

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee  
Meeting held on 27 April 2017 in Shorne Village Hall**

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

ALSO IN Mr D Parmenter, Woodlands Lane  
ATTENDANCE Mr A Watson, Thong Lane

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

**79 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 March 2017**

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

**80 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Defibrillators and Shorne Common Rough will be dealt with under “Any Other Business”.

**81 To receive an update on maintenance of Crabbles Bottom (65)**

Mr Lane has liaised with Mr Redfern and has instructed Landscape Services to carry out just two cuts of the main meadow area this year, one in May and the other in late July or August plus just one cut of the smaller inset meadow areas in late July or August after the flowers have gone to seed. The situation will be monitored to see whether this is sufficient or whether selective weed treatment and/or a further cut is required.

With regards to the footpaths and bridleway, Mr Lane has instructed HP Conservation Works to carry out two cuts this year, one mid-season and one at the end of the season.

Fly tipping continues to be a problem in Crutches Lane, which detracts from approaches to Crabbles Bottom. Approximately 15 metres of fencing including posts has been knocked down, possibly to facilitate fly tipping, and a

further 15 metres of fencing is damaged. Mr Lane will endeavour to obtain quotes for the repairs.

**82 Maintenance & Cutting of Greens & Verges (66)**

Colin Lawrence has carried out 3 of the 4 supplementary cuts to the verges and greens at Post Office Green, Tanyard Hill, and Chestnut Green.

Mr Lane distributed a revised paper on 23 March 2017, which included revised maps and descriptions of the verges and greens in Shorne that have now reverted to KCC for cutting, together with proposed actions should the standard or frequency of grass cutting deteriorate. Mr Lane proposes to obtain quotations for grass cutting from suitable contractors, but has not done so yet. Members are invited to review the proposal and comment as necessary.

Mr Lane has made initial enquiries to KCC to find out how much they would pay the Parish Council if it took over responsibility from KCC but has received no reply.

Mrs Hornby has contacted Mr Lane regarding the weeds affecting the grass at Tanyard Hill and Chestnut Green. It is suggested that this is kept under review until the situation regarding the cutting of the verges is clearer.

**83 Pathway Obstructions in Court Wood (67)**

No further progress to report.

**84 Swillers Lane Pathway Extension (69)**

At a previous meeting, Mr Theobald undertook to contact Mr Shove's daughter to point out that it might be in the owner's interests to get the private pathway extending from Swillers Lane registered as a public bridleway. Mr Lane has provided Mr Theobald with contact details, and Mr Theobald will follow this up.

**85 CCTV Proposals (70)**

The closing date for quotations and comments is 28 April 2017. Mr Lane reports that he has only received two quotations and may try to obtain a third if it is decided to proceed. Comments have been received from 6 parishioners so far, 4 broadly supportive and 2 not in favour. Comments received will be considered as part of the decision-making process.

**86 Michael Gardens Landscaping Screening Strip (71)**

Mr Lane asked whether there has been any further correspondence from GBC regarding the cutting back of trees at the rear of Fairfields, Michael Gardens, and Wykeham Close. Mrs Lindley reported that GBC had missed the point in her last letter. She will write to GBC again.

**87     Shorne Common Play Area - Annual Inspection (73)**

Graham Marchant of GBC has agreed to supply wood chippings for the play area. These will need some help to spread when they are delivered.

The gate post to the car park has rotted and snapped off. Mr Dore has re-fixed the post on a metal stake but the post needs to be replaced. The gates were installed by Gravesend Fencing. Mr Lane has twice requested them to quote for replacing the damaged gate post but has received no response, and phoned them again this week, but they have ceased trading. Mr Lane has therefore contacted Ian Germaney for a price.

**88     Adult Fitness Equipment (74)**

Mr Rea has circulated a brochure for outdoor fitness equipment that he believes would be an excellent idea for Michael Gardens play area. Mr Lane has suggested that Mr Rea should produce a costed proposal for the items of equipment proposed. The Parish Council could then consider looking into the demand for such facilities and proposals for funding or grants.

**89     Fly Tipping in Shorne Ifield Road**

Mr Lane sent a further note to Stuart Alford about the progress GBC is making with combatting fly tipping, but has not managed to make much progress with suitable signage at this stage, and questioned whether it would have any effect. Any suggestions would be welcome. A discussion took place and it was pointed out that fly-tipping is a national problem.

**90     Any Other Business**

- (a) Miss Clifton reported that the gate at the recreation ground has dropped. Mr Lane will ask someone to have a look at this.
- (b) Mr Parmenter reported on fly tipping at Shorne Common Rough and that the Borough Council had cleared the rubbish quickly.
- (c) Mr Parmenter reported that on Bank Holiday Monday a tree had been set on fire in Shorne Common Rough. The following Wednesday, some children had started a fire. He called the police who did not attend, but the fire brigade attended. The fire brigade had attended some other incidents at King Farm dealing with fires. The reported fire at Crabbles Wood was also mentioned.

Mr Parmenter suggested additional signage. Mr Lane said that this will be considered by the Parish Council. It was also reported that the existing 'village green' sign is being obstructed by foliage. Mr Lane will look into whether sign can be moved.

- (d) Mr Watson sought advice on the position of clearing weeds on footpath NS170 which he was willing to carry out with a brushcutter. He also asked if cut vegetation can be left in situ. Mr Lane said that there is no problem leaving cuttings where they lie. Cutting footpath vegetation is officially

KCC's responsibility and should be reported on their on-line reporting system. However, Mr Theobald said that the parish council would be grateful for any footpath trimming that Mr Watson would be prepared to undertake.

Mr Watson also pointed out that on the other side of the footpath, there is quite a long hedge. He was aware that there had been a large fire in the woods where the pathway joins Shorne Ifield Road. There was a discussion on whether the pathway is a registered public right of way.

- (e) On defibrillators, Miss Clifton will check KALC for prices. She also reported that Cobham had defibrillators installed that day. She will try to obtain more information regarding their suppliers, costs, etc, for passing to the Village Hall Management Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.