

## **MEETING No. 4**

# **SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee Meeting held on 8 February 2018 in Shorne Village Hall**

#### **PRESENT**

Mr R Lane (Chairman)  
Mr R Theobald  
Mr J Bugg  
Mr C Rea  
Mrs S Lindley  
Miss P Clifton

#### **APOLOGIES**

for absence were received from Mr R Cooper  
and Mr R Hardy

#### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr A Watson (parishioner from Thong)

#### **50 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2017**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

#### **51 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

##### **Footpath NS167 (34)**

At the previous meeting, parishioner Mr Watson raised the issue of damaged steps and horse riding on Footpath NS167. Mr Lane reported this to Tim Bell at Shorne Wood Country Park and to John Pelham, KCC Rights of Way Officer. Mr Bell confirmed that the boundary fence had been repaired. Mr Pelham inspected the steps and did not consider the damage warranted repairs. Mr Lane had spoken to Mr Watson, who would keep the matter under review.

Mr Watson reported that another section of the country park boundary fence is down. He has reported this to the Country Park. Mr Watson reported that the steps are now virtually non-existent and hazardous to users of the footpath. Mr Lane undertook to put Mr Watson in touch with Mr Pelham of KCC.

#### **52 CCTV Report (21)**

No further activity to report since the previous meeting. The policies and procedures will be revised to comply with the requirements of the forthcoming EU General Data Protection Regulation. Mr Powers of Sandpit Cottage in The Ridgeway has installed private CCTV following damage to his

car windows and has said that the Parish Council could have access to images if the need arises.

**53      Shorne Recreational Ground Report (43)**

(a) Keys

Mr Lane reported that he is having difficulty in obtaining keys for the security padlock on the main gate. He ordered two in October 2017 but it transpires that Federal's UK distributor has gone out of business. One of Mr Lane's keys was given to Mr Cater of the football club, and the second key has been given to Miss Clifton to replace the one given to Ms Batchelor of Hanbury Cottages, so Mr Lane now has no key to the gate.

(b) Litter

Miss Clifton previously reported that litter had been left at the Recreation Ground, particularly after big matches. Mr Lane wrote and subsequently spoke to Lee Boyson on this matter. Miss Clifton will keep this under review.

**54      Update on Maintenance at Crabbles Bottom (40)**

(a) Approval of Repairs to Bridleway Fence

Mr Lane circulated a report on 14 November 2017 which identified two further sections of the fence alongside the bridleway which are collapsing. Quotations for repairs were obtained from AGS Hoarding & Fencing Ltd and circulated on 24 November 2018. The expenditure is not included in the budget or forecast and would need to come from contingencies. The Committee approved Mr Lane's proposal to proceed with the work.

(b) Approval of Footpath and Bridleway Vegetation Maintenance for 2018

Mr Lane proposed to continue with H&P Conservation Works Ltd to cut back the vegetation on the footpaths and bridleway. It has been reported that the bridleway needs additional cutting back at the Bowesden Lane end, and this will be brought to their attention. The Committee approved this.

Mrs Lindley reported that the bridleway is not shown as a PROW on the Definitive Map. It was pointed out that it did not exist prior to the building of the Wainscott Bypass. As it is owned by the Parish Council, there is nothing to prevent the Parish Council from requesting that it is registered as a PROW. Mrs Lindley suggested this could be advantageous if it opened up sources of maintenance and other funding. Mr Lane undertook to see if he had a copy of the Deeds for Crabbles Bottom.

(c) Approval of Meadow Maintenance for 2018

The service provided by Landscape Services was not satisfactory during 2017 possibly due to personnel changes, and Mr Lane has obtained an alternative quotation from Tom Gozzett of Warren Farm. The price quoted is favourable, although the scope needs to be clarified. Mr Lane will check with Mr Gozzett about his Public Liability Insurance cover. The Committee approved Mr Lane's proposal to engage Tom Gozzett to carry out the work this year.

**55      Shorne Common (Mill Hill Lane)**

(a) Approval for Trees Remedial Work

Following the tree survey carried out by Invicta Arboriculture, the Planning Authority has given consent for the remedial work, and Mr Lane has subsequently requested quotations from three tree surgeons to carry out the work. Mr Lane pointed out that there may be a need to install chestnut butts near the entrance after the work has been carried out. It was agreed to accept the most compliant quotation offering best value for money and to proceed with the remedial work.

