

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Monday, 26th October 2015 in the Jubilee Hall, South Darent at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs I Blackamore (Chairman)
R House, D Mitchell, C Page, J Stewart

Mr T May, M Mason

IN ATTENDANCE: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blackamore declared a pecuniary interest in Ground Maintenance Tenders; he would be allowed to be present but not take part in the discussion or to vote.

38 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd June 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

39 MATTERS ARISING

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

Shrubbery Road fence panel quotes: action yet to be completed.

Franks Lane River Bank: planning consent to be sought – action yet to be completed.

Lower Paddock – Avenue House tree: write to owners to request fallen tree removed

Replace watering cans in Burial Ground: to be actioned

Hedge cutting quotes for September: to be actioned

Esparto Way street furniture and bollards responsibility for upkeep: still waiting for SDC to check plans

List of assets and maintenance schedule to be drawn up: to be actioned

River volunteer days with NWKCP: these will be arranged for Spring and early summer in order to tackle the Himalayan Balsam and to improve the riverside for walkers to enjoy.

Other Actions had been completed

40 TREE SURVEY

The Annual Tree survey was received and all works to be undertaken **except:**

Trees identified as hanging over from the school in the Burial Ground – **ACTION write to school with quote for work and suggest that it is done at the same time as Parish Council work.**

Hawthorne tree by Church rear door – **ACTION write to P.C.C to request that this is felled before the closure of the Churchyard in 2016**

Cllr Mitchell proposed that the tree fallen from Avenue House into the Lower Paddock be removed but the owners written to first and then an Invoice sent for the cost of the work to be completed. Cllr Page seconded and members voted in favour unanimously.

It was noted that a large tree on the Paper Mill Green had been poisoned and would need to be felled. The bore holes to the tree trunk did not look recent.

41 PIC NIC AREA

Members considered whether the new hedge should be continued from the gate to the bridge as it was now approaching the right time of the year to have this work done. RESOLVED that NWKCP would be asked to complete this. **ACTION: arrange for dead tree from Tree Survey to be removed before the 17th November when NWKCP would be starting work.**

42 PLAY AREAS

Reports received from Lothlorien

Heathside: Bin and play area sign have been replaced following a fire which destroyed both and a dog bin.

Shrubbery Road: MUGA had been fixed by Playdale, Goal fixed by Lothlorien. Painting had not been done although the paint had been bought. RESOLVED that Keith Philips be asked to complete this budget allowed £50. **ACTION: Clerk**

School Play area: no information had been received from the school as to what they would like to see happen to the area in view of the lease coming to an end in 2018.

Saxon Place: Cllr Mitchell offered to take any collated information away and work on finding something before the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to pass on any brochures, quote and emails contacts**

43 BURIAL GROUND

The Burial Ground Health and Safety Policy document was discussed and length and the resulting document was adopted with immediate effect. **ACTION: Clerk make amendments, publish and email to any addresses held for recent burials.**

44 DOG BIN REQUEST

The request for a new dog bin in Forge Lane or the top of Jacobs Lane was considered bearing in mind the number of dog bags left on or around the litter bin already in situ near the Skinny Lane/Forge Lane junction.

Councillors in Horton Kirby had been monitoring the situation and suggested that a new dog bin be installed at Glebe Place. RESOLVED that a new dog bin be purchased and installed.

45 ALLOTMENTS

A request from a plot holder to allow the stables to resume delivering manure was considered. However there is already a large pile which has been allowed to grow with weeds and taking up parking space. RESOLVED that no more manure be allowed until the existing pile is disposed of.

Martin Mason reported that some canes appear to have been taken from one well worked allotment by a new plot holder. No action had been taken at this time.

Cllr Page and Stead agreed to inspect the allotments in order to feed back to the committee any improvements that could be made next year.

ACTION: Cllr Page and Stead

46 GROUND MAINTENANCE TENDERS

Members were given a grid comparing up to 6 quotes for each of the Contracts which were not identified by the firms names so that it was completely impartial. Cllr Blackmore was present but could not discuss or comment or vote on the proceedings.

Specification for each of the contract were set and given to 8 contractors with 6 offering tenders for the work for a 3 year period (2016 – 2018)/19. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the contract should be awarded as follows:

Contract 1 Burial Ground

Prices ranged from £6025 - £36675 pa. Contract awarded to Lothlorien Landscapes £6025

Contract 2 Westminster Field

Prices ranged from £1670 - £5150 pa Contract awarded to Richard Abel Landscapes £1670

Contract 3

Hedge Cutting

Prices ranged from £320 - £1815pa Contract awarded to Lothlorien Landscapes £800

Contract 4 Heathside

Prices ranged from £1360 - £4848 pa Contract awarded to Richard Abel Landscapes £1360

Contract 5 Footpaths

Prices ranged from £270 - £2592pa Contract awarded to Lothlorien Landscapes £450

Contract 6 Small amenity grass areas

Prices ranged from £2025 - £8300 pa Contract awarded to Richard Abel Landscapes £2025

Contract 7 Health and Safety/Responsive and Planned maintenance

Prices ranged from £2184 - £15732 pa Contract awarded to Lothlorien Landscapes £2184

ACTION: Clerk to advise all participants of outcome and prepare contracts for signature

47 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE

14th December 2015

Meeting ended at 9.10pm

Chairman

Date