

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2015
MINUTES

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Present: Cllrs Base (Chairman), Ambrose, Balcombe, Base, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Walker and Winnett

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Ms Neimer, and Wright

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1. Apologies

Apologies from Cllrs Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Homewood (KCC meeting), Ms Neimer (personal commitment, and Wright (work commitment) were received and reasons accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests – There were no declarations 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

Proposed pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane. It was agreed at Council on 15 September 2015 that the Parish Council would offer to fund 50% of the cost of the crossing up to maximum of £10,000. Further information awaited from Cllr Homewood.

3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters

3.1 - Milestone – The Milestone is still with the contractor.

4. Aylesford Highway Matters

4.1 - Old Bridge Lighting Project. Clerk reported that the planning application for tree work has been submitted and is currently out to consultation. Currently setting up meeting with Kent Highways.

4.2 - Aylesford Village Square

Enhancement Project – The Clerk reported that he had received proposals for street furniture from Marshalls and had that afternoon met with the Masonry Manager from Gallagher’s to discuss the potential of using kentish ragstone for the seating and tables. Whilst he considered that the table and seating proposal received from Marshalls was good the idea of using a local product in this setting could be very exciting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should follow up the approach to Gallagher’s and develop these ideas for incorporation into the full scheme including Marshalls proposals for signposting, bollards and noticeboards and report back to the next meeting of the committee.

Clerk

4.3 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford – The Clerk reported that a meeting with Kent Highways, TMBC and local parish council representatives (Cllr Balcombe and Clerk attending for APC) had taken place on 14 October. During the meeting the following issues were raised, discussed and agreed:-

1. KCC have engaged Amey to undertake the study of traffic flows on the A20 and they are expected to report back in January/February next year. These results will give the baseline information from which ways forward could be identified.
2. The Call for Sites information was being assessed and the SLAA would be published early in the new year. It was agreed that this would have a potential impact on any proposals for the A20.
3. Currently as there is no agreed transport strategy for this area each site has to be taken on its own merits. Currently a number of S106 agreements were in place to provide road improvements including a slip road on to the motorway from the A20.
4. It was agreed that the list of S106 contributions would be compiled and sent to all present at the meeting.
5. After the study had brought together the baseline position minor improvement schemes could be identified and developed. .
6. There were limited S106 funds available for some work on the A20. It was also accepted that the work that could be done was the schemes giving the greatest benefit for the least cost.
7. A large number of potential schemes were highlighted but it was generally felt that Ditton Crossroads was the most significant section that needed to be dealt with in the initial improvements.
8. It was agreed to meet again after the conclusion of the study when more information would be available.

5. Walderslade Highway Matters

Fostington Way – The Clerk has raised the issue of the speed of traffic in Fostington Way with the local PCSO and was looking into whether it was possible to bring back into use the Council’s Speedwatch equipment.

Clerk

6. Public Footpaths

Kent County Council Definitive Map Modification Orders for the Creation of Bridleways in the Parishes of Aylesford and Burham – The Clerk reminded the committee of the significant dates and actions required leading up to the public inquiry in February 2016:-

- 1) 27 October 2015 – Date by which KCC Statement of Case to be with SoS and sent out to objectors thereafter.
- 2) 8 December 2015 – Council’s Statement of Case will need to be with SoS.
- 3) 26 January 2016 – Council’s Proof of Evidence to be with SoS.
- 4) 23 February 2016 – Public Inquiry start date scheduled to last for 6 days and being held at Burham Old School Community Centre.

7. Lighting

7.1 - York Avenue and Victoria Road, Walderslade – Awaiting clarification that these two roads have been formally adopted by Kent Highways following upgrading carried out several years ago. There is a responsibility for maintenance issue now as one of the lights in Victoria Road has been reported as out. This has been reported to Kent Highways and their response is awaited.

7.2 – Street Lighting - A free Street Lighting Survey has recently been carried out by Streetlights Ltd. As part of their survey they identified a number of faults which are highlighted below together with the cost of repair.

1. Minor repairs (eg. Timers, ignitors etc.) required to lights in: Alma Road, AVCC car park, Beresford Road, Church Walk, Forstal Road, Greenfield Close, Aylesford High Street, Jenner Way, Kingswood Road, Mount Pleasant, Powell Close, Pratling Street, Queenswood Road, Rochester Road, Robson Drive, Salisbury Road, Springett Close, Trewin Close – total cost £1825. Clarified these are all our lights.

2. Major repairs required to lights in:

Walderslade Woods Footbridge path – replace all six lights with LED - £2070

Queenswood Road – Major repair to one column - £125

Pratling Street – Major repair to one column with LED lantern - £345

Clarified these are all our lights.

It was agreed that these repairs are carried out by Streetlights Ltd. **Clerk**

The Clerk also reported that he was discussing with Streetlights Ltd their assistance with any ownership queries with Kent Highways, producing a detailed inventory and the numbering of columns for ease of reference in the future. He was also intending to discuss with them proposals to reduce energy bills and running costs. **Clerk**

7.3 Kent Highways – KCC are undertaking a Street lighting consultation the closing date for which is 29 November 2015.

The consultation paper indicates that the County Council intends to convert their lighting to LED but asks which of the following options would the Council favour:-

Option 1 – Part night lighting on the basis of the current policy and which has partially been introduced whereby lights switch off at midnight and come on again at 5.30am (01.00 and 06.30 BST). This saves £5.2m and reduces light pollution.

