

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Monday, 28th October 2013 in the Parish Room, Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr I Blackamore (Chairman)
Cllrs D Mitchell, C Page
Mr M Burroughs, Mr D Chambers, Mr T May & Mr M Mason
IN ATTENDANCE: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

Several members of the public were in attendance

94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr R House and Cllr M Stead. Members welcomed Mr Martin Mason who would be attending as representative of Allotment holders.

95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council members declared their interest in item 3 Planning

96 PLANNING

SE/13/02379/FUL
Village Hall, Viaduct Terrace
Horton Road
South Darenth
DA4 9AZ

Retention of anti-climb barriers to perimeter fence (rear of property) and to front and side elevation of building (retrospective application)

Members of the public raised their objections to the anti-vandal measures which they felt spoiled the appearance of the building.

Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Blackamore reiterated why the Parish Council had felt it necessary to install them and reported no incidents of vandalism to the halls over the time they had been in place.

Discussion followed on whether the spikes appearance could be improved by painting. It was agreed that this suggestion would be given consideration once the outcome of the Planning Application was known.

ACTION: Raise item on Parish Council meeting Agenda

97 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th August 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

98 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

99 WESTMINSTER FIELD

A large Willow Tree in the Picnic area adjacent to Sarah Ward's property was reported as looking in need of attention; this should be monitored and any recommendations from the Tree Surgeon's survey considered.

The Clerk reported that a claim had been brought by a motorist who drove his camper van into the Height Barrier at the entrance to the field. There are no warning signs and the sign on the barrier itself corroded with age so that it was unreadable. The Barrier, being dark green but also corroded was not easily visible even in daylight when the accident happened.

On advice from Came and Co Insurers the claim will be settled via Insurance.

ACTION: Clerk to progress claim.

100 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Members confirmed they were satisfied that Steve Wilson should cover Keith Philip's planned absence.

101 HEATHSIDE

The Brick Store door was still waiting to be repaired because the Insurers had requested a quote to repair on headed paper from the Blacksmith, however, this had to date not been possible to obtain.

ACTION: Clerk to chase up.

102 ALLOTMENTS

Martin Mason reported that concerns of plot holders focussed on security of the site, equipment and produce and the access to the site. The track has become very muddy in wet weather causing cars to slip.

Members asked for budget details to be available at the next meeting to give these matters further consideration.

ACTION: Clerk

103 TOP PADDOCK

The wire fencing had been cut to allow access into the Paddock via Paddock Close. A picnic table had been taken into the field from the Jolly Millers Pub garden and the area used regularly by young people. Cllr Blackamore reported the rubbish etc often left there and the Clerk had received a complaint from one of the owners of property in the flats nearby.

Members considered costs of £240 + VAT to clear the boundary and fencing at an approximate cost of £1296 + VAT, however there was the issue of whether to reinstate a gate (there are gate posts within this stretch of fencing) to provide access to consider. Councillors decided to look at the area first before discussing further.

ACTION: Members to visit site before next meeting

104 LOWER PADDOCK

No issues to report or discuss

105 SHRUBBERY ROAD

The membrane under the rubber matting has all been removed now. Annual inspection is to be arranged. Cllr Blackamore reported that one of the swing chains fixings had been bent and it was resolved to have this replaced as soon as possible at a cost of approx. £58

ACTION: Clerk to arrange Playground Inspection

106 BURIAL GROUND

The Vicar of St Mary's had alerted the Clerk to the fact that the Church Garden of Remembrance is now full. The Committee considered his request for the Parish Council Burial Ground to set aside an area for interment of ashes, which currently it does not have.

Members will consider this in more detail once information has been collated by the Clerk.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Rev Williams

A request for an alternative edging to a grave was considered but was refused on the grounds that the resin could become brittle and dangerous when broken. The Clerk will advise the enquirer.

Prices for purchasing a burial plot are due to be reviewed; the Clerk will compare prices with other burial grounds and report back.

ACTION: Clerk – Agenda item Feb 2014

107 PARISH OWNED OR MANAGED HEDGES AND VERGES

Cllr Blackamore queried the hard standing that had been installed to access the field opposite the Village Hall; with planning refused the hard standing should have been removed and the hedge re-instated. As the verge is not protected by bollards or fencing vehicles are gradually eroding this and it has become unsightly. Ownership of this verge was queried:

ACTION: Clerk to raise with Planning Enforcement SDC and check ownership of verge.

106 TREE SURVEY

The committee considered the survey and resolved to have the following works completed:

Lower Paddock: Ash sever ivy £20

Lime sever ivy £20

Ivy covered dead hawthorn, fell £140

Village Hall: Trim all trees adjacent Bowls Club fence to allow access for recycling

Lorries £80

Westminster Field: Willow adjacent river, remove rope swing £20

NB Following this meeting a large Ash tree at the entrance to Heathside fell during high winds and had to be removed as a matter of urgency.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange works to be carried out

107 FIREMANS RUN

The Clerk has received a complaint regarding the tree between no 4 East Hill and the Newsagents in Fireman's Run. The resident was concerned about sap dropping onto their

parked cars and proximity of branches to telephone wires to the house and neighbouring houses.

As Firemans Run does not belong to the Parish Council or to KCC, the option for the resident to have the tree removed at their own expense was considered as the best solution.

ACTION: Clerk to advise resident.

108 KCPFA MEMBERSHIP

Membership to the Kent County Playing Fields Association was considered and the benefits of advice and access to potential funding thought to be worth the £20 membership fee. Resolved to apply for membership.

ACTION: Clerk

109 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE

The next date was due 23rd December. It was decided that as the Clerk would be on holiday at this time for Christmas the meeting date be set for 16th December.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

South Darenth Football Club requested that they be allowed to attach a vinyl sign on match days to the mettle railings outside the grounds, to help players and spectators find their way. This was agreed by members.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

Chairman

Date