

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 25th March 2021 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT

Miss P Clifton (Chairman)
Mrs L McCluskey (Vice Chair)
Mrs S Poole (Parish Clerk)
Mr R Theobald
Mrs S Lindley
Mr R Lane
Mr R Hardy
Ms A Franks

Apologies: Mr C Rea

13. To approve the minutes of Footpaths, Properties and Greens meeting held on 11th February 2021

These were all **AGREED** as a true record.

14. Any Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda.

No matters arising from the Minutes

15. Update on Shorne Common - Play Equipment to receive and note a report on progress with the proposed upgrade of the play area at Shorne Common, and:-

16. Update on Shorne Common Play Area

Mr Lane gave a report on the update of the play area, he hoped that all Members had time to read the report that was sent out with the agenda on the 18th March 2021.

The cost of the play equipment is likely to be around £25,000. The basic scope of the play equipment includes 2 swings, one for toddlers and one for older children, the Hide & Slide tower for toddlers, the Troll's Shelter tower for older children, a see-saw, and a carousel.

As you know, we have been successful in obtaining a £15k grant from Veolia. With the £5k from Kent County Council, and offers of up to £2,500 in private donations, we have now secured £22,500 funding towards the scheme. The £15,000 grant from Veolia is subject to a £1,500 payment from a Contributing Third Party.

Mr Lane would like to propose that Shorne Parish Council pays the £1,500 Contributing Third Party payment, and he also proposes that the Parish Council agrees to contribute a further £2,500, bringing the total funding up to £25,000. Mr Lane Proposes this and Mr Hardy seconds this proposal all in agreement.

Mr Lane asked if we are all agreed with the scope of the play equipment, I would approval like to order the play equipment as soon as the grant is authorised by Veolia. Mr Theobald seconded this proposal all agreed.

I have also applied for up to £10k funding from Gravesham Borough Council, based on an aspirational scope which would enable us to establish an adventure trail, and improve the play area with a 2 or 3 bar fence and some seating. The latest information I have is very encouraging. Gravesham Borough Council is considering funding up to one third of qualifying schemes, up to a maximum of £10,000. However, if Gravesham Borough Council funds are not forthcoming, we will need to contribute more if we aspire to having an adventure trail or other enhancements.

Mr Lane asked how much would the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute towards the play area, over and above the £4k already committed, if Gravesham Borough Council do not contribute, or are only prepared to contribute a lower amount? Mrs McCluskey asked what was put into the budget for the project, Ms Clifton said we had put in £6k for a undefined project. Mr Theobald proposed that we put another £3k if Gravesham Borough Council do not give us the £10k grant.

Mr Lane said the picnic benches he was looking at are around £600 each these can be used for disabled people as well.

Mr Theobald asked how the equipment are including play area will be secured, Mr Lane said that the equipment will be insured and Root Fast Earth Anchors will be used on Benches and Picnic Benches.

This could be incorporated with the play area upgrade. Gravesham Borough Council's sign may need repositioning, and it may be appropriate to replace this with a Shorne Parish Council sign, this is included in the budget figures.

In order to release the grant, Veolia need confirmation of the Main and Alternative Contacts, and to have someone authorised to sign the Finance Agreement and Contributing Third Party declaration forms, can I suggest that I and Pauline continue as the contacts, and that I am given delegated authority for signing the forms. Can I have your approval Mr Theobald proposed this and Mr Hardy seconded this.

Ms Franks asked about maybe asking the Parishioners if they would like to do a memorial seating area or bench, Mr Lane said there are 2 benches there presently that are memorial benches as one bench went missing last year so we bought a new one then the old one turned up, so we now have 2, so feels that we do not need any more in that area. Mrs Poole confirmed that the was £6k in there for a project as well as £1k in their for picnic benches. Mrs McCluskey said that was originally was for Michael Gardens which the Parish Council are now getting free through Gravesham Borough Council.

