

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2014

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Smith, Winnett, Wright

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

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Brooks, Elvy, Fielder, Homewood, Rillie, Tiller

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1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Apologies for absence - Noted.

A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS

1. General Highway Report - No report to this meeting.

2. Eccles Highway Matters

Bus stop clearway order - confirmed by KCC as 24 hours.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Nuisance motorbikes and quad bikes in BBH area. Local PCSO has contacted the resident who complained to the Parish Council and asked him to ensure that any future incidents are reported to the police on 101.

3.2 – Milestone – Following discussions with Kent Highways and correspondence with the Milestone Society, an approach on the improvement of the milestone in BBH has, subject to the agreement of the Council, been agreed whereby the KCC would be responsible for the works to the pavements including removal and reinstatement of the milestone whilst the Parish would take responsibility for refurbishing the stone itself. The Clerk has contacted a local stonemason who is interested in taking on the refurbishment but until the stone is fully accessible and visible he is unable to give a precise quote for the work.

Members **agreed** to the Clerk progressing this project and authorised the Clerk to accept the stonemason quotation provided he finds it good value for the work involved. **Clerk**

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** - Response on proposals awaited from English Heritage.

4.2 – **Flooding: Opposite Brassey Centre** - Work awaited

4.3 – Kent Highways have now checked the work and have indicated that the speed humps in **Rochester Road** will need re-profiling. This work will need to be programmed and will require the road to be closed.

4.4 - Ditton Parish Council request for support in lobbying Kent Highways to open **Bellingham Way** (Station Road, Aylesford to New Hythe Lane, Larkfield) in view of new housing developments in Aylesford and Larkfield and consequent pressures on the A20, particularly junctions at Larkfield (Morrisons) and Ditton (Station Road). **Agreed Clerk**

4.5 - **Aylesford Village Square** – Resulting from damage to the pavement in the Square caused by tree roots lifting the pavements and causing a hazard, discussions have taken place with KCC about taking the opportunity to expand this repair work into an improvement scheme for the whole area in the vicinity of these trees. With finance available from KCC and with financial support from the Parish Council a significant improvement project could be developed for this area. This type of scheme could provide a much needed enhancement and boost for this area.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Homewood had indicated his support for the scheme and would be seeking to release funding from his KCC Members Grant budget. He would also seek the involvement of the KCC Member Grant Highways Design Team. The Clerk further reported that he has also discussed the matter with TMBC who have indicated an interest in being involved and have asked for more details before committing to a funding contribution.

The Clerk described the project as having improved terracing, the removal of existing trees and their replacement with more appropriate species together with other planting, a possible Christmas tree location and seating.

With funding from KCC and TMBC and with the Parish Council taking the lead with a funding commitment of approximately £25,000, the Clerk anticipates a total spend on the improvement scheme of between £40,000 - £60,000.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would support the scheme as a valuable contribution to the improvement of the Aylesford village square.

It was **agreed** to recommend to FASC that £25,000 be ring fenced for this project and for the Clerk to continue with discussions with all interested parties to ensure that the scheme goes ahead. **Clerk**

4.6 – Ash Tree, Powell Close, Aylesford – KCC have informed the Council that they intend to fell the Ash tree in Powell Close to prevent further damage occurring to an adjoining

property and the pavements and road. Informal consultation has taken place with local residents and there has been no objection to the proposal to fell the tree. Noted.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters - No report to this meeting.

6. Public Footpaths

Definitive Map Modification Orders for Creation of Bridleways in Parishes of Aylesford and Burham

KCC response to Parish Council's comments objecting to removal of motor cycle inhibitors. See Clerk's report at **Appendix A** distributed to all Members and attached to the bound copy of these minutes.

Consideration of Mrs Rillie's request to reconsider objections (as per attendance at Council meeting 16 September 2014).

The Clerk reported that after the last meeting of this committee at which it had indicated its objections to the proposal he had had a meeting with KCC following which he had sent in the Council's letter of objection which was as set out in his report. He had worded the objection in this way as the Council's principal reason for objection namely preventing the anti-social behaviour returning to this location was, he had been informed by the KCC, not a valid objection. However he felt that the actual objection submitted achieved the principal intention of the Council in objecting to these Orders.

The KCC had replied commenting on the letter of objection and asking the Council to reconsider its objection

The Clerk reported that if the footpaths were opened up to become bridleways then the motorcycle inhibitors would be replaced with horse stiles which as stated on the sheet presented to the Council by Mrs Rillie would not deter the most determined motorcyclist. At the KCC meeting held on 28 August, this view was also expressed by a senior KCC Officer who further stated that there was no right of way furniture in existence that would allow horses through but nothing else.

