

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee  
Meeting held on 17 March 2016 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT                      Mr R Lane (Chairman)  
   Mr R Cooper  
   Mr R Theobald  
   Mr J Bugg  
   Mr D Hart  
   Mr M Redfern  
   Mrs S Lindley  
   Miss P Clifton

ALSO IN  
ATTENDANCE                      Mr D Parmenter

**76      Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2016**

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

**77      Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**78      Update on the Telephone Kiosk at Chestnut Green**

Mr Lane reported that he has observed that one of the glass windows on the telephone kiosk has been smashed. He will report this to BT.

**79      “Clean for the Queen” Voluntary Litter Patrols (63)**

Mr Lane reported that the ‘Clean for the Queen’ volunteer litter patrol held on 5 March 2016 attracted 36 volunteers on the day, plus one other who cleaned up part of The Ridgeway and Brewers Road during the week preceding. Approximately 60 bags of rubbish were collected, plus a large amount of fly-tipping was cleared in Shorne Ifield Road.

Gravesham Borough Council lent the Parish Council ten further litter picking wands to supplement the ten owned by the Parish Council for the event, but Mr Lane will obtain ten more for future use.

**80     Landscaping Strip off Michael Gardens (64)**

At the previous meeting, Mrs Lindley considered that a further letter should be sent to GBC requesting them to send letters to the residents to whom GBC have granted licences, reminding them of the terms of the licence. A letter to this effect was sent on 7 March 2016.

**81     Crabbles Bottom - Clearance of Vegetation (65)**

Mr Lane has accepted the quotation from Landscape Services to continue with the flailing of the main meadow/orchard area and the two inset meadows. The work is provisionally scheduled to take place at the beginning of April and then in June and September.

Mr Redfern and his volunteers successfully cut a pathway through to the first inset meadow on 13 February 2016 at 10.30am.

A further exercise to attend to the orchard on 19 March 2016 as part of an initiative to develop a community orchard will need to be reconsidered in the light of Highway England's proposals for the Lower Thames Crossing.

Mr Redfern reported that he has made preliminary contact with Kent Trust regarding their survey being carried out on SSSI and the items scheduled for citation eg flora as they may find more items.

He also asked for Landscape Services to delay commencing the work by a month. Mr Lane will advise them of this.

**82     Shornemead - Re-Opening of the Level Crossing (66)**

Mr Theobald reported that KCC have informed the Parish Council in writing that there have been no objections and that they are now awaiting consent from the Secretary of State to confirm the Order. The Definitive Map will then be modified. This will re-establish the crossing as a public right of way and it will be necessary to get the gates re-opened.

**83     Additional Maintenance & Cutting of Greens & Verges (89)**

Mr Lane instructed John Vilday of All Seasons Gardens & Landscaping to cut and apply weed treatment to the main greens in the village where daffodils and narcissi are present. These areas are not cut by GBC until June, which makes them very unkempt. However, Mr Vilday subsequently contacted Mr Lane to say that he does not wish to carry out the work. Mr Lane has contacted Colin Lawrence for a price.

**84     Court Wood – Footpaths (69)**

Mr Theobald had previously reported that he has sent copies of OS maps to Mr Redfern, who will carry out GPS surveys of the footpaths prior to considering obtaining evidence of use. Mr Redfern has since carried out GPS

surveys of a sample of the footpaths and they appear to be in accordance with the OS map. Mr Redfern is dealing with this.

Mrs Lindley said that the Parish Council should review Highways England's Lower Thames Crossing plans with a view to establishing rights of way on any footpaths on the route. Mr Theobald counselled caution as this would be construed as obstructing the process. Nevertheless the plans need to be reviewed to identify the impact on any existing rights of way.

**85 Maintenance of the Chestnut trees on Chestnut Green (70)**

Mr Lane met with KCC's Tree Officer Dan Kemsley and KCC's Landscapes Officer Aubrey Furner on 10 February 2016, and subsequently circulated an email outlining the discussions. A letter has since been received from KCC outlining their future maintenance proposals. Mr Lane will keep the situation under review.

**86 Lopping of Trees in Woodlands Lane (71)**

Mr Lane met with Tim Bell of Shorne Woods Country Park on 2 March 2016 to inspect the leaning tree. In Tim Bell's opinion, there was no sign of root disturbance at ground level and no need to have the tree felled.

Mr Bell arranged for the overhanging limb to be lopped off by his contractors, and this was carried out free of charge on 7 March 2016.

**87 Management of Trees on Shorne Parish Council Land (72)**

At the previous meeting, it was agreed to adopt the Tree Inspection Policy, which may be reviewed periodically. This has yet to be implemented.

**88 Shorne Common Rough Chestnut Butts (73)**

Mr Parmenter has offered to place some tree butts in Shorne Common Rough to deter vehicles from the grassed area. These will be supplied by the Country Park.

Mr Parmenter reported that he had left an old tree in the gap as a temporary measure to deter vehicles from the grassed area. Mr Lane will check with the Borough Council on the width of the mowers so that they can continue to carry out the grass cutting between the butts. Mr Lane will advise Mr Parmenter.

Arrangements need to also be made for permanent butts further up Woodlands Lane.

**89 Fly Tipping Notices (74)**

At the previous meeting, it was reported that two of the "No Fly Tipping" signs have been installed at Shorne Common Rough. Mr Cooper reported that he has will installed five in Shorne Ifield Road. Mr Redfern had suggested

that one should be fitted in the Crutches Lane adjacent to Crabbles Bottom. This has now been fitted.

**90     Any Other Business**

- (a)     Mr Parmenter reported that he noticed a few days ago, that a large tanker has been going down Woodlands Lane which he was unable to identify. It was reported that there is a 6'6" width restriction sign in place.
  
- (b)     Mr Parmenter wished to record his and other parishioners' appreciation for the voluntary clearing of rubbish in the parish.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.