Mr Lane and Ms Clifton has a meeting with Redlynch on Monday 29th March to discuss the final design.

17. Update on Crabbles Bottom

Ms Clifton reported that Tom Gozzett will be asked to do 1st cut in a couple of weeks time. The 1st cut last year was on 12th April, although Tom didn't invoice until May. There were 4 cuts last year, plus an extra one FOC in November to try out his new tractor.

18. Shorne Common Rough

Mr Clifton checked how many gaps in butts, there are approx. 6 -7 butts needed. John Vilday has given a price for a telegraph pole of £108, more than we originally thought, which he could cut into 5 posts. The part going into the ground would then be painted with bitumen. John has fitted some 5 years ago and they are still in place, or we could get butts from the Country Park and John could soak them in a drum of oil to make them more durable. Mr Theobald proposed that we get the telegraph poles and 2 telegraph poles, so we have some spare, Mr Lane seconded this.

19. Recreation Ground Gate

New sign fixed to gate by Mr Lane on 22nd Feb. Unfortunately, AGS still have not treated the gate so Ms Clifton will remind them in an email. Mr Lane has bought a hook which can be fixed to the existing metal post and will hold the gate open when cars are driving in. Ms Clifton neighbour has agreed to fix the hook and this should be done shortly.

20. Footpath NS166 (Highbank)

John Pelham agreed the siting of the footpath sign on 1st March. The old stone sign was to be stored in Mr Riddick's garage to be collected by Kent County Council at a later date. John Pelham was also satisfied with the surface of the footpath. On 6th March Mr Theobald, Mr Bugg, and Ms Clifton met on site to take measurements for the new drawing. Mr Theobald is going to speak to Ms Franks to get it transferred to auto-cad. It was noticed that some geo fabric was sticking out from the path. Mr Bugg later mentioned this to Mr Riddick who has rectified it.

21. Supplementary Verge Cutting

Colin Lawrence has agreed to do 5 cuts again this year at the same price of £80 per cut. The 1st cut was carried out on the 24th March.

22. Chestnut Corner Notice Board

As agreed, Ms Clifton has obtained some approximate quotes for a new notice board at Chestnut Corner. These are for a board which would take 8 X A4 posters (4 across, 2 down) which is slightly larger than the existing one.

The prices exclude the cost of a header board which appears to be approx £200. It may be possible to fit the new board onto the existing posts.

Greenbarnes Man-made Timber £720.60

Noticeboards Online Wood effect recycled Aluminium £888.00

Fitzpatrick Woolmer Recycled Plastic ££810 (mounted on posts £1,085)

A discussion was had about the 3 prices, it was agreed to get a full quotation from Greenbarnes with the header of Shorne Parish Council, catches on the noticeboard rather than a lock and if it could be out on the existing posts or if new posts would have to be installed as this is larger than our current one.

23. New Signs at Shorne Common

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Lane produced a Parking sign which looks fine, which state no overnight parking, like the one at Shorne Football Ground. Mrs McCluskey will speak to her friend Tom to see if he can make it but would need some sort of payment something like a bottle of wine as previously agreed. Ms Clifton will send the information over to Mrs McCluskey with sizes so it can be ordered, it's the same size as Shorne Recreation Ground with holes in the same place, same size font etc.

Existing Shorne Common sign measures 2ft wide, 18 inches deep. New sign could be larger, but we would need new posts, the existing posts are rotting away and are loose in the ground. The wording needs to be agreed for this new sign, whether we include the wording that the Common was gifted by Earl of Darnley, as this is on the new plaque recently fitted to the old bench. It was agreed that this would be put on hold until the play area is finished.

24. Update on reported sink hole

Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy looked at the hole just off Muggins Lane on 13th March, Mrs Poole shared the map. Mr Lane spoke to David Shearer as to whether it was on his land. Mr Lane was told no; it was on his neighbour's land and he was aware of it.

