

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting to be held on 23 June 2016 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT Mr R Lane (Chairman
 Mr R Theobald
 Mr M Redfern
 Mrs S Lindley

APOLOGIES were received from Mr R Cooper
 and Miss P Clifton

1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 April 2016

The minutes to be AGREED as a true record.

2 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3 Update on the Telephone Kiosk at Chestnut Green (93)

The broken glass window has not yet been replaced, and a further three panes have now been smashed. Mr Lane chased this up with BT on the 8th June 2016. Mrs Clifton has since taken over this matter and has contacted BT again, and has been advised that the parts are on order. (Fault Ref: ND8RVW07; customer.serv.payphones@bt.com; Payphone no: 01474 822226).

4 Volunteer Litter Patrols (94)

Mr Lane is proposing to arrange the next volunteer litter patrol on Saturday 17th September 2016.

5 Landscaping Strip off Michael Gardens (80)

At the previous meeting, it was reported that GBC had written to say that they had received an approach from a resident wishing to buy part of the land and incorporate it into their garden, subject to planning permission for change of use, and that GBC was minded to proceed with this proposal. Mrs Lindley had responded, indicating that the Parish Council opposes the proposed sale and would object to any planning application for change of use.

GBC responded on 4 May 2016, stating that they had decided not to proceed with any disposals of the woodland strip at the present time and will instead continue with licensing arrangements.

6 Crabbles Bottom - Clearance of Vegetation (96)

H&P Conservation Works had cut back the footpaths and bridleway during w/c 6th June. CS Landscaping Services have also carried out weed treatment of the main meadow/orchard areas. Mr Lane has reported fly tipping in the lay-by.

At the previous meeting, Mr Redfern reported that he has been in contact with Neil Coombs at Kent Trust and a site meeting has been arranged for Monday, 11 July 2016 at 2pm.

7 Shornemead Level Crossing (97)

On 27 May 2016 Mr Theobald reported that the crossing is now reopened. The gate on the south side has a new latch and there is a new white painted wooden gate on the north side. Mrs Lindley reported that a new signpost has been erected. KCC has written to the Council confirming the Modification Order. The reopening has been posted on the website, and on the facebook page with very favourable reaction, and will also be in the July issue of the Parish Magazine.

Mr Lane has suggested to Christoph Bull that he might like to consider arranging a historical walk via the crossing in the near future.

8 Review of Additional Maintenance & Cutting of Greens & Verges (98)

Mr Lawrence has completed the four additional cuts of the verges containing bulbs, carried out at 3-weekly intervals during March, April, and May.

Mr Lane considers that the work was carried out to a reasonable standard, and that the appearance was much improved compared to previous years when these verges were left uncut. Now that the cutting has reverted to GBC's monthly programme, there has been a marked deterioration of the appearance of the greens.

The Committee was invited to consider whether this should be continued in future years, including the frequency. It was agreed by members to continue with the additional cutting in future years.

9 Court Wood – Footpaths (99)

Mr Theobald has sent copies of OS maps to Mr Redfern, and that Redfern has carried out GPS surveys of a sample of the footpaths and they appear to be in accordance with the OS map. Mr Redfern considers that it might be worth getting the main paths established as PROWs, but the Ramblers Association may be better placed.

Mr Redfern has been in contact with the Ramblers Association, and it would be necessary to obtain evidence and affidavits from people who have walked the paths. It was noted that Gravesham Borough Council has previously granted consent to block off one of the pathways. There was a discussion about whether there is a path alongside Swillers Lane stream. Mr Theobald suggested that Mr Redfern contacts Robert Shove. It may also be necessary to establish who owns the various parts of Court Wood.

10 Management of Trees on Shorne Parish Council Land (100)

Mr Lane reports that he has requested a number of qualified arboriculturalists to provide quotations to carry out surveys of the trees in the Zone 1 areas (ie Shorne Common Rough - perimeter adjacent to Woodlands Lane and Brewers Road; Shorne Common - complete perimeter; and Shorne Recreation Ground - complete perimeter).

11 Shorne Common Rough Chestnut Butts (101)

Mr Parmenter previously offered to obtain some tree butts from the Country Park and to place them in Shorne Common Rough to deter vehicles from the grassed area. There are a number of other butts that have either rotted or been taken from the perimeter of the Rough. Mr Lane has contacted Tim Bell at the Country Park, who has offered to donate some logs to the council, and Mr Lane will obtain quotations for installing them.

12 Mill Hill Lane Playground (103)

Mr Lane reports that he has fitted the new swing cradle at the playground at Mill Hill Lane. GBC supplied some suitable wood chippings to go around the play equipment. Mr Bugg and Mr Lane spread the chippings and cut back vegetation on 18 June.

13 Bus Shelter at Shorne Cross Roads (104)

Mr Lane has obtained a price from Mr Vilday on 5 May 2016 for removing the ivy from the bus shelter, and instructed him to proceed. However, the work has yet to be carried out. Mr Lane has chased Mr Vilday.

14 Report on Locks at the Recreation Ground

Mrs Clifton has reported that the lock to the gate is broken. Also a number of unauthorised keys appear to be in circulation. Mr Lane will check keyholders and arrange for a new lock to be fitted and new keys to be issued.

15 Website

KCC wrote to the parish council advising that EIS is introducing a new website system, but that services would no longer be provided free of charge from October 2016. The charge would be £180 a year for the website platform and a further £60 a year for the email forwarding service, making a total cost of

£240 a year. However, KCC has since written to advise that the proposal to charge for the service has now been dropped.

Mr Lane said that whilst EIS may introduce charges at a later date, alternative website providers would also charge. Mr Lane said that he may not have the time or the expertise to set up a new website and migrate everything across, whereas EIS will migrate everything across to the new system. Mr Lane therefore recommends that we stay with EIS for the foreseeable future.

16 Any Other Business

(a) Slimming World Banner at the Village Hall

Mr Lane had received a request for approval of a 'Slimming World' banner to be displayed at the Village Hall. Members were not in agreement, and felt that this would set a precedent for other advertising. It was agreed to advise the organisation that although the Parish Council is not prepared to approve the request, there was no objection to the banner being displayed on the day that sessions take place but it needs to be removed after this.

(b) Mrs Lindley reported that the route location of the footpath near Uralite Works is inaccurately shown on the Parish Footpaths Map. She will look into this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm