

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 5 February 2015 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT Mr R Dinnis (Chairman)
 Mr R Theobald
 Mr D Hart
 Mr G Dent
 Mr R Lane
 Mrs S Lindley

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr R Cooper

53 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2014

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

54 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

55 New Siting of Notice Board in Thong (34)

A drawing has been produced by Mr Theobald, showing the site location for the notice board. This is in a conservation area and the ownership of the land will have to be established. Mr Dinnis will contact Ron Bardoe to see if he can make a new notice board for the Parish Council.

56 Shorne Village Hall - Drain in Car Park (35)

Mr Theobald reported that he had contacted the Borough Council for assistance with finding someone to remove the cover to the manhole in the car park. He will contact the person to do this.

57 Football Club - Lease (36)

The new Shorne Football Club's lease of the Recreation Ground for fifteen years was signed at the full Council meeting held on 8 January 2015 by Mr Lee Boyson and Mr David Cater on behalf of the Football Club and Mr R Theobald and Mr R Dinnis on behalf of the Parish Council and witnessed by Miss P Clifton, parishioner. Council also received the £1.00 peppercorn rent for the year.

Mr Dinnis reported that the Club had made a request for support towards the costs for the refurbishment of the facilities at the pitch as the changing rooms are very small. There was £800.00 outstanding for the works.

Mr Dinnis proposed that:-

“A grant of £500.00 is made to the Football Club by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Mr Lane”.

This is to be recommended to the full Council at its next meeting.

Mr Lane recommended that the Parish Council should consider using the refurbishment of the facilities at the Football Club as a publicity opportunity for the Council.

58 Crabbles Bottom - Clearance of Vegetation/Investment of Money (37)

(a) Proposed Works

Mr Dinnis reported that he had hoped to have the estimates from two contractors for the works for the ongoing maintenance at Crabbles Bottom. The first work to be tackled would be on the footpath and bridleway.

In order to make any meaningful progress, the work needs to go beyond this work due to areas that have deteriorated (the meadows). Once cleared, parishioners would be able to use the areas for walking. To clear all the brambles, would affect dormice and insects in the area. A company called Landscape Services (near Dartford) has suggested clearing half the area at a time in order to allow the fauna to develop.

It was agreed to go ahead with the works. **This is to be recommended to the full Council at its next meeting.**

(b) Investment of Money from Bond

Mr Dinnis has spent considerable time investigating where the Parish Council could invest the money for the Bond with the NatWest Bank. The end of term investment period is on the 24 February 2015. The bond for the £70k investment plus interest has so far gained about £8k which will go into a "reserve account" with NatWest at the end of the term.

He has taken advice from the KALC on this and has advised all Parish Councillors of his findings. He has been in contact with the CCLA, an Investment Management Company. The minimum investment is £20,000. It was suggested that £80,000 should be invested. Members agreed with the proposed investment with the CCLA. **This is to be recommended to the full Council at its next meeting.**

(c) Car Park

Mr Dinnis suggested that a car park at the Crutches Lane end should be

provided for accessibility for parishioners wishing to walk in Crabbles Bottom Mr Theobald suggested that it would be preferable to have a small car park for say about ten cars at the end of Bowesden Lane.

59 Rights of Way (38)

Shornemead - Re-Opening of the Level Crossing (8a)

The Parish Council has received notification by e-mail from Melanie McNeir, the Public Rights of Way and Commons Registration Officer, PROW and Access Service Regulatory Services at KCC, attaching a copy of the County Council's decision in respect of the above matter as follows:-

That the conclusion of the investigation is that it is not considered that a Public Footpath is reasonably alleged to subsist and, as such, the County Council is declining to make a Modification Order to add the claimed route to the Definitive Map. They appreciate that this outcome will be disappointing for the Parish Council but, as will be gathered from the length of the report, it has been a complex matter and the reasons for the County Council's decision are set out in full in the report. In reaching that decision, they have been guided by recent decisions by the Planning Inspectorate in respect of other claimed footpaths across railways (they attached one such example for reference).

The Parish Council is of course entitled to appeal against the County Council's decision in respect of this matter and, should the Council wish to do so attention is drawn to the instructions which are located at the bottom of the covering letter accompanying the decision.

