

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Monday, 25 February 2013 in the Parish Room, Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr I Blackamore (Chairman)  
Cllrs R House, D Mitchell, C Page & M Stead  
Mr M Burroughs, Mr D Chambers & Mr T May

IN ATTENDANCE: C Allart, Parish Clerk,  
H Rohard, new parish clerk, J Osborne, SDFC

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mr Chambers declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 40 (painting of the pavilion). Cllr Blackamore declared a personal interest in Minute 40 (tree work).

**38 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**39 BURIAL GROUND**

Burial ground charges for 2013/14 were set as follows:

**Purchase of Plot and First Interment**

Still-born child or child whose age did not exceed 1 month £275\*

Person whose age exceeded 1 month £520\*

**Subsequent Interment**

Still-born child or child whose age did not exceed 1 month £95\*

Person whose age exceeded 1 month £340\*

**\* fee includes a returnable £50 deposit repayable once all floral and other tributes have been completely removed from the ground**

**Memorials and inscriptions**

Any application for a monument not exceeding 2 ft 6in in width and 4 ft in height, or kerbs or any inscription £105

**Burial of Ashes**

Any application for burial of ashes in an already owned plot £26

**Burial – Special Procedures Request**

Members of a bereaved family who had a request for special procedures in the formation of a grave were present. However, the burial was in a casket which was not permissible under the Parish Council's regulations. The family then asked if they could bury the deceased in their garden. They were advised to seek guidance on that matter from their funeral director.

**40 WESTMINSTER FIELD**

**Complaints**

Following written complaints several residents of Millen Court attended the meeting. Their concerns included the alarm on the building going off regularly, footballers parking on the

grass verges and in the access way blocking in residents, rubbish left on the verge, speed of drivers using the access road and youths congregating and drinking in the late evenings.

There was considerable discussion between parties. Mr Chambers said that it was impossible for the alarm to have gone off 4 times on Saturday. Additional parking on the field was not possible because of green belt. Residents therefore asked that the number of pitches be reduced. Committee members did not feel this action was appropriate but both football clubs agreed to ask their footballers not to park inconsiderately and not to block in local residents. As Kent County Council control the highways verges, the residents were advised to contact Roger Gough, local county councillor.

### **River Darent**

A report from DRiPS on concerns about the river was received.

### **Trees**

It was reported that the dangerous willow tree at the far side of the field had received the necessary tree surgery to make it safe. A schedule of suggested other works was submitted to the committee and is attached. Necessary works were approved as follows:

1. Works to trees T2, T4, T7, T8, T9, G1, T12 and T13 as given be carried out;
2. Works to T5 and T11 be carried out without grinding out stumps;
3. Sarah Ward be informed of the need to carry out works to T1 which is on her land; and
4. The solicitor acting for the Parish Council in connection with the South Darent Village Green acquisition be reminded to get the land owners to make safe this and any other trees before handing over.

### **Asbestos Report**

Cllr Willson would be asked to conclude his asbestos report and report back to the next committee meeting.

### **Painting Of Pavilion**

Mr Chambers was given permission to carry out painting works as submitted to the committee as follows:

To paint approx 9ft in height the red quarry brickwork, paint parts of walls and metal plates that are black, paint windows and sills, paint white wall above entrance doors, paint white soffit above entrance, paint black plinth around building, repaint anti vandal paint on flat roof.

He also wanted the committee to note that the windows and sills are in a very poor state and really need replacing in the near future. Heather Rohard told the committee that she would look into ways of securing grants to help fund this work.

## **41 HEATHSIDE**

### **Development of The Stand**

South Darent FC asked if they could brick part of the Stand of the size of the parish room for storage. The committee had no objections in principle subject to seeing what it would look like and Mr Burroughs agreed to bring plans along to the next meeting. The club was advised that it might need planning permission.

### **Brambles**

The club officials also asked if they could cut the brambles right back and this approval was given.

**Dip in the Gateway from the Jubilee Hall**

It was agreed to deal with this problem by spreading an amount of road stones as a temporary measure.

**42 TOP PADDOCK**

The Chairman reported that he had cleared about 1 tonne of rubbish from the Top Paddock recently which had cost £103.22 to dispose of. It was decided to put leaflets through the neighbouring doors and report the cost of clearance in the next newsletter to try and stop this ongoing fly tipping problem.

**43 SHRUBBERY ROAD**

The Chairman reported that the signs regarding No Horses and Consideration to Neighbours would be going up this week.

**44 PLAY AREAS**

Playground reports were received.

**Saxon Place Painting**

The Chairman reported that the play equipment had still not been painted by the residents.

**45 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE**

The date of the next meeting will be 22 April.

**46 ANY OTHER BUSINESS****Legionella Risk Assessment**

The clerk reported that 4 quotes had been received for carrying out this work to the pavilion. Terry May offered to look through the quotes to see which seemed to be the best.

**Horton Kirby Village Society Insurance**

Cllr Page reminded the committee that it still needed to know that the Village Society had insurance for a one-off event when it held its fete in Westminster Field.

The meeting ended at 9.48 pm.

Chairman

Date