

**Minutes of the Greens and Amenities Committee Meeting
Held on Thursday 18th January 2018 in St Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall**

Attended: Cllr Ron Wilcox (Chairman), Cllr Mandy Brown, Cllr Jenny Hill, Cllr John Kay, Cllr Roy Sutherland, Cllr Julie Terry, Cllr David Terry, Cllr Richard Turner, Cllr Martin Whitlock

Also in attendance: Karen Crowhurst- Clerk/RFO
Corinna Goward – Assistant Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Booth, Cllr Johnny Denis and Cllr Margaret Crompton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

2.1 Cllr Julie Terry and Cllr David Terry declared interests in the allotments as they are allotment holders.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON MATTERS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

3.1 None

4. ACTION POINTS – UPDATES AND PROGRESS

4.1 a) Kissing Gates at Howells Bank Farm

4.2 The Assistant Clerk informed Members that Mr B Giles was waiting for the weather to improve before he proceeds with the repairs.

4.3 b) Annual play inspection

4.4 The Chairman informed Members that, despite chasing, the Annual Report still hadn't been received. It was proposed, in this instance, to use the current contractor for any necessary repairs as time was short to complete them before the end of the financial year and overlook standing order regulations so that payment could be made from allocated budgets already approved. Members agreed.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING OR ACTION

5.1 a) To consider any correspondence after this agenda has been published

5.2 None.

6.0 VILLAGE GREEN

6.1 a) Erection of permanent barrier at the end of the ditch on the green at Bishops Lane

6.2 The Chairman informed Members that a more permanent barrier would be erected in due course. The Assistant Clerk apprised Members of the design but added that the current

temporary barrier was quite visible and satisfactory.

6.3 b) Ditching work as requested by Ringmer Bowls Club

6.4 Members were informed that a contractor had been appointed but poor weather had delayed a site visit.

6.5 c) Tree Map – To receive an update on progress

6.6 Members were apprised that mapping was ongoing.

6.7 d) Christmas tree on the Green for Christmas 2018

6.8 Members discussed the possibility of erecting a Christmas tree on the village green in 2018 as originally suggested by Cllr Hill. Location, lighting power supply, health and safety issues were all discussed. Members were all in favour of providing a tree and requested the Clerk to make enquiries as to other Councils' practises. **ACTION – THE CLERK**

6.9 e) To consider any other matters relating to the Village Green

6.10 The Assistant Clerk informed Members that a hole adjacent to the North Road car park had developed due to vehicles driving over it in wet weather. It was considered any repair work be delayed until the weather conditions improved.

6.11 Cllr J Terry apprised members that the path in Bishops Lane at the end of the Green was water-logged, muddy and in poor condition for pedestrians. Cllr Kay reminded Members that this section of pathway was due to be upgraded by developers associated with the Bishops Lane development in due course. Cllr J Terry also commented on the play area which was also extremely water-logged, in particular the basket-swing area which she considered to be dangerous. Despite nothing being flagged up in recent play area inspections, the Chairman agreed to visit the site. **ACTION – THE CHAIRMAN AND CLERK**

7.0. **OPEN SPACES**

7.1 a) New bench and widen the path at Sadlers Way – update and agree any further actions

7.2 This item is ongoing. The Chairman informed Members that Mrs Veronica Humphrey had been contacted with the view to looking for possible sponsors for a bench but as yet, the Parish Council had heard nothing.

8.0. **PLAY AREAS**

8.1 a) Parish Council inspections

8.2 The Chairman reminded Members it was their duty to inspect the play area sites personally and report any issues before the next Greens & Amenities meeting.