Option 2 – All night lighting which saves £4.8m but increases light pollution.

In addition the County Council are seeking the Council's view on the dimming of lights by 30% to 50% which has been found to be a reasonable approach by other lighting authorities. As an example if lights were dimmed by 40% between midnight and 5.30am that would save approximately £160k. Therefore the Council is being asked if it would support the dimming of lights between

- a) 8pm and midnight
- b) Midnight and 5am
- c) 5am and 8am.

It was agreed that the Council should respond to the consultation supporting Option 2 and the dimming of lights between 8pm and midnight and midnight and 5am. **Clerk**

8. Car Parks

New Eccles Car Park – New car park in operation and being welcomed by locals.

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence - There was no other business.

B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS

1. All Sites

1.1 - **Local history signs** –Clerk will be looking at this in conjunction with the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project.

1.2 – **Annual play equipment inspection** by Wicksteed carried out in September. Report has just been received. A separate inspection of the gym equipment at Forstal Road, Eccles and Tunbury has taken place and their reports have also just been received. Clerk reported that he would come back to the committee once the reports had been considered in detail.

1.3 - Children’s Play Areas – Smoking Ban

The clerk to report to a future meeting.

1.4 – **Request for Baseball Pitch** – The Kent Mariners Baseball Club have asked whether the Council has any recreational land available for them to find a more permanent home than their current location at Cobdown. They would require space to put in place their Diamond which would have a simple back net and a small pitcher’s mound. They would also require a space for a small container to store equipment and a toilet facility within walking distance. From the detail provided the committee were unsure whether the Council had a facility that met their requirements and therefore agreed to authorise the Clerk to enter into discussions with the Kent Mariners Baseball Club regarding the details of their application and report back to the committee.

2. The Hollow – No report to this meeting

3. Ferryfield – No report to this meeting.

4. Forstal Road Recreation Ground

4.1 – Multi sports courts - A local resident has complained to the Council about damage caused to his glasshouse namely 2 panes of glass smashed allegedly by a football from the new football facility at the former redundant tennis court.

The committee felt that as the Council had a) taken reasonable and responsible additional measures to prevent balls leaving the court by fencing it, particularly at the end nearest the properties providing a much larger fence (a further metre in height) and b) this facility is a refurbishment of an existing facility it could not accept any responsibility for this damage and therefore cannot reimburse the resident for the damage.

Clerk

4.2 – Rabbit hole damage. RDR Pest Management appointed and will be undertaking the work in the near future using ferrets.

4.3 – Water leak on pipe leading to allotments – Work completed and awaiting invoice, cost of repair minimum £300.

5. Allotments

Aylesford - New numbers still to be installed.

Eccles – Gate refurbishment completed

6. Eccles Recreation Ground

6.1 - Fencing of play equipment – The Clerk reported that he had received the following quotations for the fencing of the play equipment at the Eccles Recreation Ground:-

- a) Andrew French - £9925
- b) J Dowle Fencing - £10230
- c) Fencing and equipment with no labour from Jacksons - £9356

It was agreed that the contract be given to Andrew French.

Clerk

7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park

7.1 – **Damaged play equipment gate** – Order placed to replace existing gate - £885.

7.2 – **Additional Play Equipment** - Order placed for equipment as **agreed** at the last meeting at a cost of £31,517.64. Start date awaited but expected to be in mid-November.

7.3 –**Dog Fouling** - Bag and Flag event to be planned with TMBC for Spring 2016.

8. **Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground** - No report to this meeting.

9. **Blue Bell Hill Pond Site** - No report to this meeting.

10. Cemetery

The Clerk reported that RDR Pest Management had been appointed to deal with the problem of moles in the cemetery and this work had been successfully carried out last week. They were going to return this week as a follow up visit. It was agreed that this work in relation to moles at the cemetery should be undertaken on a regular basis.

Clerk

11. Churchyard

Ragstone wall repair authorised at Council on 15 September - £580. Work being undertaken this week October. Report still awaited on the condition of the remainder of wall.

12. Old Bridge Gardens - No report to this meeting.

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

Some tree removal may be required in conjunction with proposed Old Bridge lighting project. Planning permission application has been submitted and currently going through the consultation stage.

14. Yoakley Land

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. Clerk has approached Kent Wildlife Trust to become involved.

15. Walderslade Open Spaces

One bollard received from Kent PROW. The need for further bollards has been assessed and two more are required. These are being obtained and will be installed in house.

16. St Marks Square, Car Park and Surrounds - No report to this meeting.

17. Podkin Meadow

Request for Toddler Play Equipment

Subject to agreement on exact siting, the order has been placed for equipment agreed at the last meeting at a cost of £14,384. Start date awaited but expected to be mid November.

The committee had received a request for a change from 2 toddler swings to 1 toddler and 1 baby swing. It was agreed to make this change to the proposal. **Clerk**

18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence

Cllr Balcombe raised an issue brought to his attention by a local resident that one of the individual swings at either the Hollow, Ferryfield or at the Forstal Road recreation ground be converted into a swing adapted for the disabled. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate this and report back to the committee. **Clerk**

There being no further business, meeting closed at 8.25pm.