

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES (ROS)
COMMITTEE held on 2nd May 2023 in the Parish Room, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs J Stewart, Chair, M Stead, Vice Chair, I Blackamore, R House, C Page,

IN ATTENDANCE: L Johnson Parish Clerk
SDFC Utd: L Tow

The meeting began at 7.30pm

76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received in Advance from Cllr Rushbrook

77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

78 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 27th February 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

79 MATTERS ARISING

105 Avenue of Cherry Trees; Certificates printed .Clerk to sign and send out. **In progress**

147 Westminster Field Overflow Car Park: paint hatching lines. **Awaiting date**

282 Westminster Field: Repair and install notice board at the entrance to WF **.In progress.**

68 Q's & Correspondence – look at costs to replace green space signs that were stolen with sturdier models. Look at what funds may be available at 31 March. Cllr Rushbrook and Clerk.

PROW SD151 South Darenth to Westminster field. **Waiting for DVLP to reply with initial dates.**

71 Green spaces – Clerk to send complaint and photo's re. burial ground hedge 'cut' and non-cut at the top. **Awaiting photographs**

Shrubbery Road Playground – bin to moved to a central location.

72 Heathside – Clerk to research specification, source contractors and contact them with reference to resurface Heathside entrance and sign.

All other matters were completed or appear as an agenda item.

80 QUESTIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or correspondence from the public.

81 ALLOTMENTS

Allotment representative D Ramsden reported that the allotment society, to be known as 'Copper Beech Allotment Society', had their first AGM and were researching funding streams and had registered with the National Allotment Society. Tenants concerns were safety with regards to the vandalism caused on a regular basis to the Old School adjacent to the allotments.

Clerk reported that despite reporting to Police at least twice, cctv and photographic evidence, the Old School still hadn't been boarded up by the present owners, Lewisham Borough Council. Unless more members of the public reported this to the police, it would not be recognised as an incident requiring attention. Clerk had sent email on 2nd May to the Antisocial Behaviour department at Sevenoaks District Council, copying in KCC Councillor Roger Gough and Laura Trott MP urging them to contact Lewisham to take responsibility of the building.

Clerk reported that 3 plots were vacant with another provisionally held. Assistant Clerk had contacted those on waiting list to offer vacant plots.

One allotment holder had yet to pay £20 annual fee which was due by the end of January 2023. Further emails had been sent and they were in breach of the terms & conditions of allotment agreement. Committee members unanimously agreed to cancel their contract with immediate effect.

ACTION: Clerk to write to tenant to advise termination of agreement.

82 FOOTBALL

Representative L Tow of SDFC advised that the last cut of the Heathside left the grass patchy and uneven, requested Clerk to contact Contractor to ask to adjust settings of mower.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Landscape Service

Handle on multi use toilet was still broken. Clerk replied that it had been fixed at least once but was obviously still faulty.

ACTION: Clerk to source local locksmith to inspect.

A temporary SDFC sign to be installed at the entrance to the Heathside was requested. Cllr Stewart stated that as long as SDFC understood it was temporary and they would remove the sign when work to resurface the entrance was underway, the Committee would be agreeable.

Referencing the contract for football on the Heathside for the period September 23 – August 24, Councillors queried number and size of pitches marked out for junior football.

L Tow replied there were three marked, however, the sizes differed to those stated in the current contract. The Committee advised that any deviations to the current contract should be put in writing and to contact Clerk stating size of pitches required for the next season with a brief update on how many teams were registered for playing and the locations.

Cllr Page recommended that once the information had been received, the matter should be referred to the Parish Council in order for full deliberations.

ACTION: Clerk to include item on Parish Council agenda once information had been received.

83 GREEN SPACES

The Committee were shown a photograph of a breach in fencing on the Heathside and Old School boundary. Clerk advised that youths used this frequently to trespass into the playground and was concerned for Parish Council owned property.

Cllr Blackamore suggested that 1 panel of the palisade fencing used in the Heathside might be suffice to close the gap. Cllr Stewart proposed, Cllr Stead seconded, all were in favour and it was therefore

RESOLVED: that £1,000 should be assigned to repair current fencing by replacing with palisade fence to the Heathside boundary with the Old School playground.

84 Maintenance

The Maintenance schedule for ROS/Pavilion/Public toilets had been sent to Councillors in advance.

Appendix 1.

Discussion ensued regarding maintenance and health & safety/responsive tasks and when quotes were to be obtained.

ACTION: Clerk will research contracts, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for clarification.

Cllr Blackamore explained that the overflow car park at Westminster field had been temporary out of use due to the ground housing unit for the pole being bent plus a large dip had appeared at the entrance. As this area is used at busy times to prevent congestion in The Street, Cllr Stead proposed, Cllr Page seconded and it was therefore

RESOLVED: that the Committee would recommend the amount of up to £500 to spend on repairing the entrance of the overflow car park to its original state. All were in favour.

85 FINANCE

Clerk apologised that budget reports were not available. Monthly closedown for March accounts had been completed and was waiting for a reply from Rialtas as nominal codes had not been updated.

ACTION: Clerk to include budget reports on next ROS Committee meeting.

Clerk advised that advice from HMRC had been received stating that a recent court found that local authorities leisure services are provided under a statutory framework and can be treated as non-business for VAT purposes due to the supply does not significantly affect competition.

After the current football season ends, approximately 28th May, invoices can be sent on a monthly basis.
ACTION: Clerk to enquire last dates of current seasons matches for those teams using Westminster fields and send final invoices.

86 BURIAL GROUND

Clerk had sent information to Councillors prior to the meeting regarding a request from member of the public.

After consideration, it was unanimously agreed that as the MoP met the criteria as per the Policy document, they could be buried in the Parish Council burial ground in Horton Kirby.

ACTION: Clerk to contact member of public to advise the Committee's decision.

87 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 24th April 2023

Meeting finished at 8.30pm

Chair: _____ Date: _____