

**SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee  
Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in Shorne Village Hall**

**PRESENT**

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

**Apologies**

Mr R Hardy  
Mrs L Williams  
Mr C Rea

- 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022:** These minutes were agreed as a true record, these were Proposed by Mr Lane seconded by Mr Theobald, all agreed.

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

No matters arising from the Minutes

- 3. Chestnut Corner**

Mr Lawrence has done the last of the cuts to the green, and daffodil verges

**a. Notice Board**

Ms Clifton reported that the ivy is continuing to grow around the posts and should be cut back as soon as possible.

- 4. Shorne Common Rough**

Mr Lane was approached by Shorne Cubs who wanted to carry out a litter pick on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June and had asked for a suitable location. Mr Lane suggested Shorne Common Rough and it was agreed that they could assemble at the Recreation Ground. Approx 15 cubs attended, it was very well organised and GBC supplied the litter pickers and bags. The cub leaders were surprised how little rubbish there was, this being due to the well-used wheelie bin which has been provided by a Parishioner.

Ms Clifton reported that Gravesham Borough Council has supplied us with some Rural Anti Littering signage, some of which she has put up on Shorne Common Rough, including the picnic area.

Mr Lane reported that after a truck load of rubbish was fly tipped at Shorne Common Rough, Harlex kindly placed a 2.5 tonne concrete block to prevent access. Mr Lane will look into getting more Tank Traps installed, the last ones were installed at the entrance to the parking area around 2015.

## **5. Recreation Ground**

### **a. Retrospective Approval to instruct contractor to remove dead trees**

Ms Clifton reported that on the 19<sup>th</sup> May Mr MacDonald of Woodpeckers reported that a limb of a dead tree fell down, obstructing Pondfield Lane and the driveway of his property. Mr MacDonald cut it up and cleared it away. The Parish Clouncil made an ex-gratia payment of £50 to him as a goodwill gesture.

Mr Lane obtained emergency consent from Gravesham Borough Council to remove the dead tree. Mr Lane requested quotes and when NPC Tree Surgeons came to look at the work they found 2 other dead trees. To remove all 3 trees they quoted £300. In view of the immediate risk, they were instructed to proceed. The trees were removed on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Ms Clifton asked for formal approval of the expenditure. Proposed by Mr Theobald seconded by Mr Lane. All agreed.

### **b. David Cater resigning, Aaron Wigg to take over**

Ms Clifton reported that an email had been circulated to members from Mr Phil Reeves, of AFC Shorne. This was to advise that David Cater's team, Shorne Higham, is folding at the end of the current season. The request was to transfer David Cater's name on the lease to Aaron Wigg from AFC Shorne.

The email also advised that AFC Shorne are currently in the process of locating a new team to join them at the Recreation Ground. Members felt that any new team should have some sort of connection with Shorne, and that it might be better if the co-signatory of the lease came from the new club. Ms Clifton will speak to Mr Reeves about this for clarification.

### **c. Fencing adjacent to Pondfield Lane**

Mr Lane reported that when he inspected the dead trees at the Recreation Ground, it was noticed that the fence is down in several places, including where the tree fell. Mr Lane reported that we have received a quotation from Hoist Fencing for £545 + VAT to replace the 4 line galvanised wire fence using the existing posts, and £485 + VAT to fit a new field gate. It was agreed to accept the quote just for the fencing. This was proposed by Mr Lane and seconded by Mr Bugg. The price may change due to material prices, they may also need to install a new post adjacent to Pucksdown.

## **6. Bus Shelter, Tanyard Hill**

Ms Clifton reported that a local parishioner Mr Robert West kindly repaired the wooden bus shelter at Tanyard Hill during the first week in May. The work he carried out was superb. He replaced the rotten base frame, and lower weatherboarding, and secured the shelter to the concrete floor. He also replaced the acrylic window and has painted the shelter with 2 coats of preservative. He does not require payment or a plaque. Mrs McCluskey spoke to him at the Street Party and thanked him. He also said if anything else needs doing he would be delighted to help if he can.

Mr Lane reported that he has had an enquiry from Mrs Colborne of Ridgeway Stables, complaining about tree damage on the bank at Chestnut Green. KCC have been doing some swathe cuts in the area, so it is presumed that this was done by them.

