

**Minutes of the Greens and Amenities Committee Meeting
Held on 30th September 2021**

Councillors Present: Cllr Johnny Denis (JD), Cllr John Kay (JK), Cllr Gavin May (GM)(C), Cllr Marcia Morgan (MM), Cllr Sarah Phillips (SP), Cllr Gordon Sims (GS) and Cllr David Terry (DT)

In attendance: Carol Hodgson (CH) – Acting Clerk/RFO
Gail Metcalfe (GPM) – Assistant Clerk

Members of public: 4

Item No.		Action:
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
1.1	Apologies were received from Cllrs Tara Barber, Matthew Crisp, Margaret Crompton, Clare Herbert, Richard Turner and John Whitlock.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS	
2.1	None.	
3.	TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE GREENS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1st JULY 2021	
3.1	It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved and signed.	
4.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS - This item shall last not more than 15 minutes or at Chairman's discretion and no contribution shall last more than 3 minutes.	
4.1	At 7.31pm the Chairman invited the Meeting to suspend Standing Orders and asked for questions or comments from members of the public present.	
4.2	Three members of the public spoke on the following topics:	
4.3	Fingerpost Field – two bins are not being emptied, they are the wrong type of bins and need replacing, a third bin is hidden in the hedge and a picnic bench is broken. They are hoping facilities will get improved when skate park goes in.	
4.4	Little Playground at Broyle Lane – the bin is not getting emptied, the bench needs painting and signs are mildewed over. There is a need to discuss with residents what they want to use this space for.	
4.5	Skate Park - people are not happy with the delays on the delivery of this.	

- 4.6 **Bus shelter opposite The Holdings** – a popular bus stop which is very close to the road and needs a shelter. Perhaps the Solar Farm developers could provide one. **Action:**

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.36pm.

5. **IF THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FOR A PARTICULAR AGENDA ITEM, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION MUST BE PASSED:**

‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.’

- 5.1 Noted.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING OR ACTION**

a) To consider any correspondence after this agenda has been published – for noting or action:

- Glynde Corner (New Road, also known as Paygate Corner) bus shelter – request for a rubbish bin
- A request for new bins for every newly installed bus shelter
- New bus stop on the path side on Laughton Road – request for a rubbish bin

The above points were agreed subject to the findings of the following proposal. It was proposed that an audit of the bins, an audit of the emptying of bins and to look at where else we should be putting bins (subject to funds available) be undertaken before the next O&F meeting on 4th November 2021. This was seconded and agreed.

- 6.1 GPM to tell GS what has been asked for so that he can go directly to the Head of Waste at LDC. **GPM/GS**

7. **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- a) To receive an update on applying to ESCC’s “Community Match” scheme to address traffic concerns on Church Hill.
- b) To receive an update on applying for a Weight Restriction Order on each of Church Hill, Norlington Lane and Potato Lane
- c) To receive an update on applying to ESCC for a Traffic Regulation Order to impose parking restrictions on Bishop’s Lane
- d) To receive an update on holding an SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships) meeting

- 7.1 After some discussion, it was decided to defer the above points a) – c) until the SLR meeting has taken place. Potential dates for this are 19, 20, 21 or 25th October 2021. **SP**

It was agreed to also raise the following at this meeting:

- A26, Ham Lane – people cannot turn right at Earwig Corner and signposts looking to push traffic through Church Lane. **Action:**
- Large directional signs at Vicarage Way and Lewes Road – these are out of keeping with the village and conservation area.

SP advised that there are upcoming drainage works on Church Hill on Monday 18th October 2021 for three days. (A further update has confirmed that Church Hill/Ham Lane will be closed to through traffic from A26 Uckfield Road to Vicarage Way 24 hours a day).

8. VILLAGE GREEN

- 8.1 a) To receive an update on the installation of the 3 Memorial Benches

It was noted that all benches were on order with one having been delivered to the office ready for installation (although due to unprecedented demand they have had a backlog of orders and can only have so many of these made per week).

It was suggested that an official opening of memorial benches be proposed to those requesting them once installed. It was agreed that all future benches will be per model that can be bolted in.

- 8.2 b) To consider increasing the limit of the number of permitted Memorial Benches on the Village Green (the current limit has now been exceeded)

It was agreed to defer a decision on this until further requests come forward. In the meantime, the following need to be established:

- i) how many benches there currently are – GS agreed to do this
 - ii) find out what the current limit is – GPM was asked to find this out
- GS**
GPM

It was suggested that other places for benches be considered and/or memorial trees be encouraged in the future.

9. SKATE PARK

- a) To receive an update on the current position to include:
- i. The outcome of clarifying the timeline with Chris Bibb (Lewes DC Specialist Advisor Green Consultancy (Projects)) to release funds to RPC under s.106 - renewal of play equipment.

CH to find out when the spend deadline is. **CH**

- ii. Outcome of approaching the developer to request that LDC release the CIL funds held for the Skate Park to RPC

The £45k LDC hold on our behalf to deliver the skate park cannot be released to us until the skate park is built per discussions with Chris Bibb.

- iii. The progress on working with Lewes DC to go through the consultation, tendering process, and installation

GM explained that this has been leapfrogged so is no longer required and RPC can deliver what has already been decided. GM believes it is highly realistic this will be delivered by late spring next year.

