

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 2 February 2017 in Shorne Village Hall**

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

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr R Cooper
 and Mr C Rea

43 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 November 2016

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

44 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

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

Miss Clifton reported that the light in the telephone kiosk at Chestnut Green was not working, but it was working again two days after she reported it to BT. Miss Clifton will contact BT to check whether they had in fact fixed it or whether there is an intermittent problem.

Mrs Lindley has objected to BT's proposal to remove the public telephone at Post Office Green, and has also pointed out that the Parish Council were not notified or consulted on the proposal. If the telephone is to be removed, the council will consider adoption of the kiosk.

46 Volunteer Litter Patrols (34)

Mr Lane reported that the next Litter Patrol will take place on Saturday 4 March, to coincide with the National GB Spring Clean initiative.

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

At a previous meeting, the Committee agreed a donation of £350 for written advice following Mr Redfern's meeting with Neil Coombs of the Kent Wildlife Trust on 11 July 2016. Mr Redfern reported that Mr Coombs has now

been in touch and has requested a map of the area. Mr Lane said that he will need to instruct our maintenance contractors soon.

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

Mr Lane has placed an instruction with Colin Lawrence to carry out cuts to the greens and verges at Post Office Green, Tanyard Hill and Chestnut Green, where bulbs are present. Mr Lawrence will carry out four cuts at 3-weekly intervals between March and May for the same price as last year.

The Parish Council will monitor the frequency and performance of KCC's grass cutting from April and will supplement the service if the frequency or standard deteriorates.

49 Pathway Obstructions in Court Wood (38)

At a previous meeting, Mr Theobald reported that he had received a further complaint from a Higham resident that one of the pathways in Court Wood had been fenced off and that this was not one of the fences that were approved by Gravesham Planning in 2011. Mr Theobald 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.

Mr Theobald reported that he had not been able to progress the matter but he is dealing with it. Mrs Lindley reported that the Ordnance Survey Historical Maps are kept in Scotland. She has purchased a map of the village (1845) from the Kent Library in Maidstone. She also went onto the GBC website, which showed there were signs of pathways on the western side. She tabled a map from the Land Registry, which showed various parts of the wood under different ownership. The Land Registry is to be asked who owns the plots of land, and also John Lambell who has sold off parts of the wood.

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

At the previous meeting, it was reported that Invicta Arboriculture had carried out the initial survey of trees around the perimeter of Shorne Common Rough and their report recommended the felling of 3 trees. Subsequent to the meeting, Mr Redfern carried out the work, assisted by Mr Lane.

51 Shorne Common Rough Chestnut Butts (40)

Despite reminders, Mr Parmenter's builder, GW Contractors, has not responded to the request to proceed with the installation of the 5 timber butts at Shorne Common Rough at a cost of £350 plus VAT. This is the third contractor approached.

Mr Lane asked the Committee to consider whether there is any point in continuing with this, since the timber butts do not deter motorcyclists or serve any useful purpose. Mr Theobald and Mrs Lindley felt that further efforts should be made to find another contractor to carry out this work.

52 Bus Shelter at Shorne Cross Roads (41)

At the previous meeting, the cleaning the bus shelters at the Crossroads was raised. Mr Lane has since contacted Stuart Alford at Gravesham Services who readily agreed to arrange for the cleaning of the two bus shelters.

53 Hedgerow Alongside Forge Lane (42c)

At the previous meeting, Mr Theobald reported that the hedgerow on the western side of Forge Lane was overgrown and was obstructing the footpath. Mr Shove had maintained this in the past and Mr Theobald undertook to raise the matter with him. The hedgerow has subsequently been cut back.

54 Swillers Lane Pathway Extension (42d)

At the previous meeting, 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, but that it might be in the owner's interests to get this registered as a public bridleway. Mr Theobald undertook to mention this to Mr Shove, but the action is outstanding.

55 Discussion on CCTV Considerations (42e)

Mr Lane has made preliminary enquiries and submitted a paper on CCTV for consideration. The likely cost of a 2-camera hard-wired base station is in the region of £2,000 to £3,500, plus £1,500 to £2,000 for each additional wireless camera.

It was agreed that Mr Lane would invite tenders for the installation of CCTV to provide coverage at the locations discussed, but that the proposal would be publicised before the final decision is made to proceed.

56 Michael Gardens Landscaping Screening Strip

A resident from Astra Drive has contacted Mr Theobald by email, expressing concern about the thinning of trees to the landscaping screening strip off Michael Gardens. Mr Lane has drafted a reply to send to the resident and Mrs Lindley will write to GBC informing them of the correspondence received.

57 Defibrillator Considerations

Mr Lane has circulated a discussion paper on points to consider if the Parish Council wishes to pursue the purchase of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). A discussion took place on whether the Council would want to proceed and on possible locations. Mr Lane agreed to discuss this with the Village Hall Committee to see whether they would be willing to undertake this, possibly with a grant from the Parish Council.

It was noted that Shorne Football Club does not have one and has not considered getting one.

58. Shorne Common Play Area - Annual Inspection

Mr Lane has circulated a copy of the annual inspection of the play area at Shorne Common. Recommended action includes the removal of the bench seat and the addition of more wood chippings up to a depth of 300mm. Mr Lane asked the Committee to consider whether the bench should be removed, repaired, or replaced. Members agreed that the bench should be repaired or replaced. Mr Lane also considers that it may be impractical to have wood chippings to the full depth of 300mm. This was identified in the report as “low risk”. It is noted that Mr Rea has raised the question of whether there is a demand for adult fitness equipment.

59 Any Other Business

- (a) To consider comments received from Mr Rea regarding business advertising signs and “No to Option C” posters in the village. Advertising signs outside The Nook and for the See Ho were discussed. Mr Theobald reported that The Nook is permitted appropriate signage, but it was the additional large pet-food advertisement signs that were the issue. Mr Theobald spoke to the owner at The Nook and the signs have been taken down. The signs advertising the See Ho are unlicensed signs, remote from the premises. With regards to the “No to Option C” signs, the Committee considered that residents would not be happy to see any “No to Option C” posters removed at this stage.
- (b) The Committee discussed any action that the Council may take regarding the horses kept in the field adjacent to Thong Lane, which are reported to be straying into neighbouring property. Mr Lane is to include this in the letters to be sent to GBC, Kent Police, and Mr Rossi regarding off-road motorbike disturbances (see item below).
- (c) The Committee discussed any action that the Council may take regarding further reports of nuisance caused by off-road motor bikes adjacent to Claylane Woods. It was agreed that Mr Lane would report the matter to GBC, Kent Police, and Mr Rossi. Mr Theobald would provide an address for Mr Rossi.
- (d) Mrs Lindley discussed some of the conditions attached to the planning consent for expansion of RS Skips at Apex Business Park. It was agreed that recommendations would be made regarding the colour of the building and external lighting restrictions.
- (e) Mrs Lindley raised KFRS Fire Hydrant Review Meetings taking place around the County.
- (f) Mr Hardy asked if there was any information on the parish boundary. The Clerk will send him the information.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.