8.3 b) Replacement gate and post at Fingerpost Field

8.4 The Chairman apprised Members that this had now been completed.

8.5 c) To consider any matters relating to Play Areas

8.6 The Chairman reminded Members of the popularity of the new 'Captain Mannering' play equipment on the Green and enquired as to whether Councillors would want further play equipment purchased. Members discussed the wet condition of the Green but decided

enough equipment was installed there and other areas should be considered for any future play equipment. Cllr D Terry stressed the fact that there were minimal facilities on the Anchor Field side of the Village. Members were in favour of the Clerk's suggestions to consider alternative play area sites as a new agenda item at future meetings and placing the £2k in each area into ear-marked reserves for the next financial year for play ground renewals. Cllr Kay apprised Members of the relevance of the Lewes DC plan part 2 with reference to the acreage of play area to the number of Ringmer residents.

9.0. GENERAL PURPOSES MATTERS

- 9.1 a) Items for inclusion on the SLR Meeting Agenda 28th February 2018 including : Quiet road status, speeding initiative incorporating increased traffic movement, traffic calming signs, match funding scheme and Ringmer Parish Council – Community Infrastructure Levy list
- 9.2 Members discussed items they would like to be included at the next SLR meeting including potholes, drain-cleaning, flint wall, a feasible cycle path through the village and pedestrian crossing. The Clerk requested that Members email her with any items they would like to discuss by 1st February 2018.
- 9.3 b) Update regarding speeding loops
- 9.4 The Assistant Clerk informed Members that a survey request had been submitted to East Sussex Highways for the week commencing March 5th 2018.
- 9.5 c) Installation of Christmas lights on lighting columns for 2018
- 9.6 It was proposed to investigate the possibility of installing Christmas lights on the lighting columns for Christmas 2018. Members were in favour of this idea. **ACTION – THE CLERK TO MAKE ENQUIRIES FOR SOURCING PROVISION**
- 9.7 d) East Sussex County Council – Street Lighting Maintenance Agreement
- 9.8 Members were apprised that the Street Lighting Maintenance Agreement had to be submitted prior to the next Greens & Amenities meeting. The Clerk requested that Members approve signing the Agreement in spite of possible cheaper light sources not yet being available for consideration. Members agreed. **ACTION- ASSISTANT CLERK TO RESEARCH ALTERNATIVE LIGHTING**
- #### 10. ALLOTMENT MATTERS
- 10.1 a) Vacant plots
- 10.2 The Assistant Clerk informed Members that the vacant plot had been advertised on Facebook but no one had come forward to take it on. The plot would also be advertised in the Parish Pump.
- 10.3 b) Vermin issues at allotment site
- 10.4 The Assistant Clerk advised that a site visit with Lewes District Council Pest Control Officer had been arranged. Discussions with a number of allotment holders established that various methods of pest control were being applied to control the rats and mice.
- 10.5 c) Any other matters relating to the allotments
- 10.6 The Chairman of the Greens Committee informed Members that the gate entrance to the

allotment site was in need of repair. It was suggested that Mr B Giles be asked to take a look at it.

10.7

The Assistant Clerk apprised Members that one holder is a keen bee keeper and would be willing to offer advice and assistance should the ground bees problem return.

10.8

Members were informed that allotments fees for 2018 had been issued.

11. **FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP**

11.1 a) To receive a report from the Working Group and agree any actions arising from the report

11.2 Cllr Whitlock informed Members that this was ongoing. It was suggested to remove this item from the agenda for the foreseeable future, Members were in agreement.

12. **ANY REPORTS ON GREENS OR AMENITY MATTERS (BY LEAVE)**

12.1 Cllr Whitlock enquired as to the activity along the Green of measuring and marking from North Road to the war memorial. The Clerk and Cllr Turner agreed to contact Highways to enquire.

12.2 Cllr J Terry reported on a broken gate at the top of Muttons Field close to the new Churchyard. The Clerk requested she send specific details to her of the location by email.

12.3 Cllr Hill advised Members that she had reported the broken barrier at the site of Middleham Close and Gote Lane to Highways.

13. **URGENT ITEMS (CHAIRMANS DISCRETION) OR ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO NEXT AGENDA OR APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE**

13.1 There were no items for referral.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.27pm. The date of the next meeting is Thursday 14th June 2018, 7.30pm in St Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.