

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 28th July 2022 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT

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

Apologies

Mr R Hardy
Mrs L McCluskey (Vice Chair)
Mrs L Williams
Mrs S Lindley

Parishioners:

Mr Mike Thompson
Mr Phil Reeves AFC Shorne
Mr Aaron Wigg AFC Shorne
Mr Samuel DeFrates – Eagles FC

17. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2022:

These minutes were agreed as a true record, after amendments that were circulated prior to the meeting.

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

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

19. Recreation Ground

a. New Team to join AFC Shorne

Representatives of the football teams planning to play on the Shorne recreation ground were in attendance and put forward their proposals.

Mr DeFrates introduced himself as the Manager of Eagles FC, currently in Division 1. Previously affiliated to Higham Eagles, the team has been playing at Cliffe for the last 4 seasons, but would like to move to Shorne and change the name to Shorne Eagles. The name change will need to be agreed by the FA.

Both teams, AFC Shorne and the new team, are in the Medway Area Sunday Football League and will play at the football ground on alternative Sundays, AFC Shorne currently being in Division 2. Training has been carried out on Wednesday evenings for AFC Shorne, but this will cease during the winter months. The clubs proposals were Noted.

Mr Rea asked if we could have a copy of the league handbook, Mr Reeves said this has now been replaced by an App which can be installed, and this would show the team

name, manager contact name and number, when they will be playing on the fixtures and team players.

Mrs Poole was requested to send Mr DeFrates a copy of the lease so that he can read and understand the requirements prior to becoming a co-signatory.

Mr Reeves, Mr Wigg and Mr DeFrates left the meeting at 20.01.

b. Fencing adjacent to Pondfield Lane

On 22nd June Ms Clifton accepted the Hoist Fencing quote to renew the fence with galvanised straining wire. We are awaiting a date of installation. Noted

20. Chestnut Corner Notice Board

Ms Clifton reported that on the 24th June Mr Bugg, Mr Hardy and Ms Clifton cleared the ivy away from the posts. Mr Lane reported that the cabinet seems to be off square, possibly due to the recent extreme heat. It was decided to wait until the weather changed before taking any action.

Ms Clifton reported that a local handyman had offered to do some work for the Parish Council. Mr Lane stated that he must first fill in the relevant forms. Mr Lane also said that Mr West might be able to look at the notice board later in the year, as he has offered to help with tasks.

21. Shorne Common

a. Update on Adventure Trail

Ms Clifton reported that on the 8th July, a letter and Memorandum of Understanding was sent to Mr Chandler to avoid any issues arising regarding the land and the adventure trail. On the 14th July we received an email from Mr Chandler's land agent informing us that Mr Chandler is not agreeable to any encroachment and requesting us to fence off the boundary. Mr Lane expressed disappointment as when we met Mr Chandler he was in agreement for it to go ahead.

Mr Rea enquired how much land would we be encroaching on. This is unclear, as the boundaries shown in Land Registry maps provided by Mr Chandler appear to be different to the boundaries of the land gifted to the Parish Council as shown in our copies of the 1908 Trust Deed. However, these Trust Deed plans are photocopies which may be distorted. Mrs Poole has asked Martin Tolhurst for their original copies of the deeds to verify this, we are waiting to hear back from them.

Mr Chandler has subsequently told Mr Theobald that he is thinking of selling some of his land to the west of the common. If the Parish Council is interested in buying a part of this land, this must be done through the land agent.

Mr Lane will draft a letter to the land agent stating that we are not prepared to erect a fence on common land, but if Mr Chandler's land was for sale, we may be interested in buying a part. This will be circulated to all members for approval before being sent.