(b) Approval of Play Equipment Maintenance

A copy of the annual inspection report was circulated on 8 December 2017. This stated that "The play area is in good condition and well maintained. Improvements have been made since last year". No action is required, other than the usual annual clean, weed, and new bark under the play equipment.

Mr Lane proposes to instruct Mr Vilday of All Seasons Garden & Landscaping to carry out the annual weed clearance, replenishment of bark, and cleaning of the play equipment in the Spring. He will find out whether GBC has any suitable bark chippings, alternatively he would obtain them commercially.

**56    Michael Gardens – Seating (47)**

Mr Rea has liaised with Gravesham Borough Council, and they have kindly installed two park benches adjacent to Footpath NS169 near Michael Gardens. Mr Rea reported that favourable comments have been received and the benches are being used. Mr Rea has thanked the Borough Council.

**57    Litter Patrol (39)**

The next Litter Patrol will take place on 3 March 2018 to coincide with National Spring Clean weekend events. If there are sufficient volunteers, it is intended to include Shorne Common Rough which is heavily littered.

**58    Pathway Obstructions in Court Wood (41)**

Mr Theobald reported on a planning issue, that he had spoken to the Enforcement Officer at GBC who reported that the person who has enclosed part of the land in the central area and built a shed has been contacted and advised that a planning application is required for continued use. A section of ancient track is not shown on their submitted plan. Mr Theobald had arranged a date to walk the pathways, but this had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

Mrs Lindley reported on difficulties experienced in obtaining land ownership details from the Land Registry. This requires payment of the correct amount in advance, but the correct amount cannot be properly established until the number of owners is known. Her cheque had been returned but she will make another attempt to get the information.

Mrs Lindley has contacted John Pelham, the KCC Footpaths Officer about the availability of GPS equipment, but he had referred the enquiry to the Public Rights of Way department at KCC who did not fully answer the questions either although it was implied that it is not our responsibility to map the pathways in detail, this is KCC's responsibility later. All that is required is a simple diagram for the public questionnaire that asks users about the tracks on the maps plus any other routes that they also use to connect them up.

Mrs Lindley tabled a copy of a Strava Global Heat Map (see <https://labs.strava.com/heatmap/#16.20/0.44496/51.41434/bluered/all>) which she had found via a reference in a GBC document. This provides an indication of the level of usage of the various pathways, produced by mobile phone GPS signals. Mr Rea pointed out that some of the stronger tracks may be the result of the landowner legitimately walking on their property. Nevertheless, the weak track on one of the pathways to Gravesend Road raised a question about its accessibility.

Mrs Lindley had also discovered a problem with a mapped track from Court Wood to Pear Tree Lane, between Shorne Mead and Springhill, which is supposed to be maintained and fenced by Shorne Mead but appears to have fallen into disrepair or been blocked. Further investigation is needed followed by contacting the landowner.

Mrs Lindley had been told that a previous Parish Councillor had regularly walked all the footpaths and Mrs Martin agreed to provide her with contact details. Mrs Lindley will also contact Martin Redfern.

#### **59    Swillers Lane Pathway Extension (42)**

At the previous meeting, Mr Theobald reported that the land in question is farmed by Lilllchurch Farm in Higham and is owned by St John's College, Cambridge. He has spoken to the farmer who said he would send Mr Theobald the agent's details. Mr Theobald will contact the farmer again.

Mrs Lindley noted that the Strava heat map showed which routes were being used between Shorne Village and Court Wood.

#### **60    Approval of Supplementary Cutting of Greens & Verges**

As in previous years, Mr Lane requested approval to instruct Colin Lawrence to carry out 4 supplementary spring cuts to those greens and verges where bulbs are planted. The Committee agreed to this.

#### **61    Any Other Business**

- (a) The Clerk had received notification to renew the Parish Council's KALC password. Following the meeting, the Clerk had contacted KALC and was advised that the password only lasts for a year and was due for renewal. This has now been carried out. Miss Clifton reported that she had contacted KALC

about a password for herself to access their website. Other Parish Councillors would have to request a personal password to access the KALC website.

- (b) The Committee agreed to reimburse Mr Bugg the sum of £95.84 for materials used on the notice boards, the receipts for which had been lost in the post.
- (c) Mrs Lindley enquired whether any more Parish Surveys had been received by Mrs Martin but there had not been any, just one handed in by a member.
- (d) Mrs Clifton referred to the “Peninsula Times” which some members had recently received for the first time. It includes an article about the Rochester Bridge Wardens service at Rochester Cathedral that features Mr Russell Cooper, and another recording that the Community Warden Steve Gray had retired.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08pm.