

## WALMER PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Amenity and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 7pm at the Parish Council Office.

**Present: Councillors: B Pitcher, Mrs M Johnson, Mrs M Beard-Gould, J Murray & D Thompson**

**Officer Present: Kirsty Holroyd**

**957. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None – all present

**958. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**959. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

Those present were reminded of the following: -

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council, committees and sub committees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act While those attending meetings are deemed to have consented to the filming, recording or broadcasting of meetings, those exercising the rights to film, record and broadcast must respect the rights of other people attending under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Any person or organisation choosing to film, record or broadcast any meeting of the Council or a committee is responsible for any claims or other liability from them so doing.

**960. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 July 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

**961. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE**

None

**962. ALLOTMENTS**

i) Members considered a revised quote to reinstate the boundary fence to the rear of plot 4a and 5. Although the Clerk had been given permission to accept a quote up to a certain limit, the quote had exceeded the limit and had therefore not been accepted. In light of the higher than anticipated costs, Councillors reconsidered whether such a substantial fence was actually necessary.

**RESOLVED:**

**i) That a six foot fence is necessary.**

**ii) That the Clerk will obtain three quotes based on a specification of a 6ft fence with Jackson panels and posts in order to get the 25 year guarantee.**

ii) Plot inspections.

Cllr Mrs Johnson explained that she and Cllr Thompson had carried out the plot inspections since the last meeting and those tenants whose plots had not been up to standard had received a letter enquiring whether the Council could do anything to help. Of those tenants two had responded with reasons for the untidiness and had since tidied up. The third had stated she no longer wished to keep the allotment and will return her keys once she has harvested. The tenant who was evicted over the summer had been given extra time for a proxy to harvest for her. The dead line for completion is September 29.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the tenant inviting her to meet councillors at the allotment at 11am on 29 September to hand over her key and take the last of her belongings in readiness for the next tenant.**

iii) Site inspection

Cllr Mrs Johnson informed members that she and Cllr Thompson had also carried out a site safety inspection. This had shown three areas for attention. Firstly the pavement along the Campbell Road boundary was crumbling along the edge of the site. This has been reported to

Kent Highways and will be addressed within the next two weeks. The fence adjacent to plot 13a has become unstable. This could be the fault of the tenant excavating too much soil from his bank and exposing the supports. Cllr Pitcher will take a look and report back. Finally four buddleia plants have taken hold along the northern boundary and are at the point of causing damage to the neighbouring property.

**RESOLVED: That a quote from Matt Croud for their removal @£75 be accepted.**

**963. HISTORIC VILLAGE SIGNAGE**

i) Members considered a response from DDC regarding changes to the historic noticeboard at Station Road. It was unclear whether DDC was willing to amend the text or just the pictures. Members find the text full of errors and omissions and cannot accept it currently.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk press for a meeting with the designer to discuss completely changing the words and pictures. Cllr Murray has already worked on some new text and will attend the meeting along with Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould.**

**964. DRILL FIELD ACCESS ROAD**

Cllr David Thompson updated members on his plans to plant up the soft verges along the access road to the Rugby Club. He has requested two quotes but they have yet to arrive at the office. Some members were concerned about vehicles parking on the soft verges and ways to deter this were discussed. The Clerk reminded members that the road may be used by KCC for access to the Parochial school expansion site, although KCC have yet to request permission to use it.

Members also received DDC's response to siting a bin in Canada Road which had been favourable.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk request a bin be sited in front of the doctor's surgery adjacent to the two BT boxes at accost of £250 plus £100 per annum for emptying.**

**965. STONY PATH**

i) Members received an update from the Clerk who reported that the Land Registry had requested further information, so presumably the case is moving forward.

ii) Members received an update on the invitation to tender. Neither company had received the documents sent by post on 19 August. Therefore further documents have been sent out and the deadline pushed back to October 11. Two further companies have also received an invitation.

**966. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 7pm at the parish office

Before the meeting closed the Clerk wished to bring a resident's concern to members' attention.

*The resident is a neighbour of Cllr Pitcher who therefore took no part in the discussion.*

The resident in question had been told the Council was not willing to sell him a small piece of the land it owns at York and Albany Close (Council minute 5323). Consequently the resident had requested that a tree on the council's land be cut back and the hedges reduced to the height of the perimeter fence.

**RESOLVED:**

**i) That the Council's arboriculturist be asked for advice on the management of the tree.**

**ii) That the hedges be reduced at the annual cut to take place over the winter months.**

**iii) That once this work is complete, this committee will consider placing TPOs on the three trees it owns at this site.**

Cllr Murray also wished to gauge members' opinions on a project he is developing. He is very concerned that visitors to the area are unaware of the safe walking and cycling route from Kingsdown to Deal and consequently stick to Undercliffe Road and Cliffe Road where the pavement peters out. This results in a very dangerous walk particularly around Walmer Castle. Cllr Murray would like to research the possibility of installing some finger posts at strategic points along Cliffe Road to direct walkers and cyclists off the road and onto Wellington Parade.

**RESOLVED: That this committee supports such a proposal in principle.  
That Cllr Murray will contact the two KCC Members for Deal and Walmer as well as the  
KCC member for Kingsdown and discuss practicalities with them and their highways  
officers.**

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The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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Signature

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Date