

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH MARCH 2016**

PRESENT: Cllr. Rook (in the Chair), Cllrs. Fairweather, Holmes, Smith and Swann.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Goodchild, Fermor and Veitch

Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying:

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

28/15: Play Equipment – Jubilee Field:

The Clerk updated Members that Cllr. Veitch had met with Jane Nettle and Mrs. Lane. An item of equipment had been decided on but the cost had been prohibitive and we had missed the window to apply for TWBC grant funding. It was back to the drawing board. One resident had been prepared to donate £5,000 but only if it was used for fencing of the area.

29/15: Issues from Inspection of Grounds:-

a) Allotments:

Cllr. Holmes reported that the most recent application for a shed had been agreed. The Clerk reported that the tenant from plot 4A had relinquished his plot and we had received a request from the tenant currently sharing the plot to revert it to a single 10 rod plot. Cllr. Swann declared an interest as he an allotment tenant, abstaining from the discussion and vote. Cllr. Rook proposed that plot 4 should be a single plot, this was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed.

b) Ball Field:

In the absence of Cllr. Goodchild, the Deputy Clerk read an email from him reporting that all was in order and the base for a new bench had been installed.

c) Crane Valley:

Cllr. Swann stated that it was too early to tell if the recent drainage works had been successful.

d) Jubilee Field:

In the absence of Cllr. Fermor, Cllr. Fairweather reported that in conjunction with St. Georges Institute ‘Clean for the Queen’ event, the Scouts had completed a thorough litter pick of the Jubilee Field. The Clerk agreed to send a letter of thanks to Jan Ashby the Scout Leader. Cllr. Fairweather informed Members that Sissinghurst intended to honour the Queen’s 90th birthday with a community event involving all the village organisations and residents being invited to participate. A church service followed by a picnic on the Jubilee Field with entertainment had been suggested. The Clerk stated that Rev. Ann Pollington was conducting a special service at St. Dunstan’s in Cranbrook and was looking into the lighting of the beacon on the Church Tower. In response to Cllr. Fairweather’s query on funding, the Clerk stated that grants of up to £400 were available from TWBC and she would be happy to apply for the funding on behalf of all the events planned.

30/15: Issues from Inspection of Car Parks:

The Clerk confirmed that she receives a weekly report from Cllr. Goodchild on Jockey Lane, from Cllr. Veitch on the Regal, however there are no regular inspections being conducted on the Tanyard.

31/15: Parking Order and Enforcement:

Cllr. Rook reported that we were now in receipt of the parking order and the enforcement contract was in force at an annual cost of £4,922. He confirmed that enforcement cannot be carried out unless the car park falls within the jurisdiction of TWBC.

32/15: Highways Issues:

Cllr. Smith wanted to bring to the attention of Members the damage created to verges in the parish by HGV's. He pointed out a recent example in Common Road where it was believed that the oak posts protecting the verge has been destroyed by large vehicles most likely delivering to a property in the process of renovation, the same issue had occurred on the verge at the Chapel Lane junction opposite the Milk House. He had written to KCC Cllr. Sean Holden requesting that the posts be reinstated, however he had received a response from KCC Highways stating the posts would not be replaced. Cllr. Smith has suggested that KCC may like to approach the property owners in Common Road with a request for a contribution to cover the cost of reinstatement once their works are completed. Members agreed to support Cllr. Smith in his campaign to get the posts reinstated.

The Clerk read out an email received from the Head Teacher at Colliers Green Primary School. They had approached KCC Highways on several issues in relation to the lack of signage by the School and the safety of the children, she had been advised by them to contact a local councillor. The Clerk has forwarded the email onto KCC Cllr. Holden.

The Clerk informed Members there had been no further information received on the revised Wilsley Green road layout.

In response to Cllr. Holmes the Clerk confirmed that the review of the parking restrictions in the High Street and Stone Street was ongoing.

33/15: Any Other Environmental Management Issues:

a) Litter and litter bins:

Cllr. Smith reported that the litter bin by the former Sissinghurst C of E School had been reinstated. Cllr. Fairweather mentioned that he is contacted on a weekly basis regarding the lack of a bin by the bus stop in Common Road, he has referred this to Borough Cllr. Hannam who has agreed to request this on behalf of residents. The Clerk stated that our requests to date had been declined.

Cllr. Rook reported that the litter pick on Sunday 6th March has gone well and had been reasonably attended considering the date had clashed with Mother's Day. Cllr. Swann proposed that a litter pick is conducted every four months on the second Sunday of the chosen month, this was seconded by Cllr. Holmes. There were three votes for the motion with one abstention therefore the motion was carried. Cllr. Swann reported that a young student was completing regular litter picks in the Crane Valley as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award which were being signed off by Cranbrook in Bloom.

Cllr. Rook suggested that a letter of thanks commending his efforts be sent to him. Cllr. Smith was concerned about some debris from a road traffic incident that had not been cleared and which now appeared to be attracting further deposits of rubbish, the Clerk agreed to report this to TWBC.

b) Street Lighting:

Cllr. Rook reported that five replacement columns were being installed in Cranbrook, using monies that had been previously allocated.

c) Public Rights of Way:

Cllr. Holmes voiced concerns that the existing footpaths on the Brick Kiln Farm site may be lost during any future development of the area, the Clerk reassured him that the Public Rights of Way Officer is consulted as part of the planning process.

34/15: Items for Information:

Cllr. Holmes informed Members that the King George's Field trustees have their AGM on 4th April in the Cricket Pavillion at 8pm. He reported that they have spent £100,000 on extending their current facilities.

Cllr. Smith asked Members to consider the recycling area in the Regal Car Park, he felt that it was unsightly and thought the area could be drastically improved if we could persuade TWBC to install underground receptacles such as those used in France. Cllr. Rook agreed that it could be added to the agenda for the next Environmental Management Committee meeting if Cllr. Smith was prepared to come up with a proposal for consideration to take forward to TWBC.

Cllr. Fairweather raised concerns that the capacity at the Southern Water Treatment Works is insufficient to cope with the current demand, there have been occasions in recent years where raw sewerage has spilled into the street during periods of heavy rainfall. He has personally witnessed vehicles attending the treatment works on a daily basis to remove excess sewerage but has been unsuccessful in his request to obtain information on the cost of this to bill payers. He was however, pleased to report that the private lane from the A262 to the Southern Water Treatment Works had at last been resurfaced. During the summer months visitors to the area are constantly mistaking the lane as the approach to Sissinghurst Castle, its poor condition has been an issue with vehicles grounding. In response to Cllr. Rook, regarding relevant signage, Cllr. Fairweather confirmed that Cllr. Hannam had written to Southern Water directly to suggest this.