

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Fairweather (in the Chair), Cllrs. Clifford, Fermor, Fletcher, Holmes, Smith, Swann 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.

### **13/17: Play Equipment:**

Cllr. Fairweather reported that the new roundabout had been chosen, this is wheelchair accessible and it was felt this would be a nice new addition to the Ball Field. Parish Cllr. will look to do an article once the equipment is in place.

RoSPA reports had been completed and any work required on equipment had been discussed with the Clerk. Cllr. Swann raised a query around installing safety matting around the metal rocking horse. At this time there isn't sufficient funds so this will be reviewed.

### **14/17: Issues from Inspection of Car Parks:**

#### **a) Allotments:**

Cllr. Holmes reported he had recently completed an inspection and noted any plot concerns to the Clerks. He felt some of the paths between plots are not being maintained and volunteered to produce a poster to encourage the tenants to keep these tidy. The presentation of the winners of the allotments will take place at the Cranbrook in Bloom evening on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Cllr. Fairweather congratulated the new tenant of plot 33 due to the significant difference he has made. His commitment to the plot had been noticed and appreciated by the committee.

#### **b) Ball Field:**

Cllr. Fairweather discussed the quote received for installing new bollards. The quote was £100 + VAT for three hardwood bollards.

Cllr. Fairweather proposed to accept the quote for £100 + VAT and to look into the possibility of metal handles to assist with the lifting. This was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

#### **c) Crane Valley:**

Cllr. Swann reported that the area was looking clean and the contractors will be focusing on certain areas that need attention. A new handrail had been installed behind the recycling bins leading into the Crane Valley. There is a persistent puddle located in the corner of the skate ramp. Cllr. Clifford suggested to ask the Parish Warden to monitor this. It was suggested the Clerks contact KHWP with regards to weeding the tall growth of the tress into the hedges.

Cllr. Fletcher raised the concern of a rotten tree that had fallen along the boardwalk and some of the trees are becoming rotten and may need attention.

A quote of £95 + VAT had been received for checking the levels of the inceptor tank and to check for any remedial works. Cllr. Fairweather proposed to instruct the brief assessment of £95 + VAT and to consider the necessity of a written report after the assessment is carried out, this was seconded by Cllr. Fletcher and agreed.

**d) Jubilee:**

Cllr. Fermor reported no signs of dog fouling and the field was in an overall good condition. The overhanging branch identified near the basketball hoop has been cleared by the Grounds Contractors.

Cllr. Fairweather reported there had been damage to the newly installed play equipment. Two members of Sissinghurst kindly repaired the wooden slats and had been personally thanked.

**15/17: Issues from Inspection of Car Parks:**

**a) Regal:**

Cllr. Veitch reported that one of the salt bins had been recklessly turned over near the top of the Crane Valley and litter bins had also been emptied. The Clerks were aware. A discussion was had over slow worms and if a management policy is required. Cllr. Fermor volunteered to attend the area and keep an eye on them.

Cllr. Veitch felt quotes should be obtained for the filling in of pot holes and painting the white lines. The Clerks will obtain quotes for the Committee to consider.

**b) Jockey Lane:**

Cllr. Swann mentioned the bank that borders the car park and the churchyard requires strimming. The ground contractors have been approached by Cllr. Swann to discuss the logistics. Cllr. Swann assured this was within their contract.

**c) Tanyard:**

Cllr. Fletcher reported that he had noticed the signs highlighting the dates of the tree work due to commence of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September and that an abandoned vehicle had now been removed.

A discussion was had around signage to display contact details for the office to report the culvert being blocked. It was decided it was not necessary, however to make sure the properties that are affected by this know who to contact.

**d) Schedule of Tree Surveys:**

The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee of the possibility of having regular inspections of trees completed within the high risk areas. This report would focus on priority trees that require work. This was quoted at around £190 + VAT. It was felt this was not required and committee will arrange a tree survey when necessary.

Cllr Veitch reported that some hazel trees located near the recycling bins had were cut back a few years ago. They will need reviewing next year as they grown significantly.

**e) Car Park Survey/Working Group:**

Cllr. Veitch reported that the group are yet to meet to discuss the sample quotes she had received for traffic counting and consultancy. It was mentioned after attending a recent Councillor's Convention that local authorities cannot use ANPR cameras for charging of car parks just for counting, it was unsure how accurate this is. It was suggested setting up a group of volunteers to do their own survey to measure the use of car parks being used for commuting purposes. From these results the following factors could be considered – implementing charges, limited stays or any other viable options.

**f) Winter Strategy:**

A discussion was had over the previous year's winter strategy and the gritting procedure. Cllr. Fairweather proposed to adopt the winter strategy as per last year, this was seconded by Cllr. Swann and agreed.

Cllr. Fairweather along with the Clerks will look into quotes for restocking the grit bins.

**e) Gulley Cleaning:**

A discussion was had on the gulley cleaning around the car parks and when to complete this. Cllr. Fairweather suggested that this is reviewed again in 12 months' time.

**16/17: Consultations:**

KCC Local Floor Risk Management Strategy – Cllr. Veitch reported this was a working progress and she will send her responses to the Clerks within the allocated time frame.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Cllr. Fairweather identified a parishioner who has a particular interest in this and also part of the NDP steering group. He will complete the questionnaire within the timescales.

**17/17: Highways Issues:**

Cllr. Veitch had been in contact with Kent County Cllr. Sean Holden to discuss the topic of the camber at the point of exit from the Regal Car Park, which had been highlighted at one of the recent NDP task group meetings. There have been past discussions with KCC Highways and no solution on how to make exit coach friendly. Cllr Holden will approach KCC Highways again to see if there have been any changes and to document the findings. Cllr. Clifford mentioned there is an engineer's report on file within the office from many years ago.

Cllr. Holmes mentioned that he had been approached by a parishioner with concerns over the speed indicator sign located on Angley Road. He had spoken directly to Cllr. Holden regarding this issue and a letter had been sent to the parishioner.

**18/17: Any Other Environmental Management Issues:**

Cllr. Fermor raised there is a copse near The Pound, which has lots of overhanging trees that could cause the trees to fall into The Pound should a storm arise. Cllr. Fermor will speak with the neighbours and deal with this locally.

**19/17: Litter Picks and Litter Bins:**

Cllr. Fairweather will arrange a Sissinghurst litter pick in the coming months with Cllr. Smith. Cllr. Swann suggested that there should be a local litter pick in Cranbrook, ideally twice a year, he will look into this.

Cllr. Holmes had been approached by a parishioner to see if a litter bin could be installed near the Angley Wood entrance. This query has been passed to Borough Cllr. Dawlings at TWBC.

Cllrs. Veitch and Swann are still waiting to hear from Biffa to discuss the current bin schedule. It had been noticed there were glass bottles left all around the recycling bins due to overflowing. This had been reported to TWBC.

**20/17: Street Lighting:**

No issues raised

**21/17: Public Rights of Way:**

Cllr. Holmes reported the Hop Pickers Heritage Group had completed a mapping exercise on public footpaths and bridleways between Gills Green and Furnace Farm.

**22/17: Items of information:**

Cllr. Veitch reported that South East Water have their open day at Bewl Water, Lamberhurst on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. She had completed a survey of all the water hydrants four years ago and this may need to be scheduled in at some point.

Cllr. Clifford reminded the Committee that Cranbrook in Bloom will receive their results from the South East in Bloom competition on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Cllr. Fairweather made note that the North Farm refuse facility in Tunbridge Wells is closed for 10 weeks. There may be a delay on bin collections in the Parish.