Ms Clifton has informed Playspaces of the situation, they will keep our quote on file. Members Noted the position.

b. Gate to Car park

Ms Clifton reported that on 7th July Hoist Fencing came to inspect the hinge and dropped gate. The work was very kindly carried out immediately free of charge. Noted

22. Update on Footpaths

- a. Ms Clifton said she had reported to KCC the fallen trees and burnt out bike in Crown Lane. Ms Clifton later checked and the tree that was leaning across the lane has been removed but the fallen tree, where it is necessary to climb the bank, had not been cleared. According to KCC, a Risk Assessment had been carried out and no action required. The bike had also not been removed, KCC said they had passed this to Gravesham.

On the 8th July Mr Lane wrote to KCC to report a contractor working on behalf of KCC had pumped sludge out of the drain gullies onto the lane and a parishioner had slipped and injured herself. Mr Lane requested that KCC kept him informed of when the sludge would be removed, along with the fallen tree.

Mr Lane reported that he has received no further information. He asked Ms Clifton to send him the photograph and reference of the fallen tree and he will contact County Councillor Sweetland.

b. Southern Valley Golf Course

Ms Clifton reported that the golf club closes on the 31st August and it is has been sold to National Highways. Mrs McCluskey is concerned that they may resell it on. Mr Lane reported that as far as we are aware National Highways will be responsible for the security etc. of the land. Noted

23. Bus Shelters

a. Consultation Responses

Ms Clifton reported that the consultation ended on the 3rd July with 19 responses:

11 Strongly agree that the Parish Council should upgrade the bus shelters at Shorne Crossroads, 4 Agree, 3 Neither agree or disagree, and 1 disagrees. 3 people use the shelters daily towards Strood, 6 occasionally use them, 6 rarely use them and 4 never do. 3 people use the shelters daily towards Gravesend, 7 occasionally use them, 5 rarely use them and 4 never do.

The report on the consultation was Noted

In view of the low usage, Mr Lane has suggested a second, less expensive option which is to brick block up the alcoves to stop inappropriate behaviour, making the bus shelter 6ft wide and 5ft deep.

Mr Bugg will look into getting a specification and quotes. Mr Theobald said there are some repairs that need doing, including replacing fascia boards and tiles. These could be put into the specification. Mr Rea enquired whether we could have solar lighting, Mr Lane asked Mr Rea to look into the cost of this. There was also a suggestion of having mirrors to enable bus sightings from inside the shelter.

Mrs Poole will email Clare Ellen, Public Transport Project Officer at KCC to see if the grants have been published yet.

b. Land Ownership

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Ben Pratt, KCC Highways Steward, had emailed the Parish Council in May 2020 stating that they had concluded that the area of the bus shelter on the northern side of the Gravesend Road was not KCC land. Mr Theobald showed members maps which demonstrated that the shelter was moved onto a bank of land belonging to KCC in the 1960s. However, on maps which were produced in the 1990s, after work done by Gravesham, the bank is not shown as part of the highway.

Mr Theobald will write to Mr Pratt with all the evidence and will also copy in Mr Sweetland. Mr Lane also advised that KCC had replaced the adjacent fencing in the last 4-5 years. Noted

24. Crabbles Bottom

a. Entrance to The Den (the area of woodland between the fence and the Council's boundary)

Ms Clifton reported that unfortunately the barrier that Mr Gozzett constructed has been demolished, with the den back in use. Suggestions included installing thorny bushes or stock fencing. Mr Lane suggested maybe the area could be cleared as the vegetation has grown a lot since we took it over. Mr Bugg asked can we do a price comparison between erecting a fence and clearing the vegetation, Mr Rea suggested doing a site visit, it was agreed that the whole council would be invited to look at the area in the next couple of weeks. It was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged

b. Maintenance Update

Mr Rea kindly cleared brambles on parts of the footpath on the 29th June with a brush cutter. Ms Clifton met with Mr Gozzett on site on the 6th July. The third orchard cut, footpath and bridleway clearance were then carried on the 7th July. This is approx. 3 weeks earlier than last year due to vegetation growth being generally greater this year as a result of the warm spring weather following a period of rain.

