

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee Meeting-held on 28th
March 2024 at Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT

Ms P Clifton (Chairman)
Mr R Lane
Mrs S Lindley
Mr J Bugg
Mr R Hardy
Mrs L Williams
Mr T Rochard-Pullen

APOLOGIES

Mr C Rea
Mr R Theobald
Mrs D Salmon (Parish Clerk)

76. **To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda**
None.

77. **Minutes of previous meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2024**
The minutes were approved.

78. **Any Matters Arising from Minutes not covered in the Agenda**
None.

79. **Recreation Ground**

Phil Reeves, team manger of AFC Shorne, has informed Ms Clifton that he is still hoping to get something sorted out with the Football Association regarding the grant. However the process is slow and no further progress will be made until the end of the season.

A discussion was held as to whether the obsolete wooden table, which is now lying in pieces outside the pavilion, should be removed by the Football Teams or the Parish Council. Ms Clifton will check the terms of the lease,

80. **Shorne Common**

Andrew Day has recently completed work on the metal handles of the roundabout, removing the rust and repainting.

The roundabout as well as all the other play equipment appears to be frequently enjoyed by many children.

At the end of February Tom Gozzett carried out the tree work as per the arboriculture report.

Tom offered to leave the logs at the side of the car park so that parishioners could help themselves. This appears to have been well received.

81. Shorne Common Rough

In February NPC Tree Surgery felled to ground level the trees which were affected by Ash Dieback. Most of these were close to the road on The Ridgeway.

Ms Clifton has requested Tom Gozzett to quote for removing low branches which are overhanging the picnic area, reducing the overall size of the area. GBC has carried out a recent cut to the grass but were unable to cut under these branches.

82. Crabbles Bottom

The 1st cut of the orchard should be done next week. Tom Gozzett has confirmed that his charges remain unchanged this year. Ms Clifton has asked Mr Gozzett to also look at the 3 broken limbs and the limb touching the ground, as reported by Mr Rea.

Hoist Fencing have done an excellent job with posts and spurs on the fencing alongside the bridleway. Mrs Lindley has reported to KCC the damaged fencing on the A289 side of the bridleway.

PC Jo Hammond has put up a sign on the kissing gate at the entrance to Crabbles Bottom saying that police have increased patrolling in the area. This appears to be having a positive effect, along with the repaired fence at the entrance to The Den.

Mrs Lindley commented that the footpath should be checked for any dangerous overhanging trees e.g. Ash dieback. Ms Clifton will ask Mr Gozzett to check.

a) Vandalised Sign

The 'Welcome to Crabbles Bottom' sign has been badly vandalised. Mr Rea has applied various solvents to the graffiti and is hoping to match the green paint. It was agreed that before spending money on a new sign, we would wait and see if the repaired sign is again vandalised.

83. Footpaths

The barrier at The Ridgeway end of NS 162 has still not been replaced. John Pelham has informed us that he is having problems getting contractors. This barrier is the responsibility of KCC to maintain as it protects the public from bikes.

As reported at the full meeting on 13th April 2023, Sustrans has given KCC £300k to tarmac the surface of NG2 / NS 317, to the west of Shornemead Crossing. This has now been postponed until the new financial year.

On NS156, near the junction of NS159, a fallen branch had blocked the path. This was reported to KCC but cleared in the meantime by a kind resident.

Mrs Lindley reported that a section of NS156, near New Green Farm, has become difficult to negotiate. Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy will take photos and report to KCC.

84. Verges and Greens

The dips in the verge at Court Lodge have been filled in by KCC and sown with new grass seed.

Colin Lawrence carried out the 1st cut to the verges in early March.

- a) A request has been received from Shorne Wildlife Community Group for the Parish Council to fund the cost of daffodils for the verge on Forge Lane. It was pointed out that KCC will not cut verges until spring flowers have died back and this would mean that Shorne Parish Council would have to incur additional costs in verge cutting. In view of this, a vote was held and it was decided not to agree to the request.
- b) SWCG had requested that GBC reinstate the rail around the green at Swillers Lane. GBC suggested that the Parish Council may be able to cover the costs. As this green is owned and maintained by GBC, it was considered that this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. Ms Clifton will email GBC to point out the safety concerns of cars driving onto the green where children are playing.

