

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Monday, 22 June 2015 in the Jubilee Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm.

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

Mr M Mason, T May, Mr M Burroughs, Mrs D Barham

IN ATTENDANCE: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr M Stead were accepted.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cll Blackamore declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 on the Agenda

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th April 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4 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.

Burial Ground –liaise with Tree Surgeon: action yet to be completed

PROW SD93 – advice on maintenance: action yet to be completed

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

All other Action points from the minutes had been completed.

5 100 YEAR WOOD

Rob Oxley has now left NWKCP and a new manager will be taking over the management days. The Clerk enquired whether the Committee wanted to use 2 of the 8 Budgeted for management days on the River path/bank project.

Members voted to keep 8 days solely for 100 Year Wood.

6 WESTMINSTER FIELD

Cllr Blackamore reported that grass cutting to the picnic area had not been completed between the new hedge and the old hedge line; Lothlorien cut this whilst they were there completing the ground work to the old hedge line.

The Clerk had heard from Richard Abel that one of the machines had broken down which had caused a backlog in work; this was verified by Mick Burroughs.

Cllr Blackamore explained that the suggested method of keeping the gates to the picnic area closed by spring loading them to close automatically was not working; there is not enough tension so latches were suggested. RESOLVED latches will be installed to resolve the matter.

Keith Phillips will continue to water the new hedge; it is establishing well. Cllr Stewart asked if the hedge would be continued to the bridge (this could not be planted due to the number of stumps that needed to be ground out). Members agreed that NWKCP should be asked for more free trees to be planted in this area to complete the hedge.

With summer holidays fast approaching it was RESOLVED that ballast would be used to fill the steps to the river and a permanent solution sought for next year. Cllr Stewart suggested looking at how Lullingstone Park has managed the river bank for ideas.

The river island structure is still in the river near the bridge. NWKCP had agreed to remove it.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with NWKCP

7 PAVILION & PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Nothing to report

8 HEATHSIDE

SDFC request to purchase and use a drag mat on the football pitches had been discussed and approved at the last meeting.

Mick Borroughs brought a request on behalf SDFC for permission to rebuild the Clubhouse which was situated to the north of the grandstand. Photos were shown. Only the footprint of the building remains now.

MB explained that much is being done to encourage grassroots football clubs and to address the shortage of football facilities. Funding would be sought by SDFC to fund any such project.

Members had a number of concerns such as upkeep of a new building, ownership, traffic, facilities provided, cost of seeking planning advice.

Rough plans had been drawn up showing a canteen area, changing rooms, toilets. MB said that HK Bowling Club had not expressed any concerns with the idea.

Cllr House proposed that SDFC draw up a feasibility study of the project and that pre planning advice be sought by SDFC. This should then be referred back to the Committee. Cllr Blackamore seconded proposal. Cllr Stewart agreed with motion.

Cllr Mitchell and Page abstained.

RESOLVED that SDFC should be permitted to seek planning advice from SDC, draw up a feasibility study and refer back to the ROS Committee.

MB thanked the Parish Council for the Grant towards the Under 7's strip which had 'HKSD Parish Council' printed on them. A photo was shown to illustrate and members were very pleased with them.

9 TOP and LOWER PADDOCK

A local firm had asked to use the Top Paddock for grass cutting training which the Clerk, after referral to the ROS Chairman, had given permission.

A phone message had been left about a neighbouring fence being damaged by Lower Paddock shrubs. The Clerk had visited the Paddock and left a message with the enquirer but could not see any evidence of shrubs doing any damage. No call had been received back.

Fallen tree is still in Lower Paddock from Avenue House: **ACTION: Clerk to write to owners to ask to remove.**

10 SHRUBBERY ROAD

Fence panel quotes to be obtained by Clerk.

11 PLAY AREAS

The Annual Inspection reports for each of the Playgrounds were received and the resulting actions are attached.

12 BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk was asked to write a Health and Safety Policy for the Burial Grounds including procedures for checking memorials with reference to 'Managing the Safety of Burial Ground Memorials' from Ministry of Justice.

New watering cans were reported as being needed.

Members discussed the future handing over of the Church Yard to the Parish Council and would like to have a full report of the memorials and trees before taking it on so that any deterioration/necessary works can be budgeted for or agreed with Diocese who conduct a Quinquennial inspection of the grounds and building.

ACTION: Clerk

13 PARISH COUNCIL OWNED OR MANAGED HEDGES, VERGES AND PATHS

The hedges opposite the Village Hall have been reported as belonging to the plot holders, according to the stable owners in the plot next to scout hut entrance.

Quotes for cutting the Bowls Club hedge fronting Horton Road and the Westminster Field Car Park area in Westminster Fields were requested for a September cut.

The Clerk reported an ongoing problem with a triangle of grass that is not being cut near 41 East Hill; WKHousing, KCC and SDC all deny ownership. It is likely that KCC own (according to WKH maps) so the Clerk has asked KCC to double check.

14 FRANKS LANE RIVER BANK

No progress to report.

15 ALLOTMENTS

Another request by a plot holder to cull rabbits was received; members noted that most plots had erected wire or netting fencing around their plots to protect them and agreed that this should be plot holders course of action. The rabbits would not be culled.

16 STREET FURNITURE and BUS SHELTER

An enquiry regarding the upkeep of street furniture outside of Esparto Way is with SDC Planning, who are checking the original plans.

The committee were reminded that the Bus Shelter opposite the Village Hall came under their remit and this would be given a visual check for any maintenance issues.

A list of assets and maintenance needs should be drawn up.

17 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE

3rd August 2015

Meeting ended at 9.55pm

Chairman

Date