Mr Theobald reported that the Parish Council has 28 days to appeal. He was minded to appeal to which members agreed. If the Parish Council appealed there would be a public inquiry and legal advice (barrister) would be required to lead the evidence. Mr Theobald will speak to Bill Ripper at the Ramblers' Association for advice on a legal representative. Mr Theobald will also ask KCC for a copy of their evidence.

It was considered that this matter is now in the public domain and would be of benefit for people to know the situation and the Parish Council needed to publicise this. It was agreed that a Press Release be placed in the local newspapers like the Gravesend Reporter and Kent Messenger. Mr Dinnis will draft this for everyone's consideration before being forwarded to the newspapers.

Mrs Hornby has submitted a bill for £9.01 for the postage and stationery.

60 Landscaping Strip off Michael Gardens (39)

Mr Hart suggested that a site meeting should be held for new members to be familiarised with the situation. This was agreed. Mr Theobald is to make the arrangements.

61 Obstruction of Footpath in Court Wood (40)

Mr Theobald reported that the obstruction there has been granted temporary

planning consent for recreational use.

62 Bus Shelter on A226 Adjacent to Pear Tree Lane (41)

Mr Dinnis reported that he had had a look at the bus shelter on the A226 adjacent to Pear Tree Lane. The matter is to be dropped.

63 Bus Shelter in Tanyard Hill - Refelting to Roof (42)

The roof to the bus shelter in Tanyard Hill needs to be re-felted. A contactor is to be found to carry out the work. The Clerk has passed on the information received from contactors following a response to the Parish Council's advertisement in the parish magazine a while ago.

64 Responsibility for Boundary Fencing on A2 at Claylane Woods (44)

Mr Dinnis reported that he had visited Davys Place and spoken to four sets of residents who were unaware of noise in the area from motorcyclists. It was thought that motorcyclists were getting in near Nell's Café. Mr Hart is to take the lead on this item.

65 Replacement of Pear Tree in Tanyard Hill (46)

A replacement tree has been planted and the bill settled.

66 Request by Parishioner to Plant an Oak Tree (48)

A request has been received from Mrs Smailes to plant an oak tree as she wishes to scatter her late husband, Ben's, ashes under it. It was thought the tree would need a plastic tree guard around it. Mr Dinnis is to contact Cllr Sweetland about this as the land belongs to KCC. Mr Sweetland is also to be asked if permission is required for a plaque under the tree.

67 Footpaths, Properties & Greens – Budget (49)

Mr Dinnis reported that a resolution is needed for the expenditure for the properties and greens in the parish to produce an audit trail. He will examine past Footpaths, Properties & Greens minutes to ascertain the expenditure.

68 Update on the Use of Volunteers to Clear Footpaths in the Parish (50)

Mr Dinnis reported that he had six volunteers to clear footpaths in the parish. He has secateurs, equipment, gloves and jackets for eight people. The first two-hour preparatory meeting will take place on Saturday morning, 28 March 2015 to run through Health & Safety issues. The following session will take place on Saturday, 11 April 2015 from 10am to 12 noon.

69 Red Telephone Payphone at The Ridgeway/Tanyard Hill – Repairs (51)

The red telephone payphone at The Ridgeway/Tanyard Hill is in a Conservation area. It is K6 payphone and belongs to BT. Mr Dinnis reported that four

rectangular windows needed to be replaced. BT has ordered these. **Ref: ND8JAW89.**

70 Parish Website (52)

The matter of the website was raised. It was reported that it looks out of date. Mr Hart reported that he has placed this year's approved minutes on the website. He will place all the approved minutes for 2014 and also the reports in the parish magazines on the site. Mr Lane made the comment that people have asked about becoming a Parish Councillor and that younger people should be encouraged to come onto the Parish Council.

71 Any Other Business

- (a) Mr Theobald reported that the Notice Board at Shorne Common is broken at its posts and will need to be fixed.
- (b) Mr Theobald reported that he has requested a site meeting with Kent Highways to discuss the frontages at Butchers Hill.
- (c) Mr Dent has reported the potholes in Marling Way to Kent Highways.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.