## **7. Shorne Common**

Mr Lane reported that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Mr Fish of Briar Cottage reported that a vehicle had hit the Playground sign and knocked down the Shorne Common sign on the land adjacent to his house. On inspection, it appears that the Playground sign has been loosened in the ground, and the Shorne Common sign post has been sawn off. The sign has disappeared. The loose Playground sign has been reported to KCC. Mr Lane reported that we need to replace the Shorne Common sign and post. Mrs Poole will write to Mr Fish regarding a conversation he had with Ms Clifton.

### **a. Update on Adventure Trail**

Ms Clifton had sent a revised quote to members before the meeting, taking out the crawl tunnel and replacing it with a zig zag balance. Pictures were also attached. Ms Clifton asked if we should have an agreement with Mr Chandler as he felt some of the trail was on his land. It was felt that a meeting was needed with Mr Chandler to identify who owns the land as the Common is registered as a Village Green. Mrs Lindley and Mr Theobald will arrange a meeting with Mr Chandler before Ms Clifton can go ahead and order the equipment. This will be discussed at Full Council for approval once this has been identified.

### **b. Update on Tree Work**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> May NPC Tree Surgeons carried out the additional cutting back to the trees and bushes. The rubbish bin and dog waste bin are now clearly visible.

### **c. Gate to Car park**

The gate hinge between the parking area and Mill Hill Lane appears to be loose in the post, and the gate drops when opened. Ms Clifton will contact Hoist to give us a quote.

## **8. Update on Footpaths**

N163 at Crown Lane: Ms Clifton reported that the concrete block has been reinforced with bags of cement to stop the motorbikes gaining access.

Mr Lane reported to KCC Highways on 4<sup>th</sup> March that fallen trees were blocking Crown Lane. There is still a tree blocking half the path despite the website saying the work has been completed. Ms Clifton will report to Highways again, and will also report the burnt out motorbike on Crown Lane.

Ms Clifton reported that a Parishioner asked if a gate could be fitted on NS165 at Shorne Ifield Rd, to stop off road bikes. Ms Clifton has spoken to John Pelham who has replied that it is not possible to do this due to the ground being too porous in that area, so any barrier would not be affective. Also that bikes can easily get around anything that was put up in that area.

It was noted that it is also a track for the farmers.

Ms Clifton reported that the marker stone has been reinstated at NS157 in Green Farm Lane.

Ms Clifton reported that the finger post and no cycling sign has been reinstated at NS168 in Woodlands Lane.

Ms Clifton reported that she has cleared the entrance to NS156 opposite the See Ho of stinging nettles.

## **9. Bus Shelters**

Arriva Buses reported that the bus stop usage is very low, a maximum of 10 passengers a day. In view of this, it might not be worth spending over £9,000 on them. Perhaps we should reconsider blocking up the internal alcoves. Mrs McCluskey will look into which commuter coaches use the stop. Mr Theobald enquired about the school buses.

### **a. Quotations from Contractors**

It was decided to wait until after the consultation finishes before taking this any further.

### **b. Consultation**

Mrs Poole reported that so far we have about 12 people respond to the Bus Shelter consultation which ends on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## **10. Crabbles Bottom**

### **a. Entrance to the Den –**

Ms Clifton has not been able to take this forward as of yet due to waiting on the appointment of new handyman.

### **b. To review quotation for Tree Work**

Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy met Jerry Ash, from New Ash Green Community Orchards on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Ash recommended that 6/7 trees needed attention where the weight on the branches have caused them to partially snap. Ms Clifton has obtained a quote from Mr Gozzett of £450 to remove the snapped branches and to stack all arisings in habitat piles. This was proposed by Ms Clifton and seconded by Mr Theobald. All agreed.

## **11. Scout Hut**

Ms Clifton reported that a closed meeting for Councillors has been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the use of the Scout Hut and to have an agreed mandate with which to go back to the scouts.

## **12. Thong Lane Vegetation**

A local parishioner has complained that driving through Thong Lane the vegetation is encroaching on the vehicles. Ms Clifton said KCC had cut this back but due to the weather conditions it has grown rapidly. Mrs McCluskey reported it does need doing urgently. Ms Clifton will contact the will report it to KCC highways, Mr Lane asked that when Parishioners see something ask them to report it directly to KCC on line as

they will know where the work needs to be done, rather than us trying to work it out when the roads are so long, and KCC need a precise location to be able to undertake the work.

