

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Holmes 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.

13/18: Play Equipment:

The Chairman advised that with the Clerk, he had assessed the recommendations from the ROSPA reports on all three playgrounds. An itemised quote of £600 from I. C. Hatcher to carry out some remedial work, including the fabrication of some parts had been received. It was proposed by Cllr. Fairweather, seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed to accept the quote with a request that it is signed when the work has been completed.

A quote of £350.48 had been received from Lappset to provide a replacement spring for a piece of equipment that had been damaged by improper use. A similar replacement item could be sourced at a lesser cost from another supplier. It was agreed to review whether to replace the item when the budget for play equipment next year is discussed in November.

At the site meeting in June it had been decided to obtain a quote to improve the drainage around the back corner of the skate park. A contractor had visited shortly after rainfall to gauge the extent of the issue. They had advised that an acco style drain would not be the best option however they suggested creating a gully, installing a perforated pipe wrapped in a geotextile membrane and backfilling with pea beach. A further trench would need to be dug from the sleeper wall, through the skate park out to the ditch with a solid drainage outlet pipe to allow the rainwater to drain, prior to reinstating the tarmac. The total cost would be £1,350. Members raised concern as to whether this solution would work. It was agreed that some clarification on what was being proposed was necessary before a decision could be made.

14/18: Issues from Inspection of Grounds:

a) Allotments:

A request had been received from the tenant of plot 33. His plot suffers from a lack of natural sunlight due to overhanging trees, so he is asking if either the trees can be trimmed and topped or permission to erect a polytunnel to utilise heat as opposed to light. The Committee were advised that the trees belong to KCC as they form part of the primary school grounds.

Cllr. Veitch stated that as she is due to visit the school in the next few days she could forward on the request. In the meantime, Cllr. Fletcher proposed that permission to erect a polytunnel be granted, this was seconded by Clifford and agreed.

The Clerk advised that space on the existing novice allotment trophy was insufficient to engrave any further names. The engraver had come up with a solution to mount the trophy on a wooden plinth. The cost of this and the engraving of the winner's and runners up trophies totals £50. Cllr. Veitch proposed to authorise the expenditure of £50, this was seconded by Cllr. Fairweather and agreed.

The committee were advised that the winners would be invited to the Cranbrook in Bloom presentation evening to receive their trophies.

b) Ball Field:

The Clerk advised that during the recent high winds a birch tree in the Ball Field was badly damaged. Quotes from two local tree surgeons to fell the tree had been obtained. It was proposed by Cllr. Fairweather, seconded by Cllr. Veitch and agreed to accept the quote of £305 from Living Forest as it included the grinding out of the stump to approximately six inches below ground level.

c) Crane Valley:

In his absence, Cllr. Swann had written a short report of the Crane Valley and the Nature Reserve which was read out by the Chairman. Cllr. Swann had advised that the Nature Reserve was particularly worthy of a walk.

d) Jubilee Field:

Cllr. Fermor advised that other than an uneven area by the gate in the bottom left hand corner of the field which had been brought to her attention, there were no other issues. It was agreed to ask Ivor Hatcher if he could level the area.

Cllr. Fermor also raised concern about the trees in the Pound at Wilsley and volunteered to speak to the owners to see if they would cut them back.

15/18: Issues from Inspection of Car Parks:

a) Regal:

Cllr. Veitch advised there were no issues to report. She referred to the Radiata Pine and was aware there was still some concern amongst Members as to whether it should be removed for safety reasons and offered to monitor with Cllr. Fermor any further movement. Cllr. Fairweather advised that unless there was a significant risk identified, the decision for the tree to remain could not be revisited for at least six months, as the legal process for making a decision had been exhausted at the current time.

As doorstep collections of glass would be part of the new waste contract that had been negotiated by TWBC, the bottle banks would soon be redundant so Members would need to consider how the extra space could be utilised, she estimated it could generate a further 7 – 9 car parking spaces.

Cllr. Veitch reported that she had received a quote from a specialist company to carry out all of the work to the car park that had been identified in the survey conducted last spring. She was expecting a further quote shortly. She gave a precis of the quote to Members for information only, as due to the significant cost involved any decisions made would need to be at a Full Council meeting. The Clerk has a copy of the quote should any Member wish to see it.

b) Jockey Lane:

Cllr. Beck reported that he had received several comments regarding pupils of Cranbrook School using a large proportion of spaces in the car park. The Chairman advised that as all vehicles pay their road tax, we cannot exclude them from being able to use the car park. The School have allocated a new parking area by their sports pavilion so it was agreed that Cllr. Veitch would write to the Headmaster and ask him to encourage pupils to park there to alleviate the parking in Jockey Lane. Cllr. Smith felt that two hour limited parking should be explored again.