There are some brambles and stinging nettles growing around the bases of some of the trees. These will be easier to clear during the winter months and Mr Gozzett will give us a quote for this.

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Theobald had previously enquired how much money we received in dividends. It was reported that we received approx. £3,600 per annum. Expenditure last year was £2,756. There were no fencing repairs during the year. Noted

25. Scout Hut

Mr Lane reported that, following the meeting with the Scouts on 12th April, an internal meeting with members was held on 16th June. On 9th July the scouts were sent our proposals for consideration, together with a request for a meeting to finalise the arrangements. The Scouts subsequently requested a meeting with the Dandelion Time charity, who had been using the premises for a trial period between April and July, and now wished to renew the agreement for the autumn term starting in September.

The meeting with Graham Carpenter from Dandelion Time was held on 26th July and was attended by Mr Lane, Mr Bugg, Mrs Lindley, Ms Clifton, Mrs Williams and Mrs Poole. Chris Zgoda attended on behalf of the scouts.

Mr Lane reported to Members that the trial has been quite successful and we have had no complaints from Parishioners. It was voted unanimously (including a proxy vote from Mrs Williams) that Dandelion Time should be allowed to continue to use the Scouts premises, provided that we were party to the renewal process, we had termination provisions in the case of unresolved complaints, and that any use of the children's play equipment was under adult supervision.

We need to arrange a further meeting with the Scouts when Mrs Patrick is available to agree our proposals regarding the use of the premises. In these we had considered the activities that are being carried out at the scout hut and whether these met the conditions of the deed of gift of the common. It was also felt that the Village Hall should be the first-choice venue for non-scouting activities rather than the Scout Hut, since this is the reason the Village Hall was provided for the parish. A licence fee payable by the Scouts was to be agreed, but it is intended that this would be given back to the scouts as a donation at the end of the year, subject to compliance with the agreement and less any costs that the Parish Council has incurred.

Ms Clifton mentioned that Mr Zgoda had asked if the licence terms could include the relevant extracts from the Trust Deed, rather than the full Trust Deed. Noted

26. Thong Lane Vegetation

Ms Clifton reported that the vegetation between Inn on the lake and the chicanes has been cleared. Mrs McCluskey had reported this to KCC. There are still problems with highways obstruction as Mr Parmenter reported at the last Planning and Highways meeting. Mr Parmenter had been asked to report to this KCC giving exact locations, as they can then write to private land owners. Mr Rea reported that the road signs were obscured by vegetation and he will report this again to KCC. Noted

Any other business:**27. Matters raised by Members**

Mr Theobald reminded Ms Clifton about the site visit that is needed for Shorne Common Rough.

Mrs Poole reported that Shorne AFC have paid their rent until 2024.

Ms Clifton reported that a local handyman had offered to do some work for the Parish Council. Mr Lane stated that he must first fill in the relevant form.

Ms Clifton reported that the Salt Bin has been replaced but is sited in a different place at the top of Green Farm Lane rather than on the Gravesend Road.

Mr Lane has reported that the Defibrillator had a manufacturing recall and this had been collected on Monday and delivered back on Wednesday.

28. Matters from other Committees being discussed for convenience

There were no matters to discuss from other committees.

29. Matters raised by attending Parishioners

Mr Thompson asked whether the Keep Fit and Tai Chi classes will need a licence to carry on. Mr Lane reported that any organisation that carries out commercial activities on Parish Council land needs to be licensed, this includes having appropriate insurance. Mr Thompson asked did the vendors for the Queen's Jubilee have a licence, Mr Lane reported that all licences were suspended from May for a period of 3 months. Ms Clifton said we are not preventing anybody using the land, but we are asking the people who are using it for commercial gain to obtain a license. The licence requirements are currently on the Parish Council website but are due to be reviewed and simplified.

Date of next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee meeting.

Thursday 13th October 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.21

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