

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

PO Box 618

Sevenoaks

PARISH

Sarah Moon

TN13 9TW

COUNCIL

07912 611048

clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk

DRAFT AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 17th June 2020 via Zoom from 7.30pm

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

Also Present: 3 Members of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

1. There were no apologies for absence, however, Sarah Parkes and Richard Boyle were co-opted to ensure a quorum.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on 22nd January 2020 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. **Clerk's Report**

- Bark chippings have been laid around the play tractor, making play possible even in wet weather.
- Grass seed has been sown on some of the bare patches of grass in the play area. However, as people have continued to ignore the keep out signs, this may have been walked on and may not therefore grow.
- The tennis court was professionally cleaned and treated with moss killer at the start of lockdown and has been in almost constant use since its re-opening.
- A message has been received from the Police and the Community Engagement Officer at SDC stating that they are starting to undertake night patrols of certain areas with a view to tackling anti-social behaviour, particularly the increased use of nitrous oxide. Shoreham had not been included on the list of areas to patrol but the Clerk has since requested that the Recreation Ground and car park be visited as part of the next patrol. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the churchyard is also visited as nitrous oxide cannisters have been found there too.
- There has been an increase in the amount of rubbish being left near the bins. This is mainly due to the increase in the number of visitors coming to the village lately. SDC are reluctant to provide more bins as they feel this will simply encourage people to leave more litter. People should be encouraged to take their litter away and Cllr Powell has designed some signs requested this be done. The Clerk will be putting these on all bins in the area and hopefully this will reduce the amount of litter which is being left behind.
- Teenagers have been accessing the playground and climbing over the equipment. Even though the playground is currently out of bounds to all, the equipment is not designed for children of this age. The Clerk reported that she had been in contact

with some of the parents, who have assured her that they will speak with their children, asking them not to do this in future. The Clerk also stated that there is very little in the village for this age group and had suggested to the parents that they speak to their children to find out if there was anything we could do to change this. Perhaps converting the basketball pitch into a multi use games area (MUGA) could be a viable option.

- Jeremy Tooley reported that nearly all plots at the allotments have now been taken, with only one half plot remaining vacant.
- Jeremy Tooley also reported that an evergreen shrub on the green at Forge Way is obstructing the line of sight on the road. He asked if he would be able to cut this back and the committee agreed this would be a good idea.

5. **Tennis Courts**

Since the re-opening of the tennis court a month or so ago, many people have been making use of it. Unfortunately however, very few people have been paying the suggested donation of £5 to the Village Shop despite there being a notice on the fence and despite previous requests in the Gazette. Annual maintenance costs amount to around £500 per year and income received is nowhere near this amount. Another issue is that people are spending too long on the court. This is often the case with visitors to Shoreham who have come for day to make use of the 'free facility' and it means that many residents are not able to play.

It was therefore RESOLVED to introduce a booking system and an annual subscription of £20 per household for residents of Shoreham.

The new system will work as follows:

- Residents of the parish, who wish to become a member of the tennis court should contact the Clerk to obtain an annual subscription at a cost of £20. On receipt of payment, they will be issued with a membership card which can be used by any member of their household.
- Players should check the availability of the court at the village shop and book their chosen time in the diary. They should show their membership card at the time of booking as proof of payment.
- For those individuals who do not wish to take up an annual subscription, a hire fee of £5 per hour will be charged. The court should be booked in the same way as above and the £5 paid directly to the shop. This £5 charge will also apply to non-residents.

Signs will be put up on the gate explaining how to book. The new system will also be explained via a Gazette article and also on the Village/Parish Council Facebook pages and website.

It was also RESOLVED that the court should remain unlocked for the time being as previous experience of locking the tennis court has resulted in extensive damage to the fences as well as padlocks and keys constantly going missing. If the revenue remains low in relation to the amount of play, then decision to lock the court may need to be reviewed.

6. **Toilets**

Consideration was given as to whether to the public toilets, which have been closed since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, should be re-opened.

Most Parish Councils have not opened theirs as it is not practical/possible to clean them frequently enough to avoid contamination.

One idea would be to put a note stating that the toilets are cleaned every day but customers should use them at their own risks however, certain members of the Committee felt that this was too risky and unless the toilets could be cleaned several times a day, they should not be opened.

Cllr Jeffery proposed a motion to keep the toilets open and this was seconded by Lesley Spence. Three voted in favour and three against. As Chair, Cllr Blamey had the casting vote and it was therefore RESOLVED not to open the toilets at this point in time but to review the situation in line with government guidance

7. Cross

As the Shoreham Cross is now 100 years old, consideration was given as to whether there would any benefit in applying for the Shoreham Cross to become a Grade II listed structure like the War Memorial.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should speak to Lenham PC, whose cross was listed in 2016, asking if there has been any impact on maintenance, whether it has achieved anything etc and to report back to the next Amenities Meeting.

8. Centenary Wood

The National Trust benches, which have been acquired for the Centenary Wood, are still at the National Trust depot at Toys Hill as they are too large to be transported in an ordinary car. Cllr Jeffery stated that he would go and collect them in his pick-up and deliver them to the allotments. Jeremy Tooley agreed that he would contact the National Trust to arrange a date and time for the benches to be collected.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21st October 2020

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

- The Committee asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks to the grass cutting contractor as they are very pleased with his work.
- The Clerk was asked to contact the DVLP asking when they can expedite the footpath from the station in to the village.
- The fencing contractor has been contacted to come and fix the warped gates on the allotments and this should happen next week. He has also been asked whether he is going to use the old materials to install a new fence to the right of the Village Hall steps.
- The allotments have accumulated a lot of bonfire material and have asked whether they are now permitted to light it. It was suggested that this be done bit by bit rather than lighting one huge fire and that the village be warned in advance.