

# Aylesford Parish Council

## Environmental Services Committee

### Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held via Zoom link on 28 July 2020

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

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Base

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#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Base (personal commitment) was received, and the reason for absence agreed.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ms Papagno disclosed an interest in the report of the Clerk on Exercise Classes.

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 June 2020

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### 4. General Highway Matters

There were no general highways matters reported to the meeting.

#### 5. Eccles Highway Matters

There were no Eccles highways matters reported to the meeting.

## **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.

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

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk attached to the Agenda including the negative reply from TMBC regarding whether they would be willing to promote a scheme with Historic England. The Committee were disappointed with the response from TMBC and **Agreed** that the Clerk should pursue with KCC the remedial works required at this site including the removal of the tree causing the damage.

## **8. Aylesford Village Forstal Road Entrance**

The Clerk reported that Councillor Rillie had raised this issue a couple of weeks ago and there was an element of consensus to ask KCC to tidy up the site and look to remove the 2 conifers and look at a replacement such as a bed of crocuses. The Clerk has taken this up with KCC and is awaiting a detailed reply.

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

The Clerk reported that the Traffic Regulation Order introducing the 50mph speed limit would be made on 6 August to come into effect on 10 August. However, the scheme would not become enforceable until the signs are in place which should be before Christmas.

## **10. Public Footpaths**

There were no public footpath matters reported to the meeting.

## **11. Street Lighting**

There were no public footpath matters reported to the meeting.

## **12. Car Parks - Aylesford Car Parks**

The Clerk is continuing to monitor the position.

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

The Clerk reported that he has taken the matter up with KCC of the new bus service and was awaiting a reply. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should pursue the reply from KCC and also take up the issue of capacity on buses running along the existing route and the new route taking into account the reduced capacity arising from the pandemic and the surge in usage that will take place following the return of schools in September.

#### **14. Traffic Speed and the new Sandpit Entrance on Rochester Road Aylesford**

The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from KCC regarding this matter which indicated that as there had been no recorded personal injury crashes at this site in the last 3 years they would not plan to undertake any improvement works at this location. The response also indicated that the Council could place this scheme in the Parish Highway Improvement Plan. The Council has previously decided not to have such a Plan as these schemes were the responsibility of the KCC and that it would promote individual schemes with them as these schemes come forward.

The Committee expressed their disappointment at the response from KCC regarding this new entrance in Rochester Road and the speed of traffic highlighting that it would be impossible to have 3 years of data as the junction had only just been completed. It was felt that KCC needed to act now before a fatal accident happened at this site. Councillor Rillie highlighted a specific incident where a car had because of the wider road speeded up to overtake 4 cyclists before entering into the narrower road of the village with the reduced speed limit and that could very easily have been a major accident. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should take this matter up with KCC raising the concerns highlighted above.

#### **15. All Sites – Exercise Classes**

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk attached to the Agenda. It was **Agreed** that Exercise classes be allowed at the Council's recreation grounds but that any user would have to comply with the following conditions and that only one group could be allocated to each area and that each group could not be larger than 15

1. Each applicant will need to supply a copy of their insurance
2. Each applicant will need to supply a copy of their risk assessments for the use of the site for their activity.
3. No charge will be made
4. In the respect of Forstal Road exercise classes be limited to 2 areas only namely next to the Tennis Courts and the area next to the rear car park behind the community centre.
5. In respect of the Ferryfield limited to 2 areas only at the front next to the play area and the other on the cemetery side.
6. In respect of Eccles only 1 exercise class at any one time on an area agreed with the Council outside of the football pitches.
7. No music can be used at the tennis court site at Forstal Road due to potential disturbance to residents of Powell Close.
8. Not to use the play areas under any circumstance
9. Not to use the Muga and tennis courts under any circumstance
10. Any existing APC equipment in the open area of any of the recreation grounds not to be used other than for the purpose for which it was provided.

## **16. The Hollow**

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

## **17. Ferryfield**

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

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

The considered the report of the Clerk attached to the Agenda. It was **Agreed** that the new soakaway and drainage system and the tarmacking of the side road be approved and that the lowest quotation of £12538 from Station Haulage be agreed

## **19. Football Training**

The Clerk reported that the Council had been informed by Aylesford Football Club that from 1 August the FA have indicated that competitive matches such as friendlies can take place and that from September competitive leagues can commence.

The Football Club have also asked if they could hold summer training camps for their youth sections in August. The size of these camps would be a maximum of 30 children though they do not expect these numbers. These camps would be held on the Forstal Road Recreation Ground between 9.00am and 3.00pm on 5,6 and 7 August, 12, 13 and 14 August and 19, 20 and 21 August. These dates are all Wednesday to Friday. It was **Agreed** that the above request from Aylesford Football Club summer training camps be approved subject to receipt of appropriate documentation including risk assessments.

## **20. Allotment Rents**

The Clerk reported that the allotment rent invoices have been issued and payments have started to be made.

## **21. Allotment Tenancies**

The Clerk reported that he will be reporting on allotment tenancies at the meeting in September.

## **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 - Play Area Coronavirus Signs**

It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should look at whether a coronavirus sign could also be placed on the outside to the Children play area facing towards the fitness equipment.

### **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) – Tree Work**

The Clerk reported that the tree work had been completed.

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

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

### **32. St Mark's Square, Belgrave Street car park, new car park – Concerns regarding Break ins of vehicles in the Car Parks**

Local members raised concerns about an increasing amount of break ins of vehicles and vandalism to vehicles in these car parks. Discussion ensued on whether there was something the Council could do such as CCTV. The Clerk indicated that 2 cameras would probably be needed and based on recent quotes that would mean a potential cost of £15k to £20k. He also

indicated that there were signs in the car park that parking was at the owner's risk. It was felt that the Council should look to see what it could do and therefore **Agreed** that the Clerk should discuss this issue with the Police/TMBC Community Safety team to see what could be done to reduce incidents in these car parks including discussing whether CCTV reduced incidents such as break ins and vandalism to any great extent.

### **33. Podkin Meadow**

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

### **34. Christmas Lights**

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

### **35. Duration of Meeting**

7.30pm to 8.47pm