

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 9th February 2023 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT

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

Apologies

Mr R Hardy
Mr C Rea
Mrs S Poole

Not in Attendance:

Mrs L Williams

30. Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2022.

The minutes were approved at the combined meeting held on 13th October 2022. There were no further comments.

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

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

32. Recreation Ground

- (a) Lease for Football Ground. The new lease was signed on 16th January 2023. Ms Clifton will arrange for Mrs Poole to send a scanned copy of the signed agreement to Members.
- (b) Fixture List. The Clubs have provided a fixture list for February.

33. Shorne Common

- (a) Play Area Inspection Report. The last quarter report was received on 7th December 2022 and circulated to Members. All items inspected were either satisfactory or minor low-risk observations, such as minor paint/surface scratches or graffiti. It was considered that minor scratches to the timber frame should be touched in as required, and that the equipment may need restaining periodically, perhaps at 5-year intervals. Mr Lane previously identified the paint/stain used by Lappset (manufacturer), but it comes from Finland and is expensive. Neil Blackmore from Redlynch (supplier) was going to let us know the details of the stain they use, but did not come back to us. Ms Clifton will contact Neil Blackmore again.

The swing chain links were reported as showing signs of “very slight wear” – to be monitored and replaced when wear reaches 40%.

Two benches were reported as “loose in ground – monitor and reinstall when necessary”. It was noted by the Committee that the benches are secured with ground anchors to prevent unauthorised removal, not for stability.

- (b) Friends of Shorne Play Area. Ms Clifton reported that a new volunteer has joined the team. The area is being checked on an as-and-when basis whenever volunteers are in the area, rather than by strict rota, and is kept in good condition.

34. Update on Footpaths.

Ms Clifton reported that the entrance to NS156, opposite the See Ho, has been cleared of vegetation. The previously waterlogged area by the gate at the entrance to Starmore Wood has had hardcore laid by KCC. This has greatly improved the walking surface.

35. Update on Bus Shelters.

Mr Bugg apologised for not progressing this quickly due to fitness issues, but he intends to go out to tender for the work tomorrow 10th February 2023. Ms Clifton has been in contact with Mrs Silverton who has given consent for our contractor to enter her rear garden to attend to the ivy and the shelter.

36. Update on Crabbles Bottom.

NPC Tree Surgery cleared the orchard of brambles on 5th December 2022. The entrance to “the den” area was blocked off and shows no signs of being used. Ms Clifton reported that she will contact Tom Gozzett regarding this year’s management programme. She proposes to increase the number of cuts to the footpath and bridleway from two cuts to three, but to reduce the meadow cuts to one per year. The cuts to the orchard area will remain unchanged. This will result in a small increase in costs.

37. Scouts Premises.

We have received no reply to our offer to licence the Scouts to use the premises for certain non-scouting activities. The Clerk will be requested to draft a letter to the Scouts stating that without a licence there can be no subletting of the premises for non-scouting activities under the existing peppercorn rent arrangements.

The meeting arranged for 7th February to discuss the planting of trees and bushes on the premises did not take place as the Scout Leader failed to attend. A new date will be arranged.

38. LTC Designated Funds Update.

At the Parish Council meeting on 12th January it was reported that Mike Phillips was coordinating this and has advised that LTC has agreed 100% funding for management of the trees in the orchard at Crabbles Bottom, this being considered a 'priority habitat'. No further information has been received. Ms Clifton and Mrs Lindsey will be attending a meeting of the LTC Environment Group South in Cobham on 16th February to explore opportunities for planting the next generation of trees around the former Darnley Estate.

39. Offer of Trees

Ms Clifton reported that Mrs Purdy has obtained saplings from The Woodland Trust for Gravesend Cricket Ground and has a number left over. Mrs Burns also has some spare saplings. It was felt that the Parish Council has no need for additional trees on its land, and it was suggested that they should be offered to residents.

40. Michael Gardens

- (a) Ms Clifton reported that GBC have planted six trees in Michael Gardens.
- (b) Mr Lane reported that Mr Rea is still awaiting information from UK Power Networks regarding the cost of an unmetered supply. Mr Lane considered that this might be worth applying for funding under the Community Fund.

41. Any Other Business

- (a) LTC Community Fund. This invites communities to apply for grants of up to £10,000. Applications must be received by 1st March 2023, and the money must be used before the end of the year. A number of possibilities were suggested, including Michael Gardens AED, bus shelter alterations, car park repairs, decorating or other works in the Village Hall. The AED seems to be a good candidate, plus possibly the bus shelters. It was felt the car park might be too expensive and difficult to complete this year. (*Post meeting note: Mr Lane has passed details to the village hall.*)
- (b) Mr Theobald raised the proposal to employ a clock repair company from Yalding to attend to the Church clock. Members agreed in principle, but require further details of the company so that we know who we are dealing with. Mr Theobald will obtain further information.
- (c) Ms Clifton reported that KCC has planted a new tree at the corner of Court Lodge and Tanyard Hill, and also one in the pavement bed in Hollands Close. They will also replace the dead tree at Chestnut Corner next year.
- (d) Ms Clifton reported that Mrs Polhill is collecting signatures to support a petition to request GBC to make a tree preservation order(s) in Pear Tree Lane. Mr Lane reported that he has previously requested this, but GBC were not prepared to consider this under their discretionary powers, as they would only consider this if the trees were at risk of being felled. Members were of the opinion that by then it may be too late as the felling could be carried out before GBC took any action.

Date of next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee meeting.

Thursday 23rd March 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.27.

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