

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Monday 5 August 2013 in the Parish Room, Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr I Blackamore (Chairman)  
Cllrs R House, C Page  
Mr M Burroughs & Mr J Osborne, Mr D Chambers

IN ATTENDANCE:  
H Rohard, Parish Clerk

**78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllrs Mitchell and Stead and Terry May

**79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Blackamore declared a pecuniary interest in items 5,8,14 of the Agenda

**80 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a correct record

**81 MATTERS ARISING**

**Heathside Grandstand:** This was painted again by Lions Club in time for their Fete 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 which charged the Parish Council £60.

**Shrubbery Road Play area:** Approx 70 mats were removed from around the Goal area and taken to an auction; approx. £162.96 will be offset against a future Lothlorien invoice.

**Substation East Hill:** this had now been fenced in and looking much smarter.

**82 WESTMINSTER FIELD**

Repair of bench; quotes were received for plastic wood at £20 per plank plus delivery. It was decided to try to find a cheaper source

Pavilion Windows; quotes had been received but due to the level of expense decision was deferred to the Parish Council meeting 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2013

Flail Mowing to rough areas; Richard Able's quote of £400 plus VAT to flail mow rough areas and to cut hedges around picnic areas was accepted. Resolved to have this work completed in the early Autumn.

Cllr Blackamore suggested that Richard Able be invited to quote for cutting the hedge opposite the Village Hall which could be cut quicker and more safely using a tractor mounted flail.

**ACTION: Clerk to obtain quote**

### **83 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

No items to discuss

### **84 HEATHSIDE**

The store remains unusable due to the door having been removed and the contents stolen or vandalised. It was proposed that a claim against the Parish Council's insurance be made to cover the cost of repairing or replacing the door.

**ACTION: Clerk to discuss with Insurers**

### **85 100 YEAR WOOD**

A Funding bid in partnership with North West Kent Countryside Partnership had been sent for consideration by Awards for All and the outcome awaited.

### **86 TOP PADDOCK**

Cllr Blackamore had looked at the fencing at the bottom of the Paddock which has been cut through. He suggested that before any fence work be carried out the area be cleared as the boundary is overgrown with trees and shrubs. A steel palleting fence would solve the issue of wire chain link being cut which has been an ongoing problem.

**ACTION: Cllr Blackamore to liaise with tree surgeon for quotes to clear boundary**

Cllr Blackamore reported that household rubbish is regularly disposed of in the Paddock with some of it amounting to fly tipping. This has been an ongoing issue with no solution to date.

### **87 LOWER PADDOCK**

**Avenue House fallen tree;** was still in the Paddock despite contact with the owner.

Resolved that the cost to remove the fallen half of the tree £140 + VAT be paid and reasonable steps taken to recover the costs from the owners of Avenue House.

The tree surgeon made recommendation that the rest of the trees at Avenue House be monitored as some looked to be in poor condition.

Uplift of low hanging branches to 5m resolved to have work completed at a cost of £120 +VAT

**Paddock Cottage:** a large tree overshadows Mr Horrocks property and is in such close proximity would cause much damage if it were to fall. Tree surgeon had surveyed the tree and whilst he did not perceive it to be dangerous advised that to pollard the tree would be poor tree management with the new growth around the tree needing attention within 3 years. Balancing the costs of reducing, pollarding and removing the tree altogether the Committee considered Mr Horrocks offer to pay for half of the costs incurred to have it removed. Resolved that Mr Horrocks offer be accepted and that the tree be felled and treated at a cost of £480 + VAT

**88 ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk reported that plot holders had been invited to appoint a representative to attend future meetings and their comments invited. Should an informal meeting be held with Allotment holders Councillors would be invited to attend.

**89 SHRUBBERY ROAD**

**90 PLAY AREAS**

The Annual Playground inspection is due this summer. Ian Blackamore is attending to all Playground issues.

**91 BURIAL GROUND**

The bench here is in need of replacing/mending. Resolved that this is repaired at the same time as the bench in Westminster Field, when materials have been sourced.

SDC can provide industrial sized garden waste bins which could be used for disposing of grass cuttings etc from the burial ground. This year more cuts had been scheduled to help improve the situation with untidy grass cuttings as the cost of removing them from the site was prohibitive. Cllr Blackamore suggested reviewing at the end of the year to see if there has been an improvement.

**92 PARISH COUNCIL OWNED OR MANAGED HEDGES AND VERGES**

Quotes had already been requested under item 82

**93 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE**

The next meeting date was confirmed as 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mike Burroughs asked if the SDFC could install a sign at the entrance to Heathside; the Committee invited him to bring details of the proposed sign to the next meeting to be considered.

Meeting closed at 8.07pm

Heather Rohard  
Clerk to Council

Chairman

Date