

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 28 April 2016 in Shorne Village Hall**

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

APOLOGIES were received from Mr R Theobald
FOR ABSENCE and Mr R Cooper

91 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 March 2016

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

92 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

93 Update on the Telephone Kiosk at Chestnut Green (78)

Mr Lane has reported the broken glass window on the telephone kiosk to BT and will monitor progress.

94 Volunteer Litter Patrols (79)

Mr Lane has obtained a further 12 litter pickers from Gravesham Borough Council at an estimated cost of £8 each. This brings the total owned by the Parish Council up to 22.

95 Landscaping Strip off Michael Gardens (80)

On 14 March, GBC responded to the Parish Council's letter of 7 March 2016. GBC reported that a further resident has fenced off part of the landscaping strip without permission, but GBC declined to write to residents to remind them of the need for a licence and the terms of such licences.

GBC state that they have since received an approach from a resident wishing to buy part of the land and incorporate this into their garden, subject to planning permission for change of use, and that GBC is minded to proceed

with this proposal. Mr Hughes stated that he would put the matter on hold until 20 April 2016 to allow the Parish Council to consider whether it would be prepared to take over the management of the land.

Mrs Lindley has responded to GBC on 19 April 2016, indicating that the Parish Council is not prepared to take over the management of the land and that the Parish Council opposes the proposed sale and object to any planning application for change of use.

96 Crabbles Bottom - Clearance of Vegetation (81)

Following the previous meeting, Mr Lane contacted Mr Curteis of CS Landscaping Services, and it was agreed that the first cut of the meadow areas will now take place in early May. Subsequent cuts will take place in late June/early July, and in September 2016.

Mr Redfern reported that on Saturday, 19 March 2016, volunteers cleared a tractor -wide access to the three meadows. He has also been in contact with Neil Coombs at Kent Trust and a site meeting is being arranged. Members will be advised of the date.

97 Shornemead - Re-Opening of the Level Crossing (82)

Mr Theobald had 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.

98 Additional Maintenance & Cutting of Greens & Verges (83)

Following John Vilday's decision not to proceed with the work, Mr Lane instructed Colin Lawrence to cut the greens and verges where flowers are present. Mr Lawrence will carry out 4 cuts at approximately 3 weekly intervals, during week commencing 21st March, then again during w/c 11 April, and w/c 2 May, and finally during w/c 23 May, at a cost of £80 per visit. Councillors are invited to inspect the results to determine whether to continue with this in subsequent years.

Mr Lawrence declined to apply weed treatment as he felt this would not be economic. Mr Lane contacted Mrs Hornby who agreed to carry out the weed treatment.

99 Court Wood – Footpaths (84)

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.

100 Management of Trees on Shorne Parish Council Land (87)

The Tree Inspection Policy adopted earlier in the year has yet to be implemented. A tree fell over and blocked Woodlands Lane during high winds on 28 March 2106. The tree was cut back by KCC. A number of other trees were blown over during the storm. Dr Ian Craig contacted Mr Lane regarding fallen trees blocking footpath NS160. Dr Craig has subsequently cleared the trees.

101 Shorne Common Rough Chestnut Butts (88)

At the previous meeting, Mr Parmenter 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. Gravesham Borough Council advised that they need a gap of 1.6m to accommodate their mower. Mr Lane has advised Mr Parmenter accordingly. Arrangements also need to be made for permanent butts further up Woodlands Lane.

102 Fly Tipping Notices (89)

Following a request from Mr Cooper, Mr Lane has obtained 4 additional “No Fly Tipping” signs from GBC.

103 Mill Hill Lane Playground

Gravesham Borough Council emailed the Parish Council on 12 April 2016 to report that the swing cradle seat is damaged to a point where it will need replacement. Mr Lane inspected the swing on 22 April 2016 to verify the damage. He has procured a new seat at a cost of £102.80 and will arrange for it to be replaced.

104 Bus Shelter at Shorne Cross Roads

A complaint had been received regarding ivy covering the brick-built bus shelter on the northern side of Shorne Crossroads. Mr Lane inspected the shelter and requested a price from Colin Lawrence to cut the ivy back. However, Mr Lawrence has inspected the site and declined to carry out the work. Mr Lane has now asked John Vilday to have a look and to provide an estimate.

The complainant has pointed out that the bus shelter is rarely used for that purpose, but is subject to misuse, and has asked the Council to give consideration to having the shelter closed.

105 Any Other Business

- (a) Mrs Lindley reported that the Borough Council has recommended that Shorne Common Rough be part of the conservation area. She has replied advising that the Parish Council supports this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm