

*Shoreham Parish Council
Amenities & Services Committee Minutes for 20th January 2021*

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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PARISH

Sarah Moon

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COUNCIL

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AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 20th January 2021 via Zoom from 7.30pm

Present: R Blamey (in the Chair)
J Histed, Brian Jeffery, M S Parkes, L Spence and J Tooley

Also Present: 3 Members of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

Public Question Time

Two members of the committee reported that they had recently examined the Centenary Wood and calculated that there is space to plant fifteen more trees.

It was RESOLVED to allocate budget of £75 to purchase of a selection of rowan, hornbeam, crab apple, wild pear and hazel as well as the stakes and shields and that Sarah Parkes would take responsibility for ordering these.

A member of the committee raised concerns that some visitors to the village may not be aware of the Countryside Code (gates are being left open, rubbish left, dogs off leads and dog mess not being cleared from fields where livestock may graze). She suggested that any organisations/individuals, who are publishing/publicising walks in the area, should be contacted to ensure that walkers are reminded to adhere to the Countryside Code.

1. Apologies for absence were given from Cllr Hubble.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on 21st October 2021 were signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman as an accurate record.
3. There were no disclosures of interest in respect of items included on the agenda.
4. **Clerk's Report**
 - The next playground inspection has been booked for March. Attendance by the Clerk is not required.
 - Jobs arising from last year's inspection have almost been completed:
 - The goal posts have been painted;
 - Bark chippings have been topped up around the play tractor and under the parallel bars;
 - Bare areas under the goal posts have been re-turfed.

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There is still a small amount of painting to be done in the tennis court and the bench in the playground needs to be jet washed.

The work has been undertaken by Olivier Pilon, who has charged for materials only (£107). The Committee requested that the Clerk write to Olivier thanking him for doing this work on an unpaid basis.

- Forty bags of winter salt have been delivered and are being stored at the allotments on pallets covered in tarpaulin.
- The allotments remain open during Lockdown 3 although new signs reminding plot holders of the COVID-19 rules have been put up.
- In line with government guidance, the tennis court has closed and the gate has been locked.
- A cheque for the sum of £330 has been kindly donated by the Darenth Valley Golfing Society to be ring fenced for the use of the recreation ground and facilities. The Committee requested that the Clerk write to Brian Alleeson, thanking the society for their generous gift. The Committee suggested that the money could be used to purchase another bench for the playground area and that the Clerk should investigate the cost of this.
- A smart meter has been installed in the public toilet, which will hopefully help reduce the electricity bill.
- 'Dog waste allowed' stickers have been put on some of the rubbish bins in the village as it is now permitted to use these for dog waste.

5. Rubbish and Recycling

- a) Consideration was given as to whether to purchase an extra bin to be installed near the Vicarage on Station Road. The Clerk reported that a member of the public, who lives close by has been voluntarily collecting rubbish from the nearby verges for several years as people seem to deposit rubbish there rather than taking it away with them in their cars. If there were a bin close by, it would most likely be well used and the amount of litter on the roadside would decrease.

SDC have confirmed that the cost of a new bin is £300 plus £150 for installation. There would be no cost of emptying the bin if it were installed on a public highway.

It was RESOLVED to set aside budget for £450 for a new bin and that the Clerk should speak to SDC to arrange this.

- b) A member of the public had requested that the Committee give consideration to the installation of recycling bins, following the increasing amount of cardboard waste being deposited in and around existing litter bins. It was RESOLVED that no recycling bins be provided for the time being as the extra cardboard is more than likely a result of the takeaway culture occurring as a result of COVID-19 and should subside once businesses are able to fully reopen. It was also mentioned that similar bins in other locations are often not used for their intended purposes, with people using them for food waste and litter.

6. Fence

A quote for £150 has been received for replacing the small section of fence to the right of the Village Hall steps.

It was RESOLVED to accept this quote and to instruct the contractor to undertake the work.

7. Car Park

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- a) A quote has been received for repairing the lights in the car park. If all columns have been vandalised, the quote will be £529.23 or £83.20 per column to fix and £22.65 per column to test.

As the lights must be fixed and there is unused budget set aside for the car park, it was RESOLVED to go ahead and accept this quote.

- b) Following numerous reports of anti-social behaviour, consideration was given to the installation of a barrier in the car park.

It was decided to firstly get the lights fixed and then give consideration to installing CCTV. Installing a barrier would require someone to open and close it each night and there is nobody to do this. Also, it would prevent villagers parking in the car park overnight. It would be costly too and would run the risk of being vandalised.

The car park is now included on police patrols but it is imperative that people report any incidents they witness to the police by calling 101 or reporting it on line. The police may not respond immediately but if they are able to build up a pattern of regular incidents, they are far more likely to take action. Reporting any anti-social behaviour or minor crime on Facebook achieves nothing whatsoever. It MUST be reported to the police. It was RESOLVED that this message be reiterated via the next Gazette article.

8. **Cross**

- a) Consideration was given to the quote (£388) received for repairing the gate at the Cross. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote as long as the posts are hardwood.
- b) The Clerk reported that she had completed the application to list the Cross with English Heritage and had received confirmation that the application had been received. The application has yet to be processed and therefore confirmation as to whether it has been successful is still awaited.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th March 2021

Sarah Moon, Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 21.42