

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Monday, 23rd February 2015 in the Jubilee Hall, South Darent at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs I Blackamore (Chairman)
R House, D Mitchell, C Page,
Mr M Mason, T May

Allotment holders: J Groombridge, S Thomas, M Ellis, D Copper, F Egan, E & C Pettyfer

IN ATTENDANCE: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr M Stead, Mick Burroughs , and allotment holders Barbara Cannell, Regina Jaszinsky-Isaacson, Pat and Brian Critchell

All allotment holders had been invited to an informal meeting with the Committee to discuss what improvements they would like to see to the site.

Plot holders commented on the friendliness of others on site, how much they enjoyed working on site and the driveway was better now that the Type 1 aggregate had been laid. However ,there were a few recurring themes which were developed into a 'Priorities' list as follows:

- 1) Water tank to be fixed at the top of the site
- 2) Path through to top of site levelled
- 3) Lockable gate to site
- 4) Security of site – fencing off boundary to the south/east field
- 5) Clearing the car park area of blackberries
- 6) Meeting up with other allotment holders to create a co-op to swap seeds and produce.

Attendees were thanked for their input and left the meeting at 8.15pm

74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

75 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th December 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

76 MATTERS ARISING

Planning enforcement/ownership Verge/Hedge opposite Village Hall: KCC are not adopting any more land according to their website. The ownership of the verge still remains unknown.

Top Paddock investigate any restrictions of use for future: will be brought to a future meeting when details checked by Clerk.

Pavilion Notice Board: Dog fouling notice – key needed. Cllr Blackamore has this and will pass to the Clerk

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Shrubbery Road repainting of play equipment by volunteers: Clerk to liaise with Volunteer Centre for corporate volunteers.

All other Action points from the minutes had been completed.

77 100 YEAR WOOD

The draft interpretation board artwork was viewed by members and thought to be very good. There was some concern about the material to be used for the board, that it should be vandal proof and be able to withstand any graffiti.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with NWKCP.

78 WESTMINSTER FIELD

The post and rail fence about to be erected gave the option of having a stile installed where the hedge/fence had been repeatedly broken through near the bridge. A stile was thought to be a good option.

The orange temporary fencing had been used to cordon off the area used for burning the waste from the river bank works so new fencing would need to be ordered for the Fireworks event in November.

ACTION: Diarise

79 PAVILION & PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Nothing to report

80 HEATHSIDE

SDC had contacted parishes with details of a Circus looking for venues across the District. Photos from other sports grounds where the ground had been left severely rutted rather put the Committee off. With other issues such as controlling visitors to the site, insurance and parking this was deemed to be an unsuitable site.

81 TOP and LOWER PADDOCK

Nothing to report except that a resident had thought one of the pedestrian gates had been locked; this was not the case.

82 SHRUBBERY ROAD

Car tracks had been seen on the grass across the play area. Cllr Blackamore suggested adding 2 more fence panels to the corner nearest the steps and bin (next to the road) to block off the access point.

ACTION: Quotes for fencing and posts IB and clerk to alert WKH

83 PLAY AREAS

Annual Play Inspection needs to be arranged. It is likely that a swing seat in Shrubbery Road Play area will need replacing.

84 BURIAL GROUND

The request for a bench in the Burial Ground had been agreed however the family wished to reposition it nearer to the corner of the grounds. As long as this would not interfere with any future plots this was agreed by the Committee.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Blackamore noted that a tree overhanging from the school had not been mentioned in the recent meeting with the school's headteacher; this would be identified and checked with the Clerk.

ACTION: Clerk

85 PARISH COUNCIL OWNED OR MANAGED HEDGES, VERGES AND PATHS

Lothlorien's licence for weedkilling near waterways needed updating so once this was completed and quote approved this could be actioned at next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Blackamore to provide cost for next meeting

86 ALLOTMENTS

The various issues that had been discussed with allotment holders were reviewed. The following would be progressed depending on costs/budgets:

- 1) Water tank at the top of the site to be fixed
- 2) Path to top of site levelled
- 3) Lockable gate
- 4) Clearing of car park area of brambles

The cost of fencing off the site was thought to be prohibitive at this time and would need permission/ consultation with Court Lodge Farm.

Should the allotment holders wish to form a co-op and want to meet in the Jubilee Hall a charge for the hall should be made in fairness to all the other clubs and societies who pay to use the facilities for their meetings.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes for works.

87 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE

27th April 2015

Meeting ended at 9.50pm

Chairman

Date