

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 19 March 2015 in Shorne Village Hall**

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

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr R Theobald

ALSO IN Mr N Lance, Parishioner
ATTENDANCE Mr R Goodman, Parishioner

72 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2015

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

73 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

74 Matters Raised by Parishioners

The Chairman welcomed the parishioners to the meeting.

Parishioners were concerned as they had heard a rumour that the Parish Council were proposing to have a car park at the end of Bowesden Lane and they were not happy with this. Mr Theobald had also received a telephone call about this from Mrs Cutler who lives in Bowesden Lane. One of the parishioners pointed out that the bottom end of Bowesden Lane is very narrow. The land in Crutches Lane belongs to the Water Board and many years ago, there were travellers on site. The Water Board was successful in having the travellers removed.

The parishioner reported that there is a four acre field near to his and Mrs Cutler's homes. Before Bowesden Lane was closed he had a burglary, with a get-away car waiting near the A2. The thieves were never caught. He was therefore unhappy about any proposed car park at the end of Bowesden Lane.

The other parishioner reported that the wooden edging in Bowesden Lane needs to be cut back on the pathway as it is no longer visible. Mr Dinnis

reported that the edging is not covered in the quotation for the proposed works to be carried out by Landscape Services.

With the unanimous agreement of the Council members present the Chairman gave an explicit assurance to the parishioners that the Council had absolutely no plans whatsoever to install a car park at the bottom of Bowesden Lane nor had such an option even been discussed.

The Chairman thanked the parishioners for attending and invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting if they so wished.

75 New Siting of Notice Board in Thong (55)

Mr Ron Bardoe has completed making a new notice board at Thong including the supply of posts at a cost of £108.00. The Parish Council has settled his account. The cost for the timber is £124.36.

Total cost is £108.00+ £124.36 = £232.36

Mr Dinnis has spoken to Mr Turnbull's son. He has Mr Dinnis' details and will get back to him regarding consent for the location. He will speak to other residents in the area about the proposed location for the notice board as the current site is very dangerous.

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

Mr Bugg has found a contractor to remove the cover to the manhole cover to the drain in the car park at the Village Hall. This will be carried out the following week.

77 Football Club – Improvements to Facilities (57)

The football Club has acknowledged receipt of the cheque for £500 towards the refurbishment of the facilities at the Football ground and expressed appreciation to the Parish Council for the grant. The Club is also aware that this should be used as a publicity opportunity for the Council and will submit photographs of the ongoing work.

Mr Dinnis reported that the football ground had recently received accolades in a County football magazine "Football Ground Frenzy Kent" for being a small village club with a "proper ground" which is the envy of all the clubs which visit for having an enclosed pitch with excellent changing facilities"

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

(a) Proposed Works

The Parish Council agreed to the recommendation from the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee and for the Committee to be given delegated authority to appoint a contractor to carry out the works at Crabbles Bottom based on quotations received to date, to a limit of £10,000.00.

(b) Investment of Money from Bond with the CCLA

Following a letter from the Parish Council to close the reserve account, the Clerk has been advised by the NatWest Bank that the £70,000 for the bond (over three years) was paid on the 24 February 2015 into reserve account where the interest is held. The NatWest Bank has now advised that the account has been closed and a cheque for £79,877.06 (£70,000 + £9,877.06 interest) has been received. The cheque has been paid into the Crabbles Bottom account with the Nationwide Building Society.

The Parish Council agreed to the recommendation from the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee that the Council goes ahead with the investment of £80,000 with the CCLA.

Mr Dinnis reported that all documents had been submitted to the CCLA and accepted. Each month CCLA will update the Council on how the fund is performing. This is currently at around 4.65% but as has been explained to Council members this is subject to some variation between months.

79 Rights of Way (59)Shornemead - Re-Opening of the Level Crossing

Mrs Lindley gave an update on this matter. Following the decision by Kent County Council to find against Shorne Parish Council's claim to there being a legal right of way at the Shorne Mead level crossing, the Parish Council lodged an appeal against this ruling on the grounds that KCC had not given sufficient weight to the extensive historical evidence the Parish Council had supplied of a right of way over this route. The submissions were lodged on 2 March 2015 and accepted by the Inspector.

Because of the need to investigate further the issues raised by KCC in the report accompanying their decision letter, the Secretary of State has granted the Parish Council another month ie until 31 March 2015 in which to provide supplementary information.

Mrs Lindley reported further that the review of KCC's report needs to be challenged. She has been to several libraries to seek information related to past claims to a legal right of way at level crossings. The Ramblers' Association has also been involved. People will have to be identified to legally represent the Parish Council at an inquiry.

80 Landscaping Strip off Michael Gardens (60)

No further action has been taken to date due to the elections. When there are three elected Parish Councillors from Shorne West, Mr Theobald will approach the Borough Council for another site meeting to further discuss the matter. He and the three Parish Councillors will attend the meeting.

Mr Hart reported that the strip of land is littered with rubbish. He has spoken to Stuart Alford about the rubbish and asked for it to be removed.

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

The roof to the bus shelter in Tanyard Hill needs to be re-felting. A contactor is to be found to carry out the work. The matter is pending.

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

Mr Hart reported that he spoke to someone in Davys Place who advised that there is still activity in Claylane Woods. Mr Hart is trying to obtain contacts for Mr Rossi.

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

Mrs Smaille's daughter in Essex is cultivating the proposed Oak tree to be planted in memory of her father, Ben. Mr Dinnis contacted Cllr Sweetland about this as the land belongs to KCC. Mr Sweetland has advised that KCC has no objection to the planting of an Oak tree but the location of cables will have to be checked and avoided.

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

Mr Dinnis reported on the volunteer clearing of footpaths in the parish. He has around half a dozen volunteers for the first Saturday and eight for the second Saturday. Volunteers will concentrate on NS163.

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

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**. They will also clear the telephone kiosk of rubbish etc.

86 Repairs to Notice Board at Shorne Common (71a)

The posts to the notice board at Shorne Common are broken and need to be replaced. Mr Dinnis reported that he had received a quotation for £168 for the posts plus labour from Kevin Law. He is still awaiting a quotation from Four Seasons.

87 Frontages at Butchers Hill (71b)

Mr Theobald reported that he had requested a site meeting with Kent Highways to discuss the frontages at Butchers Hill. He has since received some paperwork from KCC on this.

88 Parish Website (70)

Mr Dinnis reported that Shorne has had a mention in the Kent Messenger re: litter clearance which they must have accessed from the website.

89 Any Other Business

- (a) Mr Theobald reported that he had a telephone call from Mrs Marion Polhill regarding the van parked on the recreation ground. Mrs Lindley reported that there are actually two vans parked there, viz the Skanska van and another with bright pink writing on the side of the van. This was raised at the last Planning & Highways Committee meeting. Mr Dinnis will contact Miss Clifton to see if she can shed some light on the matter. It was also suggested seeking assistance from the local PCSO.
- (b) Mr Theobald reported that he had a request from Mrs Marion Polhill, who would like to create a raised flower bed on sleepers on Chestnut Green. The question asked was whether everyone there will want this. Mr Dinnis will speak to Miss Clifton about this.
- (c) Mr Dent reported that Sarah Kilkie at the Borough Council was most helpful with checking the Election Nomination forms. She can be contacted on Tel: 01474-337235.
- (d) Mr Dinnis announced that after four years on the Parish Council he is calling it a day and would not be standing for election. He wished to pursue his other interests on the sporting side. He expressed his appreciation working with everyone and wished Parish Councillors well for the big challenges ahead.

Members wished to record their appreciation to Mr Dinnis for all his great work carried out during his time on the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.