The depth and the diameter of the hole are both approx. 5ft 7in and the distance from the path approx. 50ft. It looked as though a warning cone had been placed at the edge of the hole, but this had been blown into the hole so wasn't visible from the path. Mr Hardy has since walked the area again and there is no change.

25. Court Lodge Verge

Ms Clifton reported that Celia Burns had contacted her regarding the verge on the corner of Court Lodge/Tanyard Hill (North side). Celia is a volunteer with Kent Wildlife Trust and is enquiring if the verge could be used for planting wild flowers or possibly be encompassed by Kent County Council's 'Kent Plan Bee'. Plan Bee is described as 'ensuring the land and spaces for which Kent County Council is responsible continues to be managed for the benefit of pollinators. This includes roadside verges, parks and any other land the council owns, manages or can influence.'

Celia has contacts at Kent Wildlife Trust who can point her in the right direction at Kent County Council.

A discussion was had, and it was felt that the Parish Council would be more exactable to have something like Daffodils, Crocus, or Primroses on the land in clusters like other grass verges in the area, as wildflowers could go into people gardens from there seeds as bulbs cannot go into someone's else's garden. Mr Theobald said Mrs Hornby did all the Daffodils on the other side years ago through the Parish Council.

26. Any other business

Litter Patrol - Mr Lane reported that the litter patrol in Shorne is scheduled for this Saturday 27th March. Approximately 48 volunteers will be taking part, as well as Russell Cooper's contingent in Shorne Ifield. Another 10 volunteers are taking part on other days, so we have over 60 people taking part. Our stock of litter pickers has

become depleted over the past 5 years, Mr Lane has obtained 10 more at a cost of £48.24 plus VAT, and have borrowed 10 more from GBC.

War Memorial – Mr Lane reported the cleaning has been carried out on 24th March and it looks good. We will need to consider some minor repairs to the joints and the base plinth. Mr Lane will talk to Mr Bugg to see what we can do with the lime cement.

Mr Lane reported that we have a mystery Camper on Shorne School Common, the police were at the common today looking for him, Mr Lane is not sure if they moved him on or if he had already gone. Mr Hardy walked up there the other day with Ms Clifton and looked around, and left it so he knew someone knew he was there, but when Mr Hardy walked up there today around 15.00 he was gone, there was a bag of things left in a tree which Mr Hardy knocked down but did not have anything to pick it up with, Mr Lane said the litter pickers on Saturday will clear the area.

Mr Lane asked if we had got anywhere with the hedge row at Bowesden Lane, Mrs Lindley looked at this the other day, and it is not too bad at the moment, but has taken a photography and will report it to Kent County Council. It's the actual trunks of the hedgerow that are protruding so will need to be dug out really. The tyre tracks on the verge looks like it is HGV's turning as the road is wide enough unless it is 2 cars trying to get past each other.

Mr Theobald reported that a Parishioner has been in contact with him regarding the felling of trees on Pear Tree Lane, Ms Clifton said when she walked it with Mr Hardy the other week the gentleman who was cutting them down said they were coppicing, Mr Theobald said he will investigate this further with Ms Clifton.

Mrs McCluskey asked if we had heard any more regarding the Telephone Boxes, Mrs Lindley reported that the old notice is still there and nothing else has been put up, and it as felt that if we enquire about how often it is used, it may then be taken away, so it was felt that nothing should be done, Mrs Lindley has been in recent contact with Gravesham Borough Council asking if they had heard anything, she has not heard anything yet.

Ms Clifton will however report again the Chestnut Green telephone box as we were waiting in the light to be fixed in this one. Ms Clifton has cleaned the telephone boxes recently.

Mrs Poole reported that Kent County Council were pruning at the bus shelter on Tanyard Hill as well as Chestnut Corner, no notification was received from Kent County Council on this.

Date of next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Council meeting. 10th June 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.03

Signed Ms Clifton:..... Dated:.....