Cllr Gledhill added that there were not just issues with motorcyclists, it was also the prevention of fly tipping, raves and car fires. The Council is supportive of horse riding in rural areas of the Parish but did not consider the measures proposed to prevent other misuse of this area acceptable.

It was **agreed**

- (1) That the letter of objection submitted by the Clerk be agreed
- (2) That the Clerk reply to the KCC indicating that the Council did not wish to withdraw its objection and wished to confirm its objection as originally stated. **Clerk**

7. Lighting

7.1 – **Bull Lane** – Kent Highways have listed further works required to complete the upgrade to adoptable standard. Quote accepted for required work - £12,009.80. Some works will

start in September but there is a delay on works to be undertaken by UK Power Network until beginning of November.

7.2 – **Teapot Lane** – Kent Highways have confirmed upgrade work completed is to adoptable standard. Lights to now be removed from Parish Council energy and maintenance responsibility schedule. Awaiting paperwork from KH.

7.3 – Parish lights **faults**:

Light at 79 Rochester Road, Aylesford – Cleaning and tree trimming ordered.

8. Car Parks

Aylesford TMBC Parking Review – TMBC have been written to re the additional car park spaces scheme.

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

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites – Annual play equipment inspection has taken place. Report received today. Expected total minor repair costs across all sites approximately £3300. Some other more major surfacing works may be required within the next 12 months.

2. The Hollow - Information sign received. Exact siting to be agreed.

3. Ferryfield

Play equipment surface repairs required – Wicksteed quote £6170 accepted. Work has commenced.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 - Redundant Tennis Court – Clerk reported that he was seeking quotations on individual aspects of the project ie. tarmacing, fencing etc, from contractors for comparison to the price for undertaking the scheme as a whole as submitted by Wicksteed.

It has also been identified that some initial works were required before any contractor could start such as the clearance of the vegetation from the existing fencing and weed killing across the whole surface. It was **agreed** that the Clerk be authorised to ensure that this work was completed before the commencement of the main works. **Clerk**

Members confirmed their commitment to this project which is likely to have an estimated cost of approximately £60,000. It was **agreed** to recommend ring fencing of this funding to FASC. **Clerk**

4.2 – **Football Club Tournament** – 30 and 31 August. Successful event. No parking issues reported.

4.3 – **Goalmouths** – It was agreed with the Football Club that they would in future do the repair work to the goalmouths on the basis that the Council would pay for materials and not labour as this was being done by volunteers. They have submitted an invoice in the sum of £362.99 for materials and this invoice is being processed. However they have asked if the Council might consider making a small donation to the Club for the work they have undertaken. Cllr Base **agreed** to make a £50 microgrant donation. **Clerk**

4.4 - **Entrance** – On 26 August the gate pillar and adjoining wall were badly damaged. For safety and security reasons urgent repairs were authorised by the Clerk and quotation of £2400 accepted. Work has now been completed. The refuse collection company have offered a payment towards the cost and the Clerk is seeking reimbursement from them.

5. Allotments

Aylesford - Two untended plots will be cleared in house and relet.

Eccles (Belgrave Street rear access) – Complaint re nuisance motorbikes

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - **Skateboard park replacement** – Clerk investigating funding opportunities and how the Council would proceed with a design and build tender, before reporting back to Committee in detail in due course.

6.2 – Boundary **fencing** repair quote following vandalism. Work completed.

6.3 – Funfair visit – 26 August to 1 September. Successful visit although **gate post** was damaged by their lorry on leaving. For security reasons Clerk authorised urgent repairs and quote of £250 was accepted. Work completed. Funfair company have reimbursed costs.

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – Path improvement including flattening out depression where new path meets existing road – awaiting commencement date.

7.2 – Awaiting inspection report on puddling on the bottom of the contour slide. This was not specifically referred to in the report. Clerk to query with Wickstead. **Clerk**

8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground

9. Blue Bell Hill Pond

10. Cemetery

No reports to the meeting on items 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

11. Churchyard

12. Old Bridge Gardens

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

14. Yoakley Land

Life buoy has not been reinstated as area continues to be flooded. Exact siting to be reconsidered.

Work on a long term plan and strategy for the area as a whole being considered by the Clerk for further discussion with Members at a future meeting.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces - No report to this meeting.

16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds

Damage caused to metal rail around St Mark Square boundary with Alma Road car park repaired in house.

17. Podkin Meadow

Barrier – Received and installation which is required in two parts has commenced.

18. Christmas Lighting

18.1 - Eccles Tree –New lights required for 2014 - £240 – ordered.

18.2 – Additional Christmas lighting for Blue Bell Hill trees – £3530 – ordered.

18.3 – One additional lamp column unit and lights for a tree in the centre of the village to be ordered for Aylesford as part of village improvement scheme funded from TMBC grant.

19. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence – No report to this meeting.

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.21pm.