

**SHOREHAM  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

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**AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday 17 January 2018 at Shoreham Village Hall from 7.30pm

Present: Cllr L Spence (in the Chair)  
Cllrs R Blamey, B Jeffery, M S Parkes and co-opted member J Tooley

Also Present: 3 Members of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record subject to the projected total on tennis courts being changed.
3. No disclosures of interest were received from members in respect of items of business included on the agenda for the meeting.
4. The actions raised at the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were reviewed.
5. Grass Cutting  
The quotes received in relation to the 2018 grass cutting contract were discussed. One contractor was selected to maintain the Recreation Ground, Centenary Wood and the Cross and another was selected for the remaining areas.
6. Tennis Shelter  
The replacement of the tennis shelter roof was discussed and it was resolved to go ahead and proceed with the replacement of a tiled roof in modern, durable, textured sheeting. Cllr Blamey stated that he had literature relating to the required material and details of a contractor who would supply and install the roofing and that he would pass these details to the Clerk. It was agreed that prior to any work being undertaken, photographs of the existing, broken roofing, should be taken.
7. Playground
  - a) The Clerk was authorised to schedule a playground inspection and to contact Craigdene to come and undertake it before the end of the financial year.
  - b) An update regarding the replacement of the see-saw should be available next week and this will be included in the Clerk's report at the next Parish Council meeting.

8. Centenary Wood

- a) The opening of the Centenary Wood to the public was discussed. It was resolved that as the trees are still quite small, opening it permanently to the public may not yet be appropriate and that general opening would be delayed until the trees are more established. Instead, it was agreed that the woodland would be opened as part of the Shoreham Garden Safari, which is due to be held on the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> June/1<sup>st</sup> July. The paths will need to be cut in preparation for this and the contractor should be informed that the first cut will need to occur mid June. It was also resolved to open the woodland a second time for Remembrance Sunday 2018
- b) Cllr Parkes reported that she had purchased ten new trees to replace those which had failed. These included a mixture of crab apple, oak, beech, lime and horse chestnut. She had also purchased mulch mats, stakes and guards. The Clerk confirmed that she had arranged with Shoreham Village School for nine children to come to the woodland on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January in order for them to plant the trees.

9. Discarded Dog Waste Bags

The issues of plastic dog waste bags being thrown into the litter bins on the golf course was discussed. It was decided that notices requesting dog walkers to use dedicated dog waste bins rather than litter bins should be displayed along the length of the footpath (at the Station Road end, at the lane going down to Home Farm/Mill House and at the Otford end). The notice should read 'Please take dog waste bags to the dog bins on Station Road, Filston Lane Car Park or Otford Recreation Ground – Thank You.' Cllr Spence confirmed that she had tried several times to make contact with the Golf Club to try and ascertain the extent of the problem but had not managed to speak to anybody. It was suggested that perhaps the litter bins could be moved to a location which is only visible from the golf course itself and not the footpath as this should stop people using the bins.

The posters designed for installation around the village and Recreation Ground requesting dog walkers to clean up after their dogs have been produced by Brian. It was agreed that these should be displayed around the Recreation Ground (one with the baby for the fence on the playground and one with the children playing football for the Landway). A 'sad dog' poster should also be displayed at the start of the footpath leading to the Cross and at the start of the Millenium footpath. A poster should also be put on the fence of Mill House and another on the road leading down from the station. Cllr Hibbins and David Ablett agreed to put these posters up next time they were out walking their own dogs.

10. Community Payback

The work carried out by the Community Payback Scheme to date was discussed and it was agreed to be satisfactory. For the past few weeks the team have been working in the churchyard as they are unable to visit the Recreation Ground during school holidays when children are playing there. It was agreed that in addition to scrub clearance, turfing the goalposts and painting the play equipment, the team could also dig over vacant plots on the allotment in preparation for letting out. This would be particularly useful for those plots on which rubbish and building rubble has been dumped. It was also agreed that from now on 'before and after' photos of any work carried out should be taken so that that residents can see what has been achieved.

11. War Memorial and Shoreham Cross

- a) The Clerk read out the text she had written for inclusion on the lectern planned for the Cross. Members were broadly happy with the content although everyone agreed that it needed fleshing out. It was suggested that the Clerk involve the British Legion, Shoreham Aircraft

Museum as well as George DeDecker and Ray Cornwell to see if they have any interesting facts or stories that could be added.

- b) It was agreed that the steps leading down to the Cross need to be replaced but that the quote already received to undertake the work seemed too expensive. The Clerk asked whether this land definitely belonged to the Parish Council and it was confirmed that it did. It was agreed that a few more quotes should be obtained and that the brief would be to replace the existing steps with oak railway sleepers, to backfill the steps and to install a handrail made from the same material as the wood used for the steps. It was also agreed that the stones surrounding the Cross need painting once again. David Ablett volunteered to do this and the Clerk offered to accompany him to Otford Builders Merchants in order to purchase the paint and sealant/stabiliser.
- c) Following complaints from local residents regarding the view (or lack of it) of the Cross from the war memorial, it was agreed that the Clerk write to the owners of the trees, which are obscuring the view, requesting a meeting with herself and the Chairman to discuss any potential solutions. The letter should mention that it is the Centenary of the First World War and that sightlines needs to be maintained.
- d) The Clerk reported that a local resident had requested that something be done about the grassy/muddy area adjacent to the war memorial. It was agreed that prior to any decision being the made, the owner of this land needs to be established. It was suggested that Ann Ball may be able to help.

## 12. Allotments

- a) Jeremy Tooley gave the following report on behalf of the Allotments Association;
- Currently only two vacant plots are available – both of which are in quite a mess.
  - Wood to create shelving in the hut has been purchased and a family member of a plot holder has agreed to build the shelving.
  - There are still boundary issues with Crown Road and continued trespassing remains.
  - Investigation is currently being undertaken into heritage fruit trees, which have been grown in the valley in the past, to see whether they would be suitable for planting on the proposed communal orchard. The Allotments Association are meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January so will then hopefully have a decision. The plan is to plant about five.
  - There are concerns that there may not be a fete this year so alternative fund raising ideas are being considered. One idea is that the plant sale in May could be expanded to include other activities such as mobile tool sharpening service.
- b) The first meeting of the Allotment Boundary Issues Working Party was scheduled for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at Cllr Spence's house at 8.00pm.

## Public Question Time

The Clerk asked whether the Committee would be happy for Shoreham Parish Council to host a Family Fun Day this year on the Recreation Ground. These events are organised by Sevenoaks District Council and have been well attended in the past. All members agreed that this would be a good idea.

Date of next meeting : To be decided

Sarah Moon, Parish Clerk  
The meeting closed at 21.29pm