

MINUTES OF A SITE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 26th JUNE 2018

PRESENT: Cllr. Fairweather (in the Chair), Cllrs. Fletcher, Holmes, Smith, and Veitch.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Beck, Fermor and Swann

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.

Cllrs. Fletcher declared a personal interest in the Allotments as a tenant.

01/18: Nomination of Vice Chairman:

Cllr. Veitch proposed Cllr. Smith as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr. Fairweather and agreed.

02/18: Allocation of Sites for Responsibility:

Members volunteered to take responsibility for the following sites:

Allotments: Cllr. Holmes

Crane Valley: Cllr. Swann

Jubilee Field: Cllr. Fermor

Regal Car Park: Cllr. Veitch

Tanyard Car Park Cllr. Fletcher

Ball Field & Jockey Lane Car Park – was allocated to Cllr. Beck.

03/18: Ball Field:

Members were happy with the overall condition of the Ball Field.

04/18: Jockey Lane Car Park:

There were some fairly deep potholes at the top of car park, it was proposed by Cllr. Fletcher, seconded by Cllr. Fairweather and agreed to purchase two 25kg bags of ‘Macadam’ from Travis Perkins that can be loose poured into the holes and trodden down.

The quote of £6,565 from UK Power Networks to install a supply at the bottom end of the car park to serve several electric charging points was discussed. Members were very supportive of the idea of charging points which they felt would help in future proofing the car parks. It was delegated to Cllr. Fletcher to obtain quotes to complete any groundwork that would be necessary and bring back total costings for the project to the next Environmental Management meeting.

05/18: Allotments:

The majority of the plots were in good condition however some of recently relinquished plots were in urgent need of strimming to prevent the spread of weeds that were about to seed. It was agreed to obtain a quote to do this on the worst affected plots, and delegated to the Chairman and Clerk to authorise.

A complaint from a resident whose garden neighbours the allotments had been received. She had reported that wild garlic that had been untreated had spread to her garden. Members could see no evidence of any wild garlic so suggested that the resident be asked to take some photos which would allow us to evaluate the problem, should it reoccur.

An issue of flooding on one particular allotment had been raised by the tenant. It was agreed it could be as a result of the water table and there was little that could be done to alleviate the issue, other than to advise that crops that like a lot of water such as courgettes be considered.

06/18: Regal Car Park:

A quote of £490 to fell the Radiata Pine that was leaning heavily, had been received from The Living Forest. It included the grinding out of the roots and the repair to the path which was damaged as a result of the trees roots. It was proposed by Cllr. Fairweather, seconded by Cllr. Veitch and agreed to accept the quote.

Cllr. Veitch pointed out the uneven surface on an area near the substation that is used as a shortcut by some visitors, but is not an official path. Cllr. Smith offered to remove the 3 or 4 most obvious rocks but members agreed that to do any more would advocate the use of the shortcut.

The grounds contractors had highlighted the difficulties in mowing around the bases of the trees at the rear of the recycling bins and had requested that the crowns be raised on those trees. The Parish Warden had offered to do this within the scope of his current contract incurring no additional cost, his offer was duly noted and gratefully accepted by the Committee.

07/18: Crane Valley:

A quote of £300 had been received from S.K.F Contractors to cut back the vegetation around the culvert, to clear any loose vegetation and silt from the stream. It was proposed by Cllr. Veitch, seconded by Cllr. Fletcher and agreed the quote be accepted. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owner of the Woodyard and request that their side of the stream be cleared of vegetation. Cllr. Fletcher stated that alleviating any possible flooding in the Crane Valley, that may occur when new homes were built, should be considered, it was agreed to include the topic as a future agenda item.

It was delegated to the Clerk and Chairman to complete the annual risk assessment for the Crane Valley.

08/18: Tanyard Car Park:

The height of the trees in front of Spring Cottages was discussed, it was agreed the Clerk would seek a quote to reduce them to the height of a hedge, which had been the intention when they were originally planted.

09/18: Play Equipment Review:

a) Ball Field:

A quote had been received from Urban Recreation detailing three considerations in respect of the large tower unit. The 1st option was to repair and rectify all the issues identified at a cost of £6037. The second option was to remove specific parts making the item considerably smaller, at a cost of £3709. The 3rd option would be to replace the entire unit with a similar piece of equipment costing £9221. Members agreed that the equipment was well used and enjoyed. It was delegated to the Clerk and Chairman to further investigate all three options with a view to obtaining further quotes for comparison.

It was proposed by Cllr. Veitch, seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed to authorise the purchase of sufficient bark to ensure the play areas conforms to current safety standards.

b) Crane Valley:

Quotes had been received to lower the drain in the skate park, as drainage of the area continued to be an issue. It was proposed by Cllr. Veitch, seconded by Cllr. Fletcher and agreed to accept the quote of £350 from Mayell Groundworks and to obtain a further quotation to install a grate covered gulley around the edge of worst affected corner, directing any surplus water to the stream.

10/18: Jubilee Field:

Cllr. Smith had inspected the field yesterday and reported no issues. It was agreed that it was not necessary for Committee Members to undertake an additional visit today.

11/18: Any Other Environmental Issues:

Members discussed the recent quote of £655 obtained from our maintenance contractor Streetlights to replace the lantern on the vandalised street light column 88. It was proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Veitch and agreed to accept the quote.

12/18: Items for Information:

Cllr. Fairweather reported that, unfortunately his request for a volunteer to organise a litter pick in Cranbrook prior to the South East in Bloom judging day had gone unanswered.

Cllr. Fletcher advised that Cranbrook in Bloom volunteers had spent a great deal of time weeding the kerb stones in the car parks, the Clerk agreed to check the grounds contract to see if the task was included in their specification.