

WALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenity and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 7pm at the Parish Council Office.

Present: Councillors: B Pitcher (chairman) Mrs M Johnson, Mrs M Beard-Gould & J Murray

Officer Present: Kirsty Holroyd

1020. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None – all present. Cllr Pitcher confirmed that Cllr Thompson has stood down from this committee. He also welcomed Richard Styles to the meeting as an observer.

1021. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared

1022. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

1023. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

It was clarified that the quadrennial tree survey was not due until early 2020.

Minute 1013; Cllr Pitcher and the Clerk had met with the residents of Campbell Road about the holes in Stony Path. Although James Heathorn maintains he did not cause the holes, a view supported by photographs taken before and after he undertook the work, he has agreed to take a one tonne bag of shingle to the site and fill the holes in the path.

Minute 1017; The Clerk clarified that a recent email from KCC PROW states that footpath clearance is running at approximately ten weeks delay but that all problems as noticed by councillors during their inspection have been reported and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

1024. ALLOTMENTS

i) Members received the site inspection report and considered any action necessary.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

ii) Members received the plot inspection report and considered any action necessary.

The Clerk confirmed that plots 11 and 11a had been relinquished but were in a bad state of neglect. One contractor had quoted £750 to clear them. The Clerk had met with two new tenants who were prepared to take a plot each and clear them themselves in return for no rent in 2018 or 2019. Members agreed this was the most sensible way forward

RESOLVED:

i) That the £75 deposit may not be sufficient and this should be reviewed in September.

ii) A second inspection earlier in the season should be undertaken in order to spot those tenants who might be falling behind with their maintenance.

iii) Tenants should be encouraged to let us know if a neighbouring plot is neglected.

The inspection undertaken by Cllrs Pitcher and Mrs Johnson had noted three additional plots which were not in an acceptable state.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the tenants in question asking if there is a problem.

iii) The Clerk reported that Archers Low Nursery had offered a 10% discount to tenants but they will need some kind of identification.

RESOLVED: That this information be communicated to tenants via a newsletter and that they be advised to take along a copy of their tenancy agreement as proof of tenure should they wish to take advantage of the offer.

iv) The Clerk advised members that some tenants had been in touch with her to complain about the use of glyphosate at the allotments. Although not illegal under EU law, many countries have banned its use.

RESOLVED: That it is not possible for the Parish Council to ban the use of glyphosate or any other chemicals at the allotments but it can certainly be discouraged. This message can be conveyed via the newsletter.

1025. YORK AND ALBANY

Cllr Pitcher reported that the tree which had been in poor health earlier in the season had fully recovered, just as the arboriculturist had said it would.

1026. STONY PATH

Cllr Pitcher reported that the work was completed for now but that annual strimming by a paid contractor would be necessary to establish the Council's long term commitment to the land.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk will obtain a quote for the land to be strimmed. Access only via the allotment site.

1027. HAWKSHILL WORKING GROUP

Members received the verbal report of the chairman on the meeting held on Thursday 12 July 2018. Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould reported on a very positive meeting with the volunteers. A new management plan has been drafted and will be considered in September. In the meantime no volunteer work is necessary.

Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould wished to minute thanks on behalf of the committee to Cllr Thompson for all his work over the past few years. Cllr Thompson has stood down from volunteering.

1028. HISTORIC VILLAGE SIGNAGE

Members considered the comments recently received from DDC that the contents and information on the three panels were too modern.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk report to DDC that members are satisfied the content is factually correct and they prefer the refreshed, modern look with accurate and up-to-date photos. The Clerk will request proofs for consideration at the next meeting.

1029. KINGSDOWN TO WALMER PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT

Members received an update on the progress of the project. DDC have given permission for the posts to be located on their land. The only outstanding permission is from English Heritage. Cllr James Murray is in the process of chasing this up.

1030. LOWER WALMER TREE PROJECT

Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould updated members with suitable sites and species for planting in the autumn.

RESOLVED : That requests be sent to KCC as follows:-

- a Prunus Shirofugen and a Liquidambar styraciflua to be planted at James Hall Gardens
- A Prunus Sargentii to be planted at the corner of Wellesley Avenue and Palmerston Avenue
- A Crataegus Laevigata Pauls scarlet be planted in Warwick Road.

1031. OUTDOOR GYM TRAIL/ACTIVITY AREA

Members received an update from Martin Leggatt at DDC in which he states the positioning of gym equipment on the beach is not to be recommended since in other localities it has soon worked itself loose. It was agreed that Walmer Green is also not suitable due to often being used for parking over the summer months. Mr Leggatt had suggested on the site of the present putting green adjacent to the paddling pool. Members felt this would attract vandals since the equipment would be hidden behind a hedge and out of sight.

RESOLVED;

- i) That the Clerk make enquiries about the land opposite the site intended for Mike's Bikes.
- ii) That if this is deemed unsuitable the project be dropped until next Spring.

1032. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 19 September 2018 at 7pm at the parish office.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

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Signature

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Date