

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 May 2019

**Present:** Councillors Balcombe, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker, Williams, Winnett, and Wright.

**In Attendance:** Neil Harris (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors Hammond and Sullivan

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Hammond (TMBC Meeting), and Sullivan (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. Election of Chairman

It was **Agreed** that Councillor Ludlow be elected Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

#### 4. Election of Vice Chairman

It was **Agreed** that Councillor Mrs Gadd be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

#### 5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 April 2019

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

## **6. General Highway Matters**

There were no general highway matters reported to the meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that the Council has recently received a number of comments about the speed of traffic through Eccles along Bull Lane. It has been indicated in these comments that most of the speeding traffic is not from Eccles but just passing through and has increased since the new road and bridge. It has been suggested that traffic calming would be a solution to the problem.

As Members will recall the Council has discussed the possibility of traffic calming with KCC and had received a clear indication from them that they would not undertake such a scheme. However, since then and very recently the Clerk has received from KCC, a significant amount of information re a Highways Improvement Plan which he is currently considering in some detail and will be reporting on this to the committee at its next meeting. Traffic Calming schemes are the type of scheme that could be included in the Improvement Plan. It was **Agreed** that this item on the speed of traffic in Bull Lane is discussed alongside any consideration of this Highways Improvement Plan as proposed by KCC.

## **8. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters – A229 Slip Road Lights**

The Clerk reported that KCC have informed the Council that this is a difficult job involving digging up part of the slip road. They are progressing this matter but as yet have no timeframe for completion of the project. The Clerk is continuing to press them for a conclusion to this project.

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

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that with the cost of the whole scheme, including the Consultants fee, being in the region of £40k-50k that it was too much for the Council to fund on its own. It was felt that the right approach was for the Council to look for support funding from other bodies to enable the scheme to proceed.

The Council's local MP Tracey Crouch has brought to the Council's attention a new Government initiative about breathing new life into historic high streets across the country. This scheme makes available a £62 million fund. In looking at the detail it might not be appropriate as it seems to be based on High Streets with shops and those shops closing. However, the Clerk indicated that an expression of Interest needed to be put in by 12 July and recommended that the Council should put forward its interest. Therefore, it was **Agreed** that the Clerk draft an Expression of Interest application and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

## **10. Aylesford Highway Matters – Closure of Forstal Road**

The Clerk reported that a local resident, speaking on behalf of other residents has commented to the Council how much better have been the roads in the village with the stretch of Forstal Road entering the village being closed. He has asked the Council to consider the issue and to take up with KCC what are the options that could be implemented that maintains the benefits of the closure whilst not shifting the problems to other roads such as Pratling Street. One option proposed by the local MP Tracey Crouch would be to make it one way from the Maidstone end.

The Clerk further reported that Councillor Base had taken this matter up with the KCC Cabinet Member who had asked his Officers to look at the possible options at this location. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk liaise with Councillor Base and the KCC to ascertain the outcome of this work being undertaken by KCC.

## **11. Walderslade Highway Matters – Pedestrian Crossing at Tunbury Avenue**

The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from a local resident that had been sent to the KCC requesting a pelican crossing in Tunbury Avenue in the area of the school or the reinstatement of the Lollipop lady. The correspondence had been allocated an enquiry number by KCC with a promise from them that they would respond within 28 days.

Concerns were expressed about the speed of traffic in this area and the need to do something. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should follow the matter of the pelican crossing and the removal of the Lollipop lady with KCC liaising with Borough Councillor Keers.

## **12. Public Footpaths**

There were no public footpath matters reported to the meeting.

## **13. Street Lighting**

There were no street lighting matters reported to the meeting.

## **14. Car Parks**

There were no car parks matters reported to the meeting.

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

The Clerk reported on the details of a recent meeting held between local Borough and County Councillors the three parishes of Aylesford, Burham and Wouldham with Arriva and KCC. The meeting had been very positive with a number of ideas discussed and it was agreed to meet again in the future.

## **16. All Sites – Caloo Outdoor Gym Equipment**

The Clerk indicated that he would report back on the long term maintenance costs of this equipment including the significant cost of repairs and the approach going forward to a future meeting of the committee.

## **17. All Sites – Resurfacing Works**

The Clerk is further assessing the most appropriate/cost effective way to carry out the required surfacing work and will report to a future meeting.

## **18. The Hollow**

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

## **19. Ferryfield – Play Equipment**

The Clerk outlined the details of the 3 schemes submitted by Eibe, Kompan and Wicksteed to the meeting. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should consult with the schoolchildren at St. Peters School again in order to ascertain their views on the one new scheme and the 2 other revised proposals and then report back to the Committee for a final decision.

## **20. Forstal Road Recreation Ground – Charity Event**

The Clerk reported that the Council had received a request to hold a Charity 5 a side football tournament and family fun day event for a 10 year old boy with Ewing's Sarcoma so that the child could go to Disneyland. The Clerk indicated that he had written asking for more details of the event but as yet had not received a reply. It was **Agreed** to consider this application further on receipt of the information asked for by the Clerk.

## **21. Allotments**

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

## **22. Eccles Recreation Ground**

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

## **23. 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.

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

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

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

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

#### **26. Cemetery**

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

#### **27. Churchyard**

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

#### **28. Old Bridge Gardens**

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

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

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

#### **30. Aylesford Old Pit (Yoakley Land)**

The Clerk updated the committee on the progress on works on the enhancement project with the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

#### **31. Walderslade Open Spaces**

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

#### **32. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park**

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

#### **33. Podkin Meadow**

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

### **34. Christmas Lights**

The Clerk has discussed with Gala Lighting a possible expansion of the Christmas lights scheme and will report back on the details including costings at a future meeting.

### **35. Aylesford Flood Plan**

The Clerk reported that the Flood Plan Exercise was being held at 11.00am on 27 June.

### **36. Y2 Crew Youth Scheme**

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting the committee agreed to give £500 to the scheme but asked how many children from the Aylesford benefitted. TMBC have replied saying 4 children and they attended 19 different sessions.

### **37. Any Other Business – Parish Site Visit**

It was **Agreed** that the Clerk arrange for a minibus to take those members who wish to go to visit all the sites in the parish owned by the council and to also give some idea of the size of the Parish.

### **38. Duration of Meeting**

7.30pm to 8.20 pm