

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Monday, 24 June 2013 in the Parish Room, Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr I Blackamore (Chairman)
Cllrs R House (arrived 8.45pm), D Mitchell, C Page & M Stead
Mr M Burroughs, Mr D Chambers, Mr T May, & Mr J Osborne

IN ATTENDANCE:
Mr T Andrews, Miss S Andrews, Mr J Cornford, Mr P Dallas (all from Swan Archers)
H Rohard, Parish Clerk

61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None were received

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

63 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

64 MATTERS ARISING

Trees: Sarah Ward to be contacted re T1 on her land overhanging the picnic area.

SD Village green: reminder to Solicitors that the dead tree should be removed before transfer to the Parish Council

ACTION: Clerk

Insurance re possible damage to surfaces in fields: The Parish Council Insurance does not cover for damage should this occur. There is cover available for cricket/bowling greens but is not suitable for our open spaces. Cllr Page asked that the Hire Conditions, explain that costs due to damage of field surfaces during events will be passed to the Hirer.

ACTION: Clerk to review Hire Conditions

Heathside Grandstand: This is being painted again by Lions Club in time for their Fete 6th July 2013

Shrubbery Road Play area: Approx 70 mats were due to be removed from around the Goal area and taken to an auction, following previous discussions on how best to manage this area, where the mats were coming loose and becoming a trip hazard. The area is now bare ground.

Substation East Hill: The clerk had not been in touch with the owners but would do so by next meeting.

65 WESTMINSTER FIELD

- Consider replacement/repair of broken bench near pavilion:

ACTION: Quote for repair – Ian Blackamore

- Pavilion Windows: approve works to go ahead

ACTION: 2 further quotes needed to be considered – Derek Chambers

- Grass Cutting – area previously agreed is not being cut

ACTION:

3 quotes to be obtained for Flail Mowing twice per year to edges of Westminster Field, the end of the field by lakes and area by path leading to 100 Year Wood – Clerk

Also check budgets set this year for this type of mowing – Clerk

Derek Chambers from HK Football Club will be reinstating a football pitch which was not used last year, left of the footpath.

66 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Horton Kirby Environmental Centre had found the new shorter Toilet Opening times to be sometimes inconvenient when taking groups of school children to the river for lessons. The Clerk had suggested they hold a key to the Public Toilets for out of season use when necessary.

The Committee offered a key to the Disabled Toilet on an emergency use only so that any extra need for cleaning was kept to a minimum.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with HK Env Centre manager

67 HEATHSIDE

- The Committee considered a request from Swan Archers to become regular users of Heathside. There were concerns raised over public safety as this is an open public space and clashes with the Football schedule which is quite busy. The committee regretted not being able to accommodate the Club and gave suggestions for other sites.
- The Committee considered moving bin in far side of field next to Dog Bin to avoid dog walkers using the litter bin. As the Dog Bin was more easily moveable Mick Burroughs offered to move it to near the litter bin.

ACTION: Clerk to let SDC know it will be moved

- The impact of rabbits on playing field and comment from Insurers regarding any damage they might cause was considered. The football club stated that they always check the pitch before play and fill any holes so players are not in danger of hurting themselves.

68 100 YEAR WOOD

A Funding bid in partnership with North West Kent Countryside Partnership has been sent for consideration by Awards for All

69 TOP Paddock

Perimeter fencing to the Paddock behind properties in Paddock Close has been cut with wire cutters, presumably to allow free access from Montgomery Road via the Paddock to East Hill.

ACTION: Ian Blackamore to visit site and make recommendations to next ROS meeting

70 LOWER Paddock

- The fallen tree from the neighbouring property will need to be removed and the bill sent to the owners. A letter of this intention should be sent to the owners by post.

ACTION: Clerk

- A report was received that trees in vicinity are blocking light to a residents home. As the trees belong to a neighbouring property the resident has been advised to contact the Management Company for Paddock Close and the property owners to resolve matters.

71 ALLOTMENTS

The Committee wished to invite a representative from the Allotments to future meetings to establish a closer working relationship with the site.

ACTION: Clerk to contact plot holders

72 SHRUBBERY ROAD

Previously mentioned

73 PLAY AREAS

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

An update was requested from Saxon Place Residents Association who had offered to repaint play equipment on their green. Despite funds being given to the association for the paint the work has not been completed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact for an update

74 BURIAL GROUND

The bench here is in need of replacing/mending. Ian Blackamore suggested that it needs to be repaired and would be able to do this.

ACTION: I Blackamore

75 PARISH COUNCIL OWNED OR MANAGED HEDGES AND VERGES

Hedges within the Burial Ground, around the car park at Westminster Field and the Picnic area were in need of attention. Quotes for this work were requested.

ACTION: I Blackamore

76 PROWs

KCC had written to ask the Parish Council to nominate paths for reactive vegetation clearance. Cllr Blackamore offered to look at the map supplied and nominate the most used paths

77 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE

The next meeting was due 26th August but as the Clerk due on holiday and so much business needs to be completed in summer months the committee decided to meet at 7pm before the Parish Council meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The South Darenth Football club reported the Brick Store on Heathside had been broken into with football equipment being stolen. They would like to look into having a container on site as a means of more secure storage.

ACTION: Clerk – to check with SDC if possible.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Heather Rohard
Clerk to Council

Chairman

Date