

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Monday, 27th April 2015 in the Jubilee Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs I Blackamore (Chairman)
R House, D Mitchell, C Page, M Stead,

Mr P Rushbrook, Mr J Stewart

Member of Public; Theresa Sadler

IN ATTENDANCE: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Martin Mason and Terry May

89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cll Blackamore declared a pecuniary interest in items 6,10,13,14 and 15 on the Agenda

90 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd February 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record. Noted that T May was present at the last meeting and the minutes amended.

91 MATTERS ARISING

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

All other Action points from the minutes had been completed.

92 100 YEAR WOOD

Cost of purchasing a Litter bin were considered and a budget of £250 agreed for this. Friend of Group should be consulted as to where best to install it.

ACTION: Clerk to identify suitable bins and liaise with Commitee

93 WESTMINSTER FIELD

Quotes for the completion of the **picnic area project** were considered which included stump removal of old hedge.

Member of public raised concerns that the hedge should be treated at an Important Hedge and safeguarded from removal by Planning laws and countryside management laws.

The Committee were fully informed of the matter and that a site meeting was due to be held the following morning with NWKCP, KCC and SDC Planning with Ms Sadler.

The quotes considered were from MDH (£2832), Trinity (£5400) and Lothlorien (£1180) + VAT

The stumps near the bridge were close to underground services; the option to leave these in situ was considered and would be decided on once the outcome of the site meeting the following day.

RESOLVED that Lothlorien's quote be accepted in anticipation that work would be allowed to go ahead.

River side step in the picnic area: The Environment Agency had visited the site and would give permission for a more permanent structure to be installed there such as ragstone or cobbles given the conservation area that it falls in. The pea shingle had been washed out by the river during the winter previously. Various suggestions were put forward for investigation.

Ms Sadler was requested by the Chairman to be quiet for the rest of the meeting or risk being asked to leave.

94 PAVILION & PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Nothing to report

95 HEATHSIDE

SDFC representative was not present so their request to rebuild the clubhouse was not discussed.

SDFC request to purchase and use a drag mat on the football pitches was received.

RESOLVED that permission be given providing the pitch maintenance did not interfere with grass cutting schedules to either Westminster or Heathside Fields.

96 TOP and LOWER PADDOCK

A resident of Paddock Close was concerned that a tree near his property in the Lower Paddock was covered in ivy. The tree is included in the Annual Tree inspection and would be given special attention when next completed.

ACTION clerk to diarise

97 SHRUBBERY ROAD

A quote for 2 more fence panels to prevent vehicle access to the play area was received. 2 further quotes are needed before being considered

RESOLVED that fence panels should be purchased and installed and that decision delegated to the Clerk to action the cheapest quote.

ACTION: Quotes for fencing Clerk

98 PLAY AREAS

Play ground report showed that a swing seat at Shrubbery Road needs to be replaced which had been bitten/chewed presumably by a dog. Lothlorien will replace this in time for the Annual Report.

99 BURIAL GROUND

Quote for routine tree works to be carried out in Burial Ground was approved. Query over which tree was responsibility of school would be checked by the Clerk/liaise with Tree Surgeon.

RESOLVED that £480 for tree works be approved.

100 PARISH COUNCIL OWNED OR MANAGED HEDGES, VERGES AND PATHS

RESOLVED Weedkilling quote for footpath SD151 £180 + VAT be approved

PROW SD93 – discussion on how best to maintain this tarmacked path across Westminster Field. Members suggested asking advice from Kent Highways. Clerk would ask and report back. Concern was raised that if weedkiller was used to stop the grass from encroaching would the resulting exposed tarmac be more likely to crumble and create another more dangerous problem.

101 FRANKS LANE RIVER BANK

Quotes were considered for fencing this area. MDH (£4900) Trinity (£4100) Lothlorien (£2400) + VAT.

RESOLVED that Lothlorien quote be approved and work competed once a notice period had been given and SDC Planning Dept consulted.

102 ALLOTMENTS

3 quotes had been received for levelling the upper path and clearing the car par area. MDH (£1550) Trinity (£1680) Lothlorien (£575) + VAT

RESOLVED that only the path should be levelled excluding the car park to keep costs within budget. Replace 2 gate posts and rehang gate costing £273.20 + VAT Lothlorien to complete both works

103 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE

22 June 2015

Meeting ended at 9.45pm

Chairman

Date