Grant application for installation of electric points – Cllr. Fletcher.

Cllr. Fletcher informed Members that he had discovered the Government are still awarding grants of funding for 75% of the cost of installing electric car charging points.

He is awaiting an upgraded quote from Chagemaster and will continue to investigate the funding application process.

c) **Tanyard:**

Cllr. Fletcher noted that the gullies and drains in all the car parks may require cleaning as it had not been undertaken for several years. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Hydro Descaling for a quote to be considered at the next meeting.

16/18: 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. Fermor and agreed. In addition to being put on the website, it was agreed that it should be published in the next edition of Parish Cake.

Cllr. Fletcher requested that the salt bin at the top of the Crane Valley is checked as the lid was used as a sledge last year.

17/18: Cranbrook Waiting Restrictions:

The Chairman explained that it had been devolved to this Committee to consult with the community and collate the responses in order to make a recommendation to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the most preferable option on parking enforcement in the Town. He summarised the three options. The Deputy Clerk had provided a precis of the responses collected at Sissinghurst Fete, the majority of which had opted for the repainting of the existing double yellow lines with minimal new signage. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Cranbrook Business Association with a request for their member's views. It was confirmed that the final recommendation will be decided by Full Council.

Cllr. Fletcher felt the existing permitted parking in Stone Street could be extended to act as a traffic calming measure. It was also agreed that we request that the addition of a zebra crossing in Stone Street which had historically been denied, should be reconsidered by the relevant authority.

18/18: Consultations:

Kent Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation 2018

The Committee were advised of a consultation from KCC on their proposals to charge for soil, rubble, hardcore and plasterboard delivered to Household Waste Recycling Centres. It was agreed to delegate the responses to the Chairman, Cllr. Fairweather.

The Clerk advised that a report on the 21st Century Way Cycle Route Consultation had been received. A copy is available in the Parish Office. It was agreed that a copy be sent to Jeremy Boxall as he had responded to the consultation on behalf of the Parish.

19/18: Highways Issues:

The Clerk advised we had been informed of a Parish Seminar being hosted by KCC Highways, Transportation and Waste scheduled for Monday 5th November. Both Clerks had attended last year but it was not considered necessary for them to attend this year however there are a maximum of two spaces available for each parish so if any councillors would like to attend, please let the Clerk know so places can be booked.

Cllr. Clifford advised of an ongoing water leak outside Whitegates Farm that was affecting the highway, he is in discussions with South East Water to get the issue resolved.

Cllr. Veitch advised that she had fed some issues into the KCC Transport Forum via KALC's Chairman, Charles Mackonochie, which included the frequent changes in speed limits along Angley Road and speeding in Sissinghurst.

20/18: Any Other Environmental Management Issues:

a) Public Toilets:

Cllr. Fairweather felt very strongly that parishioners and tourists were not being offered sufficient public toilet facilities. He would like to see the public toilet in the Weald Information Centre more widely advertised. It is currently cleaned twice a week by the cleaning contractors for the offices. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerks should not be responsible for cleaning the toilets in between the current cleaning regime. It was agreed to seek quotes for daily cleaning and for an additional signpost to advertise the location of the toilet.

21/18: Litter Picks and Litter Bins:

It was agreed to schedule a litter pick for both Cranbrook and Sissinghurst on Saturday 20th October. Cllrs Fairweather and Smith would organise the event in Sissinghurst and Cllr. Beck, the event in Cranbrook.

22/18: Street Lighting:

The Clerk advised we had received notification from our streetlight contractor that four lights had been vandalised in the Crane Valley. Two had suffered damage to the lenses and two were not working at all so the extent of the damage could not be confirmed. It was delegated to the Chairman and Clerk to discuss with the contractor the best way forward and to obtain any necessary quotes.

23/18: Public Rights of Way:

Cllr. Veitch had reported a general lax in KCC cutting back vegetation on PROW's which she had also fed to Charles Mackonochie to take forward to the KCC Forum. The Chairman advised it was relatively simple to report specific issues on the KCC website.

24/18: Items for Information:

None were raised.

The meeting was closed and the public in attendance were invited to ask questions:

Concern over the Radiata Pine in the Regal was raised along with a request to monitor the damage to the tarmac surface of the pavement.

A further issue raised was the lack of enforcement of the 20mph zone in the Town centre, they also felt a priority system should be implemented in Stone Street.

Another parishioner commented on her support, if a two hour parking restriction was considered for Jockey Lane car park.