

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee  
Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in Shorne Village Hall**

**PRESENT**

Miss P Clifton (Chairman)  
Mrs L McCluskey (Vice Chair)  
Mr R Theobald  
Mrs S Lindley  
Mr R Hardy

**Apologies**

Mr J Bugg  
Mr R Lane

**In attendance**

4 members of the Public

62. **Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021:** These minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr Hardy seconded by Mrs McCluskey. All agreed.

63. **Any Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda.**

No matters arising from the Minutes

64. **Recreation Ground - Signing of the Lease.**

Mr L Boyson, Mr D Cater and Mr P Reeves attended and signed the lease amendments in the presence of Mr Theobald and Mrs Poole and witnessed by Ms Clifton. Mr A Wigg also attended.

65. **Recreation Ground – Rubbish/Licencing**

Ms Clifton thanked Mr Cater for the removal of the rubbish which had built up to the side of the pavilion. Ms Clifton reminded the lease holders that the sticky tapes, which are used to keep the footballers' socks in position, should be placed in the bin after matches to avoid endangering wildlife.

Unauthorised commercial activities are still being carried out on the Recreation Ground without a licence. Mrs Poole was asked to write to those concerned and include copies of the licencing arrangements which are available on the website.

66. **Update on Shorne Common**

The gate post has now been replaced and the play equipment snagging has been completed. The final payment which we withheld of 5% (£1,155) is now awaiting authorisation on the online banking.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> September there was a meeting for the residents who had volunteered to be Friends of Shorne Play Area (FOSPA). An email circulation list has been created

allowing the volunteers to email their availability for cleaning the play equipment and generally keeping the site tidy.

We are still awaiting Balfour Beatty to get back to us with a date for carrying out the remedial work to the parking area. We have asked that they give us a little notice so that residents can be informed.

GBC mowed the common again during the first week of October. They did a very good job and the following day Chris Zgoda just needed to trim the sections bordering the artificial surface of the play area, using the Scout's mower.

We now need to start planning the adventure trail. The track through the woods which we intend to use is quite overgrown and will first need cutting back.

Mrs Lindley commented that it would be a good idea to put a second rubbish bin on the common, close to the entrance / memorial bench.

#### **67. New Signs at Shorne Common**

The signs are now in place. John Vilday has fixed the new Shorne Common sign to an existing metal post, as the old wooden posts were rotten.

#### **68. Update on Crabbles Bottom**

The Orchard had its third cut the end of July and the final cut will be done next week. The bridleway has had a second cut and there has been good feedback on social media from horse riders.

The meadows were cut at the end of August, after Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy had checked that the wild flowers had died down. The meadows will have a second cut next week.

Apples have been plentiful, many had fallen onto the ground but were still suitable for cooking. An article in the Parish Magazine had encouraged Parishioners to pick the apples. There were also plenty of blackberries to be picked from the hedgerows.

The padlock and chain on the gate to the bridleway were apparently stolen some time during August. These have now been replaced, the combination number for the padlock remains the same.

Some Councillors had received an answerphone message from a press agency following an article in the local paper. The agency were told the Parish Council had nothing to say and were advised to contact the local police.

#### **69. Shorne Common Rough**

After the litter pick on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October it was discovered via social media that a local resident has placed a wheelie bin on the Common. He empties this himself and declared that most of the BMX bikers are using it. This was apparent from the reduced amount of litter at this location.

- 69.1 Bollard update – Ms Clifton received an email from John Vilday on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, saying he has the posts ready but has not yet been able to install them, partly due to the petrol shortage. Mrs Poole to email Mr Vilday to inform him that she has not received an invoice for this work.

**70. Chestnut Corner Notice Board**

Ms Clifton has been in contact with the manufacturers, they confirmed that the notice board should be delivered in the next few weeks.

**71. Bus Shelters**

KCC will accept applications for match grant funding covering up to 50% of the cost of a refurbished shelter, with a maximum value of £2,000 available per request. Mrs McCluskey queried whether we could put in two applications for both South and North bus shelters.

Mr Theobald believes he has provided enough evidence of the ownership of the bus shelters. Mr Theobald will speak to Mr Bugg regarding contractors for this project, as we need to obtain indicative prices for the application for grants.

**72. Michael Gardens Play Area**

The second picnic table was installed at the end of August with thanks to Gravesham Borough Council. Mrs McCluskey is still chasing GBC for the new waste bin. There is also a playground sign which is waiting to be fixed.

**73. Lower Thames Crossing - Impact on Footpaths**

Ms Clifton and Mrs McCluskey attended an online meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> September with Eva Simunovic and Ben Craggs, the NMU Specialist. Mr Craggs detailed the new routes, but unfortunately it is still not known what type of surface will be used for the multi user paths, this will be down to the contractor. There could possibly be parallel paths for the different users. Mrs McCluskey pointed out that the Michael Gardens section of NS169 does not need to be upgraded to a bridleway.

The proposed car park in Thong Lane will have changing facilities and cycling facilities and there will be a Pegasus crossing into the Country Park. It is still unknown who will run this car park.

Regarding the Michael Gardens path, Mrs Lindley pointed out that there are only two types of paths: footpaths (no cycling) and bridleways (foot, cycle and horses). So if cycling is to be allowed on a path so that people can connect to the cycle network, it has to be legally called a bridleway.

**74. Tanyard Hill Verge**

Ms Clifton has ordered 200 bulbs, mixed daffodils and narcissi., which should be delivered by the beginning of November. Mrs Burns has managed to get some volunteers to help plant these along the verge on Tanyard Hill, at the northern side of Court Lodge. A volunteer can also provide some top soil for the dips in the verge. A dead tree on this verge possibly needs to be reported to KCC for removal.

**75. Footpath NS163/Crown Lane**

Ms Clifton emailed Mr Pelham on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021, regarding the gate at the entrance to the footpath. Mr Pelham reported that a new gate is needed but, due to the old design of the existing gate, it may be necessary to have a new structure. Mr Pelham confirmed that Mr Robert Shove will then repair the gap in the fence next to the gate.

**76. Village Hall Car Park Vegetation**

Ms Clifton spoke to Mr Bugg who then confirmed with Mr Lawrence that there will be two maintenance visits per year. Ms Clifton has confirmed this with Mr Lawrence by email. The first visit will be next month.

**Any other business:**

**77. Matters raised by Members**

Mrs Lindley reported that part of the chicane style fence in Shorne Ifield Road at the entrance to the Scammels is down.

Mrs Poole reported that the hedge was very over grown at No 2 Park Cottages, Tanyard Hill. This is causing the cars to be parked further into the road. Mrs Poole will write a letter to the resident asking for this to be cut.

**78. Matters from other Committees being discussed for convenience**

Mrs Lindley reported that a Planning Application to remove some of the trees by the Scout Hut, has been received.

**79. Matters raised by attending Parishioners**

None

**Date of next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Council meeting.** January 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.19

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