Mr Lane reported that he and Ms Clifton will be cutting away some vegetation near the barns around the speed indicator device, as this is where it will be installed next.

### **13. Handyman**

Ms Clifton reported that our current handyman John Vilday has lately been unable to carry out some of the work we require, so we need to consider alternatives. An advert was put on facebook, but only one person applied. Mr Bugg will pass the details on to Ms Clifton of Simon, who he personally recommends and is local. Mr Lane will get an advert published in the Parish Magazine, and this will also be placed on the noticeboards.

Mrs McCluskey reminded Councillors that Mr West has offered to help and Mrs Poole mentioned that Mr Mark Donovan has recently done some strimming on footpaths. Mrs Lindley suggested advertising for each job so that we can build up a register of handymen.

### **Any other business:**

### **14. Matters raised by Members**

Mr Theobald reported that you can walk the path adjacent to the Country Park in Brewers Road, but when you reach Woodlands Lane the path disappears. Mrs Lindley suggested creation of perimeter paths to the Country Park some while ago but this wasn't taken up, the SSSI designation may prevent this. Mrs Lindley has also spoken to KCC regarding road safety for pedestrians around the junction of Woodlands Lane and Brewers Road, a path round the edge of Shorne Common Rough was one of their suggestions.

Mr Lane reported that there was originally a path in Shorne Common Rough alongside Woodlands Lane, but to re-open it will need a lot of clearance and someone to keep it maintained. Ms Clifton and Mr Theobald will visit the site to see if it is possible to create new paths.

Mrs Lindley reported that there have been a lot of planning applications which have been submitted recently.

Mr Bugg reported that the Fish & Chip van which attended the Big Lunch would like to come to the village on Tuesday evenings. Although we do not have any objections, it is not up to the Parish Council to give their consent. Mr Bugg will speak to them to confirm that it will be their decision as to where they park the van.

Mr Lane reported that it appears that the CCTV camera facing north is not working properly. Recordings are skipping forward, missing sections. Mr Lane said that he and Mr Rea will look at this to see whether it is limited to the one camera or all of them.

Mr Lane reported a tragic accident where a young man got killed on his bike at Park Pale. Mr Lane had previously written to various authorities including the Police, Gravesham and KCC on the 18<sup>th</sup> May regarding the use of Park Pale by motorcycles.

Ms Clifton reported that on the 13<sup>th</sup> June she will be attending a Public Engagement Event at Police HQ, Northfleet, where the future of neighbourhood policing will be discussed. She requested members to send her anything that they would like brought up.

#### **15. Matters from other Committees being discussed for convenience**

Jubilee Events Beacon, Street Party & Big Picnic

Mrs McCluskey reported that we had 3 very successful events, all 3 were very well attended. The unused sandwiches that were kept refrigerated on the Saturday later went to The House of Mercy who were very grateful. This is a homeless charity, and on the Sunday the unsold muffins and a bread pudding were also taken there. This meant there was no waste from the event.

Mrs McCluskey reported that we kept within the budget of £2,000.00 for all 3 days, and after this we made nearly £300.00 for our charities, which will be discussed at Full Council. There are just a few mugs left to be picked up and then we will have a final balance of the money raised.

Mrs Poole will write to the Scouts with thanks for the use of the electricity on the Thursday and the toilets on the Sunday, STAGES for the use of the PA system, Mrs Sizer for helping make the sandwiches, Mrs Peat for helping on the day with the food and street furniture, Mr Donovan and his company for putting up the bunting, (he will take this down next week when he is back from his holiday) Mrs Deeley for litter picking on the Friday and for the cakes and balloons for the Street Party. Mr South, Mr Clarke, and Mr Feltham were also thanked for all their hard work putting out the chairs and tables. The Village Hall Management Committee was also thanked for the use of the hall.

Mr Lane reported that he has made a request to the Trustees of the Village Hall for the use of the cupboard next to the office by Shorne Parish Council. A peppercorn rent would be paid for the use. This has been agreed and is now waiting formal approval. We would need to transfer our items from the loft into the cupboard.

#### **16. Matters raised by attending Parishioners**

None

#### **Date of next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee meeting.**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.12

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