Action:

9.1 GS informed that the current position was that we do not currently have a lease for Fingerpost Field. This is being prepared by Lewes District Council but there is no timeline for it. JK said that the legal position would be that the lease has rolled over so this should not affect the delivery of the skate park.

9.2 GM explained that he and GS had met with the director of LDC to discuss their frustrations at the lack of progress and that it had been a fair, frank exchange of views. He said that the finances were in place already (although probably increased now), and RPC should be able to move forward with our preferred option of skate park. He reiterated the fact that it was not a destination skate park but a village skate park. He said once the visuals were available, we would need to consult with the residents of Elphick Road and those at the top of Broyle Lane. A letter would go out inviting them to come into the office on one of two dates.

GM was asked about the timeline for delivering the skate park and he believed we could move forward on consultation with current visuals within 2-4 weeks, with a 6-month period site installation for contractors and legal work, with a delivery time of 12 weeks with a start date of early March to be ready early summer 2022. He said that we do not need planning permission for it but there would be a need to recast it. £120k was the agreed budget, with a healthy contingency in place. GM gave his reassurance that the chosen contractors specialise in village designs being experts on noise specification. They have also advised on ideas for the hedge advising how to make it look open without being fully open. GM agreed that the main concerns of residents are increased traffic, parking, drugs, litter, and anti-social behaviour. He said that issues that need to be resolved in the future are toilet facilities (would be nice but not a necessity) and parking.

10. **PLAY AREAS RENEWALS AND REPLACEMENTS**

- a) To receive an update on the current position from Cllrs. Margaret Crompton, Clare Herbert, and Marcia Morgan to include:
 - i. The progress on working with Lewes DC to go through the consultation, tendering process, and installation

10.1 There was no update as need to set up an urgent meeting with Chris Bibb of LDC and GM and GS to clarify the current position. Johnny Denis (LDC email address) and Ian Fitzpatrick to be copied in on meeting invitation email.

GPM

11. **GENERAL PURPOSES MATTERS**

- a) To receive an update on the installation of new Bus Shelters on A26 and Lewes Road – GPM to organise a site visit with inspector from Highways within next 2 weeks (next week ideal) as they need to add to the spec as all new bus stops need to be Disability Act compliant.

GPM

- 11.1 b) To receive an update from the Office and Finance Committee on identifying funding for the installation of 2 highway directional signs to the current Parish Office – this was deferred as GM has not been able to discuss with Matt Crisp as he is away on holiday. **GM/MC**
Action:
12. **FLINT WALL SURROUNDING THE CHURCHYARD**
- a) To receive the outcome of commissioning a specialist to conduct a report to establish the structural integrity of the wall and identify any remedial work
- 12.1 SP and CH to meet to establish who is responsible for what in terms of PCC and RPC. **CH & SP**
13. **ANY REPORTS ON GREENS OR AMENITY MATTERS (BY LEAVE) – NOT FOR DECISION OR DISCUSSION**
- 13.1 It was reported that the Fingerpost on Lewes Road by the old pump is practically falling over and is rotten. It looks to be in a perilous condition and needs inspecting quite urgently. It was mentioned that there is an issue with getting waterproof paint and it will require a specialist. GPM to find out who repaired it last time. JK mentioned that two of the six Fingerposts are derelict but that there is not a budget for this this year. **GPM**
- 13.2 Recovery Fund/Welcome Back Fund re. Precinct Shops – GM explained that there is a grant available of £1k or £1.2k for local shops to improve signage and to generally improve the look of the area. He explained that this will be dovetailed in with the presentation with further information on the Lucy Stone idea. The grant is unfortunately time critical which means RPC will have to use this before the big picture is sorted out which he felt was a shame, but this is being worked on and three out of all the shopkeepers are showing an interest which he was encouraged by.
- 13.3 Swimming Pool Mtg – GS said it had been agreed with the residents in attendance that RPC are not able to put in a bid. GS has written to ESCC saying if they fail in finding anyone to take it on, to come back to RPC to try to get a group together to save the pool.
- 13.4 It was confirmed that the meeting on 7th October 2021 at 10am to discuss the need of community buildings and facilities as part of development is going ahead at the Parish Rooms.
14. **URGENT ITEMS (CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION) OR ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO NEXT AGENDA OR APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE**
- 14.1 Point 4.6 - Bus shelter (Solar Farm Development). CH also mentioned here that another member of the public had asked for a covered shelter at the bus stop at the Cock Inn (Point 11).
- 14.2 Meeting start times – MM said she was not aware of the meeting time change from 7pm to 7.30pm. The Chairman suspended standing orders at 8.35pm and a proposal was made for all future G&A meetings to start at 7.30pm. This was

seconded and the majority agreed but CH emphasised the need for this to be agreed for **all** meetings at the next Council meeting.

- 14.3 Change meeting dates - an informal question of whether people would be open to changing meetings to a Tuesday evening was raised. It was agreed to revisit this at the next full Council meeting.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 8.36pm.

15. **CLOSE OF THE MEETING at 8.38pm.**

Date of Next Meeting: To be called within next two weeks
To be held at Parish Rooms, Ringmer Academy