

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee  
Meeting held on 4 February 2016 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT                      Mr R Lane (Chairman)  
   Mr J Bugg  
   Mr R Theobald  
   Mr G Dent  
   Mr M Redfern  
   Mrs S Lindley  
   Miss P Clifton

APOLOGIES                      for absence were received from Mr R Cooper  
   and Mr D Hart

**58      Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2015**

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

**59      Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**60      Telephone Kiosk on Chestnut Green (41)**

Mr Lane reported that the glass panels were replaced by BT during the latter part of November 2015.

**61      Village Hall Car Park – White Lining (55)**

The works were carried out on 22 December 2015. Mrs Ashby has arranged for regular sweeping of the edges of the car park and has thanked the Parish Council for the work carried out.

**62      Purchase of a Storage Chest for Tools & Equipment for Footpaths  
Vegetation Clearance (46)**

The storage chest has been purchased and the KCC clearance equipment collected from Mr Dinnis. Mr Redfern is now looking after the footpaths clearance equipment.

**63 Voluntary Litter Patrols**

Mr Lane reported that the next volunteer litter patrol will take place on Saturday, 5 March 2016 to coincide with the national 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. All are welcome.

Approximately twenty volunteers have expressed their interest.

Kirsty Gaunt at Gravesham Borough Council has offered to try to lend the Parish Council ten further litter picking wands to supplement the ten owned by the Parish Council. If she is unable to, the Parish Council agreed to purchase additional litter pickers.

**64 Landscaping Strip off Michael Gardens (44)**

A slightly amended version of the letter agreed at the previous meeting was sent to Mr David Hughes, CEO at Gravesham Borough Council on 24 November 2015 and a reply was received on 16 December 2015. In his reply, Mr Hughes indicated that under the terms of the licences granted by GBC, the boundary hedge is intended to be a minimum of ten feet high. It appears that the 'offender' has been reminded of his obligation to allow the hedge to grow. GBC declined the Parish Council's request that they write to all properties which adjoin the landscaping strip. Mrs Lindley considered that a further letter should be sent to GBC requesting them to send regular reminders to the licencees.

**65 Crabbles Bottom - Clearance of Vegetation (42)**

A meeting with Mr Ian Curteis of Landscape Services took place on Wednesday, 9 December 2015 to review the flailing that was carried out during 2015 and to discuss future maintenance requirement. Mr Curteis was requested to provide a quotation to continue with the flail cuts of the main meadow/orchards.

The Chairman has circulated a report and a copy of the quotations received. The Committee was invited to approve the acceptance of the quotation for £4165 + VAT. It was agreed to accept the quotation.

Mr Redfern is proceeding with the cutting of the roots on Saturday, 13 February 2016 at 10.30am. All volunteers to meet at the Crutches Lane entrance.

Mr Redfern has made an appeal for volunteers to clear vegetation to provide access to the 'hidden meadows' on 13 February 2016. A further exercise to attend to the orchard on 19 March 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.

**66 Shornemead - Re-Opening of the Level Crossing (43)**

Mr Theobald reported that no objections had been lodged by the due date of

22 January 2016 to the draft order to modify the Definitive Map. Therefore there will be no need for a public inquiry. It is believed that on seeing the Parish Council's evidence, Network Rail had decided not to appeal. Mr Theobald will email KCC to remind them to modify the Definitive Map and will keep this under review.

**67 Parish Website (48)**

At the previous meeting, it was agreed that Website reporting is to be removed from the Footpaths Agenda and in future to be reported at Council meetings.

**68 Additional Maintenance & Cutting of Greens & Verges (50)**

It was agreed to continue with the proposal to carry out an additional cut and weed treatment when the daffodils and narcissi are visible, which will provide a better idea of the extent and likely costs of any supplementary work that the Parish Council may wish to carry out in the future.

**69 Court Wood – Footpaths (51)**

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.

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.

**70 Maintenance of the Chestnut trees on Chestnut Green (56)**

Following the previous meeting, it was subsequently established that the chestnut trees on Chestnut Green are in fact KCC assets. Mr Lane met KCC's tree surgeon at Chestnut Green during December, and he agreed to arrange for the removal of the basal spurs and suckers and any dead wood.

However, KCC's tree surgeons have subsequently severely cut back one of the chestnut, leaving just a 'habitat pole'. The Chairman has requested an explanation from KCC, who claim that several large limbs were coming away from the tree.

**71 Lopping of Trees in Woodlands Lane**

At the previous meeting, Mr Parmenter raised concerns regarding a leaning tree in Woodlands Lane. Mr Lane inspected the tree on 8 November 2015, and subsequently obtained two quotations for its removal, together with the lopping of an overhanging limb on a tree nearby. Mr Lane also contacted Tim

Bell at Shorne Wood Country Park, but their operatives are not authorised to work on the highway. Mr Bell said that he would ask his contractors to provide a price, but nothing has been received. The quotations from Cobham Tree Surgery and Tree Tops Tree Surgery were circulated on 6 and 11 January 2016 respectively.

It was decided that members would inspect the tree themselves to determine whether the work was necessary.

**72 Management of Trees on Shorne Parish Council Land.**

At the previous meeting, Mrs Lindley raised the issue of the condition and maintenance of other trees on parish council land, and felt that they should be surveyed. This includes Shorne Common, Shorne Common Rough, the Recreation Ground, and possibly Crabbles Bottom. Mr Lane undertook to discuss this with Tim Bell in the first instance, and subsequently circulated a proposed Tree Management Policy on 2 January 2016 for review and approval.

It was agreed to adopt the policy, which may be reviewed periodically.

**73 Shorne Common Rough Chestnut Butts**

At the previous meeting it was reported that the chestnut butt which deters vehicular access to the green at Shorne Common Rough had disappeared. Since then, Mr Lane reported that two further butts had disappeared in early January. Mr Lane has asked Tim Bell whether Shorne Wood Country Park could supply new butts, but nothing has been received. Mr Parmenter said that he might be able to supply a suitable stake, but these were not suitable. Mr Redfern also indicated that he may be able to provide some.

The matter was deferred pending the decision regarding the tree in Woodlands Lane discussed earlier, which may provide suitable butts if it needs to be cut down.

**74 Fly Tipping Notices (57iv)**

Mr Cooper said that he had seen some “No Fly Tipping” signs available online which warn of CCTV coverage and suggested that we might consider displaying these at known ‘hot spots’. Mr Cooper will circulate details.

Mr Lane has subsequently obtained 10 “No Fly Tipping” signs free of charge from Gravesham Borough Council, although without CCTV warnings. Two have been erected at Shorne Common Rough. Mr Russell will erect up to 5 in Shorne Ifield Road. Mr Redfern suggested that one should be fitted in the Crutches Lane adjacent to Crabbles Bottom.

**75 Any Other Business**

Mrs Clifton mentioned a vehicle that regularly parks on the verge outside the

farm gates in Tanyard Hill, damaging the verge. The matter will be discussed at the next Planning & Highways meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.