

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Zöe Godden, Elvyns, Wavering Lane East, GILLINGHAM. SP8 4NX

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Minutes of a meeting of Henstridge Parish Council's Open Spaces Committee held on Monday 21st November 2016.

Present: Simon Cullum (Chair), John Graham, Richard Kaskow, Carolyn Nichols, David Nichols and Barry Paginton.

Clerk: Zöe Godden

The meeting started at 19:34.

1. Apologies for absence.

No apologies had been received.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation.

No members of the public were present.

4. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th October 2016.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approved the minutes as presented.

5. Matters deferred and arising from previous meetings.

- a. To hear an update on progress with grant applications for the perimeter track and patio project.

Simon Cullum reported that he was due to meet with a representative from Viridor Credits on 22nd November and that a decision regarding the grant application would be made in December.

- b. To hear updates on plans to resurface and extend the car park, including information on new drainage requirements at the Village Hall.

David Nichols reported that he had met with a tarmac contractor who would soon be providing an estimate for the work required. It was thought that a complete resurface may not be necessary. David would report back to the next meeting.

Action 161121/1: David Nichols

- c. To hear an update on work required to address drainage problems at Oak Vale Woodland.

David Nichols reported that a rough price for this work had been obtained and would be forwarded to the Clerk.

Action 161121/2: David Nichols

- d. To hear the response from the owners of Bridge House regarding the request to reroute a footpath across their land.

It was noted that the owners of Bridge House were not open to the idea of allowing a footpath to cross their land. The Clerk was instructed to reply, asking to speak with the owners further with some ideas to mitigate their concerns.

Action 161121/3: Parish Clerk

- e. To review the use of the two fields owned by the Parish Council and agree further action to be taken.

The Clerk reported that she had asked two companies to value both of the fields for their rental potential and sale price. The Clerk was instructed to contact Symonds and Sampson as the third company.

Action 161121/4: Parish Clerk

- 6. Recreation Ground:** To review current annual maintenance costs in comparison with using contractors and to agree any further action to be taken.

It was noted that the cost of using a contractor to maintain the recreation ground would far exceed current expenditure. Current costs were in the region of £1300 per year, as compared with a recent quote from SSDC, which amounted to over £4700. The Clerk was instructed to benchmark with other parishes regarding their approaches to recreation ground maintenance.

Action 161121/5: Parish Clerk

7. Cemetery

- a.** To note that removal of the spoil heap had been only partially completed and to discuss and agree a way forward to ensure removal of the whole heap.

Simon Cullum informed the committee that the amount of spoil to be removed had been far greater than first estimated, so two further loads would need to be taken away in the coming years. It was agreed that new spoil created from grave digging would be deposited in the top corner of the cemetery and would be removed periodically, thus removing the need for skip hire. In addition, the Clerk was instructed to obtain process for the installation of a litter bin to take non-biodegradable rubbish.

Action 161121/6: Parish Clerk

- b.** To review the average number of burials in relation to the remaining grave plots available; to agree any further action to be taken.

The Clerk had calculated that the average number of burials taking place per year was eight and that there were approximately 217 burial plots remaining. It was felt that no action was required at this time but that, in the future, the committee would need to consider using other land in the Council's possession for an extension to the burial ground.

- 8. Allotments:** To note receipt of a Freedom of Information request relating to the allotments, to note action taken so far and to agree how to proceed.

The Clerk was instructed to respond, supplying the minutes and invoice information requested. The Clerk was instructed not to provide any names as this would not be in line with the Council's data protection responsibilities. In addition, the Clerk was instructed not to take the time required to make the requested historical search for information on vehicle access rights to the site and to respond with the Committee's agreement that the presence of the vehicle gate demonstrated grandfather rights for allotment holders in terms of using the gate to access the site with their vehicles when tending their allotments.

Action 161121/7: Parish Clerk

- 9. Budget:** To note that a final decision on the budget would take place on 5th December at the Full Council meeting.

Noted.

- 10. Other matters:** To consider applying for a Tree Pack from the Woodland Trust.

The Clerk was instructed to apply for a "small copse" pack. Locations for the saplings would be agreed at a future meeting.

Action 161121/8: Parish Clerk

- 11. Future meetings:** It was **agreed** that the next Open Spaces Committee meeting would take place on Monday 16th January 2017 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 20:16.



Zöe Godden
Parish Clerk