

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee  
Meeting held on 12 September 2013 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT Mrs H Shove (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr M Brett,  
Mr R Theobald  
Mr R Dinnis

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

**8 Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 June 2013**

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

**9 New Siting of Notice Board in Thong Lane**

The Parish Council would like to re-site the notice board in Thong Lane as the present location is a hazard to get to, due to the speed of traffic. An alternate location is proposed in Thong Lane. Mr Brett will approach Mr Turnbull to see if the parishioner will allow the Parish Council to have a notice board on his property.

**10 Wall at Village Hall, Adjacent to 14 The Street (4)**

Mr Theobald reported that Mr Bugg had obtained a quotation which is in excess of £1,000.00 for the repairs to the wall at the village hall, adjacent to 14 The Street. Further quotations are to be sought.

**11 Footway in Forge Lane - Fencing (5)**

The Clerk had been contacted by Tara O'Shea at Kent Highways, advising that she is looking into the remedial works to the fencing in Forge Lane. Her contractors have confirmed that the surplus timber was stored in the field where there are horses and she was enquiring as to the owners of the land. A reply has been sent, asking her to contact Mrs Shove about this.

**12 Recreation Ground**

Council had received a copy of a letter from Mr RC Reeves at the Old Pump Cottage, The Ridgeway sent to and forwarded on from the Horticulture Dept at GBC. Mr Reeves was advised by GBC that the land is owned by the Parish Council. Mr Reeves raised several issues about activities at the Recreation Ground, the Football Club, the lock to the gate and car parking. It was agreed to reply to Mr Reeve's letter accordingly.

**13 Rights of Way (6)**

Shornemead - Re-Opening of the Level Crossing (6a)

Mr Theobald has sent County Councillor, Bryan Sweetland all the papers related to this, who has sent the papers onto the PROW Officer at KCC.

**14 Any Other Business**

- (a) Mr Theobald had previously reported that with regard to the landscaping strip off Michael Gardens, he had contacted Mr Miller who in turn has raised the matter twice with the officers at the Borough Council. The screening is an issue and the Parish Council does not want more licences being issued to residents. Still awaiting a reply from the Borough Council. Mr Theobald will contact Mr Miller again.
- (b) Mr Wilkinson reported at a previous full Council meeting that he had received complaint from a parishioner in Racefield Close about manure being dumped in the hedgerow of the field opposite Chestnut Green. The manure has begun to topple into the adjacent roadway and is being spread by passing traffic. Awaiting to see what works Mr Colbourne will be carrying out. The matter is to be kept under observation.
- (c) The treatment of the ragwort at Crabbles Bottom has been carried out and seems to be highly effective.
- (d) Mr Dinnis reported that he will be placing an item on footpaths in the next edition of the parish magazine. He reported that he and Mr Wilkinson had met to discuss the possibility of getting parishioners involved in keeping the footpaths clear, with appropriate support. KCC have informed the Parish Council that following recent pilot events organised in partnership with the Ramblers Association, they would be pleased to run a training event, lasting up to one day, for parish volunteers. These would deal with such issues as health and safety, use of equipment and insurance. After attending one of these events, parishioners would be free to choose when and how often they would like to get involved. The Parish Council will meet the expenses of all those attending these training sessions, which will be an essential requirement for those undertaking this Council-supported activity. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Mr Wilkinson. On any other problems related to footpaths, parishioners are asked to contact the Parish Clerk. This was agreed by members.

- (e) Mr Theobald reported that he has the drawings ready now and Gravesend Fencing will be asked for a quotation for the repairs to the railings on Post Office Green.
- (f) It was agreed that an item should be placed in the parish magazine, drawing parishioners' attention to the GBC's Housing Needs Survey which they will be receiving from the Borough Council to be filled in and returned.
- (g) Mrs Shove drew attention to Crabbles Bottom where the bridlepath and the foot-path at the Bowesden Lane (brambles end) end need to be cleared. Kevin Law is to be asked for a quotation for the works.
- (h) Mrs Shove drew attention to the footpath from Malthouse Lane to Crown Lane and also Butchers Hill which need clearing of overgrowth. She will contact Mr Quinnell to carry out the works.
- (i) Kevin Law is to be asked for a quotation for clearing the footpath on The Ridgeway at Woodlands Lane, just behind the tree screen.
- (j) Mrs Shove reported on the last meeting of the Cobham/Shorne Countryside Partnership Liaison Group which she attended where the proposed Lower Thames Crossing was discussed. They want a tunnel after Shorne Woods Country Park to connect to Essex. Essex has no funds for this. If this were to come about, KCC would have to provide an alternative area for Shorne Woods Country Park which would be swallowed up. £6 billion has been set aside for the tunnel and roads. Money will also be forthcoming for works on the other side of Brewers Road.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.