circulated to the Committee at the meeting and the Clerk took members through the detailed pricing. Whilst there were some differences in the work proposed these differences would not merit any significant difference in price. It was clear for the same work tendered for that QualiTree Services were cheaper and the overall contract price from them was £3440 compared to Kent Turf Care's price of £6179.

The Committee **Agreed** to award the Parish Tree Work contract to QualiTree Services for a three year period subject to a stipulation that the Parish Council would be able to terminate the contract earlier if it was not satisfied with the quality of the work.

36. Banners at Forstal Road Recreation Ground Fence

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Geoffrey Martin to have permission to hang a banner on the Forstal Road Recreation Ground Fence on 3 separate occasions for a period of 4 weeks on each occasion. The Council policy was to only allow for a maximum period of 2 weeks for the occasional banners placed on the fence though there was no limit on the number of occasions in each year. It was **Agreed** that Council policy be adhered to and that Mr Martin be informed that his banners can only be placed for a maximum period of 2 weeks in each instance.

37. Duration of Meeting

7.30pm to 8.35pm