

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:
Sarah Moon

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**PARISH
COUNCIL**

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AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 16th October 2019 at Shoreham Village Hall from 7.30pm

Present: R Blamey (in the Chair)
Cllr Jeffery, Cllr Hubble, co-opted member J Tooley and co-opted member L Spence

Also Present: 3 Members of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Collins.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on 19th June 2019 were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.
3. There were no disclosures of interest in respect of items included on the agenda.

4. **Playground**

The Clerk reported that work was underway to remove the old play equipment from the play area, to break the concrete surface under the see-saw and lay it to turf and to break up the lump of concrete on which the old slide is installed. This work has been undertaken by a local builder as it was much more cost effective to sub contract this work rather than it be undertaken by the company who is installing the new equipment. The Clerk asked whether the contractor could be paid now rather than having to wait until the next full council meeting and, as a budget has already been agreed for the project and this is included within it, the Committee agreed to allow this payment to be made.

A scrap metal dealer will be removing the equipment from the site which has resulted in another saving to the project.

Work to install the new equipment and surfacing will start week commencing 28th October 2019. Creative Play have already made several site visits and estimate the new playground should take around a week to be installed.

5. **Allotments**

- a) An inspection of the allotments was conducted on 2nd October by the Cllr Collins and the Co-Chair of the Allotments Association, Malcolm Folland. As a result of the inspection, two letters have been written, asking the plot holders to tidy their plots and start cultivation. A third plot holder will be spoken to and a fourth has decided to relinquish their plot.
- b) It was agreed that two new gate licences be issued for two plot holders who live on Crown Road and who access the allotments via their back gardens. (Jacqui Driver, Richard Hayes).

Furthermore, it was agreed that two residents also be written to asking them to close their gates now that they are no longer plot holders. (–Anna Christmas, Nick Watkins)

There is also one property in Crown Road, which backs onto the allotments and which has no boundary at all. This resident also needs a letter requesting that he reinstate the fence.

- c) The new fence and gates have been well received although the recent wet weather has caused both gates to swell, making them difficult to open and close. The Clerk was asked to contact Rob Graham and ask him to come and rectify this. It was also reported that the pedestrian gate is being left open on a regular basis and is even being tied open with string. This defeats the purpose of the gates, which, at the request of many plot holders, were installed to improve security on the allotment site. Jeremy Tooley agreed to write to all members of the Allotments Association, requesting that they ensure the gates are closed when entering and leaving the allotments.

6. **Car Park**

The following actions were agreed for the Filston Lane car park:

- To install a new bin;
- To remind the DVLP that they had agreed to provide and install a new and updated map;
- To ensure the hedges are cut and the entrance area strimmed.

7. **Wildflowers**

The idea of setting aside the following areas of land owned by the Parish Council for wildflower planting was discussed:

- Allotments – it was agreed that most plot holders now plant flowers on their plots in order to attract pollinators. Therefore an area set aside specifically for wild flower planting in the allotments was not deemed necessary.
- Centenary Wood : At present, the paths cut down the middle of the wood have been mown too wide. It was agreed that next year, the contractors be instructed to cut the paths much more narrowly, in order to enable grassy banks to be created on each side. Due to the location of the woodland and its proximity to open countryside, it is hoped that wildflowers will self-seed in this area. The site will be monitored to check if this happens and, if it does not, then the idea of planting wildflowers will be revisited.
- Eastern edge of Recreation Ground – If wildflowers return to the Centenary Wood by leaving the grass grow, then this will also be considered for the bottom of the Recreation Ground.
- Bank to the right of the Village Hall steps : This would be a good candidate for wildflower planting, however, if the objective is to encourage pollinators, then planting this area with perennials such as varieties of salvia, would ensure that bees and butterflies can enjoy a much longer flowering season. The area would also look more attractive for a longer period of time and would be much easier to maintain.

8. **Cross**

Jerney Tooley confirmed that he would be happy to continue to look after the maintenance of the cross next year as he has done for 2019.

He did state however, that the chalk has now almost disappeared from the surface and the soil below is becoming more and more visible. Re-chalking the entire surface of the cross should be explored once again. As 2020 will see the centenary of the cross being dug, it would be a fitting time to do this. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the National Trust to see if they could offer any advice on how best to undertake the re-chalking. Small pieces of chalk are required as larger lumps cannot be compacted.

9. **Grass cutting schedule**

The grass/hedge cutting schedule for 2020 was agreed.

10. **Budget**

The draft budget for 2020/2021 was agreed and will be included in the full budget to be presented to full council.

11. **Memorial Benches**

As the Centenary Wood was created as a memorial woodland, it was agreed that no memorial benches should be allowed here. It was agreed however that a bench on the Recreation Ground or in the new playground be allocated as a memorial bench, where local residents can apply to the Parish Council to affix a plaque. The Parish Council would ensure that all plaques are the same size and design.

12. **Centenary Wood**

- a) Jeremy Tooley agreed to contact the National Trust at Chartwell to see if the two benches they had promised are still available. If they are, they should be delivered to the allotments, where they can be repaired before being moved to the Centenary Wood.
- b) It was agreed that there is space for 20 new trees to be planted in the new woodland. The Clerk was requested to speak to the Woodland Trust to see which species would be available and whether we could choose which ones we wanted or whether a mixture would be sent. Cllr Hubble stated that she has a yew which could be planted in the woodland and the Committee agreed that would be a good addition. Lesley Spence and Sarah Parkes, who monitor the woodland regularly, reported that all stakes on the newly planted trees have been snapped and all the tubes have disappeared. Fortunately the saplings are now well enough established for this not to have caused any damage to the trees themselves.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 22nd January 2020

Sarah Moon
Parish Clerk

There were no questions from members of the public however Cllr Jeffery pointed out that he had noticed that the trees on Station Road are obscuring the streetlights, making walking at night very dangerous for pedestrians. The Clerk was requested to contact Kent Highways and ask them to cut the trees back.

The meeting closed at 21.31 pm.