

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 17 November 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 Cooper
 and Mr R Hardy

31 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2016

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

32 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

33 Update on Telephone Kiosk at Chestnut Green & Post Office Green (19)

Miss Clifton reported that the light in the telephone kiosk at Chestnut Green has now been repaired. Miss Clifton reported that there is a notice in the telephone kiosk at Post Office Green, giving consultation notice that BT proposes to remove the kiosk.

Mr Lane submitted a discussion paper which recommended that the Parish Council writes to Gravesham Borough Council objecting to the proposal. It was agreed that Mrs Lindley would write to GBC on behalf of the Parish Council, providing reasons why it should be maintained as an operational telephone kiosk. If BT insists that the telephone is to be removed, the Parish Council would consider adopting it.

34 Volunteer Litter Patrols (20)

A total of 22 volunteers took part in the fourth of the Parish Council's 6-monthly litter patrols on Saturday 17 September, which was a good turn-out considering that a number of the regulars were unable to join in due to other commitments. The next litter patrol is likely to coincide with the annual National clean-up in March.

35 Crabbles Bottom – Kent Wildlife Trust to Provide a Written Report (21)

At the previous meeting, the Committee agreed a payment of £350 for written advice, following Mr Redfern's meeting with Neil Coombs of the Kent Wildlife Trust on 11 July 2016. This payment would be in the form of a donation. Mr Redfern advised that the Report is awaited.

36 Shornemead Level Crossing (22)

The Parish Council has now received a copy of the Definitive Map Modification Order 2015. Several letters and e-mails have been received from walkers thanking the Parish Council on the successful result of the re-opening of Shornemead Crossing.

37 Additional Maintenance & Cutting of Greens & Verges (23)

At the meeting on 23 June 2016, it was agreed to continue with the additional spring cutting of certain greens and verges in future years.

At the meeting on 8 September 2016, it was noted that grass cutting will revert to KCC from next April and that the service may deteriorate as a result. It was agreed to monitor the maintenance of greens and verges in Shorne and to supplement the service if the frequency or standard deteriorated.

38 Court Wood – Footpaths (24)

Mr Theobald has received a further complaint from a Higham resident that one of the pathways in Court Wood has been fenced off. This needs to be verified to make sure this is not one of the fences that were approved by Gravesham Planning in 2011. Mr Lane has submitted a discussion paper regarding the actions that the Parish Council might wish to consider with regard to the fences and the possible application for the tracks and pathways to be recognised as PROWs.

Mr Theobald reported that this was investigated by the Borough Council in 2011. Two planning applications were received and Mr Theobald asked for a site meeting. Officers at the Borough Council granted temporary consent. The applicant came back in 2014 for a permanent consent, and again temporary consent was granted. The applicant was required to produce a Management Plan which took two years.

Mr Theobald reported that he had contacted Ordnance Survey and was advised that as the Parish Council is a local authority, mapping would be free. He has opened a local authority account. KCC Statements are to be filled in. These are the evidence forms which require a map at the back. Mr Theobald will progress the matter.

39 Management of Trees on Shorne Parish Council Land (25)

Invicta Arboriculture has carried out the initial survey of trees around the perimeter of Shorne Common Rough, Woodlands Lane and The Ridgeway

and submitted their report. It recommends the felling of 3 trees to ground level within the next 3 months at Shorne Common Rough. Mr Lane will obtain quotations for the work.

40 Shorne Common Rough Chestnut Butts (26)

Mr Lane received a quotation from Mr Parmenter's builder, GW Contractors, on 19 September 2016 for the installation of the timber butts at Shorne Common Rough. At the Parish Council Meeting on 22 September, it was agreed to proceed with the work. Mr Lane emailed GW Contractors on 26 September, instructing them to proceed with the installation of 5 butts. However, the work has not been carried out and Mr Lane sent a further email on 3 November, copied to Mr Parmenter.

41 Bus Shelter at Shorne Cross Roads (27)

After the previous meeting, Mr Lane contacted Kevin Law on 9 September 2016 with a view to negotiating the price and instructing him to proceed with the clearance of the ivy from the bus shelter, but he failed to return the call.

On 8 November 2016, a small group of volunteers from Shorne Parish Council carried out the work. On removal of the ivy, it was noted that the guttering is missing. There is also some slight damage to the roof where the ivy has grown between the tiles. It was noted that the majority of the ivy is growing from gardens behind and to the side of the shelter and it was not possible to remove this.

The matter of steam cleaning the bus shelters at the Crossroads was raised. This has been carried out by Gravesham Services in the past but has not been done recently. It was agreed that Mr Lane will contact Stuart Alford at Gravesham Services to ascertain whether they would be able to carry out the cleaning of the two bus shelters.

42 Any Other Business

(a) Lorry Watch (30c)

KCC have said that they are quite happy for Shorne to carry out fixed lorry watch patrols and/or to reactively report non-compliant vehicles observed in the restricted areas. KCC agreed to supply a number of "lorry watch" signs to the parish which have now been received. Mr Lane will draft a paper in due course. To be moved to Planning & Highways Committee.

(b) Village Hall

Mr Lane reported that the Village Hall had been successful in obtaining a grant of £2,000 from Gravesham Rural Neighbourhood Forum for the refurbishment of the floor in the main hall. Cobham Parish Council were awarded a grant of £3,960 for the supply and installation of 3 defibrillators in the parish.

- (c) Mr Theobald reported that the hedge alongside the footpath going up Forge Lane on the RHS from Shorne Crossroads needs cutting back. This has been carried out by the landowner in the past.
- (d) Mrs Lindley raised the matter of the pathway extending from Swillers Lane, and the risk that this could be impacted by the Lower Thames Crossing link road. Mr Theobald said that although the route is used by horses, it is actually private land. It was suggested that it might be in the owner's interests to get this registered as a public bridleway. Mr Theobald will talk to Robert Shove about this, and raise matter of the hedge in Forge Lane.
- (e) The recent vandalism to parked cars was discussed, and Mrs Lindley raised the possibility that local residents' or businesses' CCTV cameras may have recorded some of the activity. Mr Lane is looking into the feasibility and costs associated with parish council-owned CCTV equipment for consideration.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.