

**Minutes of the Greens and Amenities Committee Meeting
Held on 18th February 2021 Via Zoom**

Attended: Cllr Tara Barber, Cllr Richard Booth, Cllr Margaret Crompton, Cllr Johnny Denis, Cllr Clare Herbert, Cllr John Kay, Cllr Gavin May, Cllr Sarah Phillips, Cllr Gordon Sims, Cllr David Terry, Cllr Richard Turner & Cllr John Whitlock

In attendance: Karen Crowhurst - Clerk/RFO
Gail Metcalfe - Administrator

Members of the public – Approximately 32

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

1.1 Cllr May indicated that he would be willing to stand as Chairman. After a vote by a show of hands which was unanimous it was **Resolved** that Cllr May be elected as Chairman of the Greens and Amenities Committee. Cllr May then took the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 No apologies were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS

3.1 There were no declarations of interests or dispensation requests.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

4.1 Cllr May proposed that Cllr Phillips be appointed, to which Cllr Phillips accepted. After a vote was taken by a show of hands, it was **resolved** for Cllr Phillips to be duly appointed as Vice Chair of the Greens and Amenities Committee.

5. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE GREENS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2020

5.1 It was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the Greens and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 3rd December 2020.

6. 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.

6.1 At 19.07 the Chairman invited the Meeting to suspend Standing Orders and asked for questions or comments from members of the public present.

6.2 Members of the public made comments or referred to:

- The public consultation re. the play equipment
- Why RPC had used a barrister and not a solicitor re. the status of the Village Green
- The Skate Park
- A copy of the Working Group minutes requested

- Highway matters

6.3 Standing Orders were reinstated at 19.21.

7. ACTION POINTS - UPDATES AND PROGRESS – REPORT FROM THE CLERK

- 7.1 a) **SLR meeting with East Sussex Highways** – the Clerk reported she has contacted Customer First and nothing has been forthcoming. The Clerk suggested that the recommendation to hold a meeting outlined in Cllr Sarah Phillips report be approved.
- 7.2 b) **Registration of Land on the Village Green – Cllr Kay and the Clerk** – after some discussion and a recommendation being proposed and withdrawn, it was agreed to take this and the registration of Rushey Green and any other land forward as an agenda item.

8. CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING OR ACTION

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

8.1 There was no correspondence for noting or action.

9. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- 9.1 a) **To note and accept the report from Cllr Phillips** - this was noted and accepted. Cllr Phillips was praised for her timely and comprehensive paper.
- 9.2 b) **To agree any actions or decisions arising from the report** - it was proposed and seconded that the Clerk and Cllr Phillips write a letter to Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy & Transport at ESCC. There were no objections.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Phillips

10. VILLAGE GREEN

- 10.1 a) **Barrister update or to agree any actions should the report be presented before this meeting** – the Clerk advised that she had sought solicitor's advice, but the Council agreed to use a barrister and consider his findings as to whether the village green could legally accommodate a skate park. It was agreed that the Clerk would call a further meeting once the report is available to discuss its findings and to decide whether the information should be made public.
- 10.2 b) **Skate Park – to decide the final site to put forward should the Barrister's findings permit** – awaiting the barrister's report.

11. SKATE PARK

- 11.1 a) To consider the motion(s) proposed by Cllr Booth

Background

The Finance Officer has reported that our reserves are getting dangerously low. Legal opinions being sought on the Village Green along with the HR Review have helped this. It is therefore necessary for Parish Council to refuse further expenditure of non-budgeted funds this includes the Skate Park. £75,000 from CIL has been agreed to cover the costs of the installation to bolster the £43,000 from the District Council and Developer.

Motion

Any new expenditure or non-budgeted funds for a new skate park should be put on hold until the following conditions are met until.

- The Parish Council is able to agree further pre-contract procurement funding, and any legal clarity on the status of the Village Green options has been obtained.
- Any other speedily available and deliverable options are considered.
- A post-Covid public consultation gives clear majority support to a solution.
- Failing all that, and in the long term, a revised NDP identifies a range of alternative options.

11.2 After much discussion, the motion was put to a named vote and was voted against 10 to 2.

11.3 Business outside of the motion as motion not agreed

11.4 b) **To agree whether to put Finger Post Field forward as a viable site for a Skate Park** – it was unanimously **resolved** that this was the only viable option until the barrister’s report is available. It was also **resolved** to amend former Cllr Harpers Feasibility study.

11.5 c) **To obtain digital images for Finger Post Field and agree where any associated cost should come from** – it was agreed unanimously that delegated authority be granted to Cllr May to work alongside the Clerk as all matters relating to Parish Council business have to go through the office.

Action: Cllr May & Clerk

11.6 d) **If the Village Green is feasible and a site agreed to decide whether to obtain digital images and agree where associated costs should come from** – it was agreed unanimously that this would be deferred until the barrister’s report is received.

11.7 e) **To decide the consultation process including timeframe and method** – it was agreed this would be deferred until have visuals on FPF when another meeting would be called.

12. PLAY AREAS RENEWALS AND REPLACEMENTS

12.1 a) Village Green – to agree the recommendations of the briefing paper presented by the Clerk which are:

- 1) Parishioners scoping opinions 22nd February to 8th March 2020
- 2) Deadline for quotations Monday 17th May
- 3) Installation November – December 2021

12.2 b) Fingerpost Field and Broyle Close – to work on a maintenance/renewal action plan to ensure installation of new equipment is completed before the recommended lifespan as specified in the Inspector’s report

12.3 It was proposed a resolution be passed for the Clerk and Cllr May be granted delegated authority to work alongside the to oversee a) and b) above, with them assessing the areas and consulting wider than Facebook ie. including the Primary School and Toddlers Group. This was seconded and voted on. All were in favour. Therefor, the

Action: Cllr May & Clerk

13. GENERAL PURPOSES MATTERS

13.1 a) **To note the replacement of the Bus Shelter on the A26** – it was reported that work is to commence on 13/03/21.

13.2 b) **To proceed with a new bus shelter on the A26 and pinpoint the exact location** - Cllr Phillips to provide this from her what3words app. Clerk to then obtain 3 quotations.

Action: Cllr Phillips & Clerk

13.3 c) **To agree a place for a new Bus Shelter on the Lewes Road near the Old Forge and pinpoint the exact location** – Cllr Phillips to provide this from her what3words app. Clerk to provide clarity on whether a contribution is to be made from one of the developers.

Action: Cllr Phillips & Clerk

13.4 d) **To agree to proceed with a large object’s licence for both shelters** – agreed.

13.5 e) **To agree for 3 quotations to be obtained for Committee consideration** – agreed 3 quotations on A26 would be obtained.

14. ANY REPORTS ON GREENS OR AMENITY MATTERS (BY LEAVE) – NOT DECISION OR DISCUSSION

14.1 Item for next agenda - Clerk to be emailed with a request made by Louise Smith seeking permission for children to fish in the Village Green pond.

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

15.1 There were no urgent items or items for referral.

16. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

16.1 There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.35.