

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT CHURCH FARM AT 7.30P.M.

PRESENT: Cllrs. R. Roud (Chairman), P. Leale, S. Millson, Mrs. M. Tatton and D. Thornewell
Paul Gladdish Larkfield Allotments Representative

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. J. Luque

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER 2019

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 18th November 2019 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

(i) **Planting of Trough – South Ward Playing Field**

It was **NOTED** that Cllr. Mrs. Tatton and the Chairman have now planted some daffodils in the trough which needs weeding.

After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Handyman be asked to weed the trough and place bark around the daffodils to try to combat the weeds growing back through.

(ii) **Registration of Whimbrel Green as Village Green**

The Clerk reported that the Regulation Committee Member Panel have approved the Parish Council's application that Whimbrel Green be registered as a Village Green.

(iii) **Repairs to Ragstone Wall, South Ward Playing Field**

The Clerk reported that two quotations had been received for repairs to the ragstone wall at South Ward Playing Field on the Mill Street boundary, as follows:-

Chalins	£5,227
Gary Jiles	£4,600

The ragstone removed is stored in the workshop at Church Farm. It was **AGREED** that the quotation from Gary Jiles be **ACCEPTED** and ask that the work be carried out as soon as possible.

(iv) **Tree Planting at South Ward Playing Field**

The Clerk reported that she has now received an email from Qualitree saying that the trees for South Ward Playing Field are on order and they have been advised by the nursery that they should be available in a couple of weeks.

(v) **Access from M20 to Larkfield Sportsfield**

The Clerk reported that Simon Allum has provided pictures of what is intended to install some steps and a lockable gate onto the Larkfield Sportsfield in order that they can access to the motorway for maintenance works.

It was **AGREED** that this proposal be **ACCEPTED** on the strict understanding that any gate installed should be locked at all times.

(vi) **Any Other Matters Arising**

The Chairman mentioned the meeting in respect of the requested memorial bench at Rocks Close Open Space. We are still awaiting replies from some residents as to whether they approve such a bench being placed on the green. The Clerk was asked to send reminders to those residents that have not responded and the matter be considered further when these have been received.

ALLOTMENT MATTERS

(i) **Report by Larkfield Allotments Representative**

Paul Gladdish reported that the bonfire lot at Larkfield Allotments has established very well and is being used by allotment holders.

Paul Gladdish reported that the central path at the allotments is becoming extremely muddy where cars have driven along it. The Clerk will get the Handyman to have a look but she is not sure what action can be taken.

(ii) **Padlocks at Larkfield Allotments**

The Clerk said there have been some problems with keys getting stuck in the padlock at the main gate at Larkfield Allotments.

The Clerk reported that she has obtained a quotation for new padlocks and keys for Larkfield Allotments from Astra Security, as follows:-

4 x KASP K12560ka padlocks @ £21.69 plus VAT each	86.76
152 x additional keys @ £4.00 each plus VAT per key	608.00
	694.76 plus VAT

Discussion took place as it was considered that these keys could be cut by any person, which does not give adequate security for the allotments.

The Chairman said they use ASSA padlocks at the East Malling Institute and the Clerk agreed to get a quotation for such.

(iii) **Request for Shed – Plot 112 – Larkfield Allotments**

It was **NOTED** that the tenant of Plot 112 at Larkfield Allotments has requested permission to erect a shed 6ft x 4ft on his plot. This request was **GRANTED**.

(iv) **Request for Greenhouse – Plot 19 – East Malling Allotments**

It was **NOTED** that the tenant of Plot 19 at East Malling Allotments has requested permission to erect a 6ft x 8ft greenhouse on their plot. This was **GRANTED**.

OPEN SPACE MATTERS

(i) **Playground Inspection Report**

It was **NOTED** that the latest Playground Inspection Report had been received and there are no items that are in need of immediate action.

(ii) **Any Other Open Space Matters**

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton said about the creation of a wildflower area, perhaps on South Ward Playing Field and she will be speaking to Grow 19 at the East Malling Centre if they would be prepared to get involved. It was **AGREED** that this be referred back to the next Meeting of this Committee and Cllr. Mrs. Tatton will consider a suitable area for such a project.

The Clerk was asked to remind KCC regarding the agreement for the mowing at Lucks Hill, leaving some of the wildflowers.

CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Shayler:

Request for Use of Larkfield Recreation Ground for Fun Fair

It was **NOTED** that Peter Shayler is requesting permission for his Fun Fair to visit Larkfield Recreation Ground in June, arriving on site on Monday 22nd June, opening from Thursday 25th June until Sunday 28th June 2020.

It was **AGREED** this be permitted subject to the usual conditions regarding clearance of the site when they vacate and providing their own toilets.

Tom Smith:

Request for Use of South Ward Playing Field for Fun Fair

It was **NOTED** that Tommy Smith is requesting permission for his Fun Fair to visit South Ward Playing Field in April, arriving on site on Monday 30th March, opening from Friday 3rd April until Sunday 5th April 2020. It was **AGREED** this be permitted subject to the usual conditions regarding clearance of the site when they vacate and providing their own toilets.

This will be the start of their new season and an opportunity to set up the rides.

Natasha Lawson-Hale:

Badger Monitoring Project

It was **NOTED** that Natasha has spoken to Derek Whitehead from Medway Valley Conservation Partnership who manage the Nature Trail at Church Farm regarding the possibility of carrying out a Badger Monitoring Project, she is a student at Hadlow College. She recently visited Holly Hill where there is badger activity and would like to investigate if there is a correlation in the increase in activity of fauna using the sett and the environment temperature and compare this to the other sett at Holly Hill.

It was **AGREED** that permission be granted.

ITEMS CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS

The Clerk about obtaining some small boulders to avoid people parking on East Malling Village Green. It has been reported that people visiting the Indian are parking there to pick up their take-away and also on the yellow lines, this should be reported to the parking office at the Borough Council.

The Chairman asked about the tree that has been requested by LARA for planting at Church Farm, on the green behind the hall. It was agreed to ask Qualitree for a price for a copper beech tree with planting, etc.

Cllr. Millson asked the latest situation in respect of Cottenham Orchard and it was agreed an item be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of this Committee.

Cllr. Thornewell reported that the Planning Appeal in respect of Warren Wood has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Borough Council's Chief Executive asking whether Warren Wood is still registered as an Asset of Community Value and if so, when does this expire.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 16th March 2020

CLOSURE

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.37p.m.

Chairman
16th March 2020