85. Bus Shelters

The bus shelters have been completed and the floors painted, making them easier to keep clean. Shorne Parish Council signs have been fitted on the front of the concrete lintels, and the plaque in memory of a former parish councillor has been fitted inside the southern shelter.

- a) The noticeboard has been fitted to the front of the southern shelter.
- b) Mr Rea had circulated a quote for the solar lighting. This will be included as an agenda item at the Council meeting on 11th April to formally ratify the order. The contractor is willing to sort out the permits for the scaffolding on the pavements

86. LTC Designated Fund – Update

Ms Clifton circulated an email on 26th February reporting that provisional approval had been received for the Crabbles Bottom project. The proposal requests £31k to deliver the scheme.

Mrs Lindley and Ms Clifton met Mike Phillips on site on 21st March, along with Katriona Sharp who is also working on the project. The project involves:

Restoration of the traditional bramley apple orchard, including restorative pruning as well as planting with appropriate varieties where there are gaps.

A further opportunity is to fence the orchard so that it is stock proof and allow the Parish Council to contract a grazier to help manage the orchard. By grazing the orchard, the grass sward will become more biodiverse and new plant species will be able to take hold. Also, this will prevent scrub from growing into the crowns of the orchard trees.

a) National Nature Reserve - Update

On 26th February Ms Clifton had a Teams meeting with Polly Mathewson who is assisting Kent Downs National Landscape (formerly Kent Downs AONB) on Visitor Access and Engagement Strategy. Public access to Crabbles Bottom and Shorne Common Rough was discussed.

87. Defibrillator for Shorne West

The defibrillator is now registered on The Circuit – the national defibrillator network which registers it with the South East Coast Ambulance Service and more likely to be used in an emergency. The labelling on the defibrillator will be done when the weather gets warmer.

88. Small Works Contractor

Ms Clifton circulated the registration form which had been completed by Tristram Figueira. Mr Rochard-Pullen will ask Mr Figueira to provide verification of the risk insurance. Ms Clifton will contact Mr Figueira regarding the bollard which needs placing at Shorne Common Rough.

89. Request for filming locations

The Parish Council has been approached by a company called Giggster who find locations on behalf of their clients. Locations could be for filming, photoshoots, events or meetings. Some members felt that this should be considered, as it would financially benefit the Parish Council. Ms Clifton will look into this further.

Any other business:

90. Matters raised by members

Mrs Lindley reported that, regarding the Lower Thames Crossing, the Secretary of State for Transport has requested clarification and further information on agreements between National Highways and various other parties. Mrs Lindley and Mr Lane will be attending an online 'Ongoing Steps' meeting with National Highways on 4th April.

Cllr Sweetland has presented the Shorne Crossroads petition to the Chairman of KCC, but it had not reached the numbers required for formal discussion at KCC full council. There was a sufficient number to take it to the Joint Transport Board.

Mrs Lindley reported that Ward Councillors had arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive and Assistant Director of Planning at GBC on 26th March, which was attended by Mr Lane and the Chairman of Higham Parish Council, regarding the increase in HGV traffic from Nuralite and Apex Business Park. GBC will draft a letter to the Traffic Commissioners office for sending by Shorne Parish Council and Higham Parish Council.

Mrs Lindley has requested to GBC that the yellow lines are refreshed at the corners of Forge Lane / The Street. Also at the Bowesden Lane verge.

Mr Rochard-Pullen commented that footpath NS 159 had not been properly reinstated after crops had been sown. Ms Clifton will check this and report to KCC.

91. Matters raised by attending Parishioners (at discretion of the Chairman):

None in attendance.

Date of next meeting. The next meeting of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee will be held at 19.30 on Thursday 13th June 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:28.

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