

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2019**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Kings 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.

The Chairman welcomed Jane Fineman – Head of Finance and Procurement at TWBC to the meeting and amended the order of the agenda to allow to speak on the first item.

08/19: Any Other Environmental Management Issues:

TWBC Car Park Enforcement Contract.

Jane Fineman explained that she had taken over as Head of Parking two years ago. At the time although there was an existing agreement between TWBC and the Parish Council for enforcement services because the signing and lining in the Town was inadequate it was not financially viable for TWBC to send their enforcement officers out just to ticket in the car parks that are covered under their Parking Order. As they were not fulfilling the terms of the contract we had ceased to pay and asked for the agreement to be suspended until it could be renegotiated.

The new signs and lines were now in place, albeit on a trial basis and will be put before the Joint Transport Board in October to be made permanent. Enforcements Officers were now in the Town on a regular basis. The car parks have been included up to the present time at no charge, however going forward TWBC cannot provide the service free of charge. It was confirmed that tickets issued in the car parks could only be for infringements such as not parking within the confines of a space or for unauthorised parking in disabled spaces. She invited questions. In response to Cllr. Fletcher, it was confirmed that 51 tickets were issued last year and none of the revenue is retained by the Parish Council. Jane Fineman agreed to explore the option of separating the issue of ticketing vehicles and the removal of abandoned vehicles, so the latter could be enforced and costed independently. She would also investigate if it was possible to use the TWBC parking order in Jockey Lane to enforce a time specified limit and restrict use of the EV bays for charging only.

It was agreed that this decision should be made at a Full Council meeting when we are in possession of all the facts and the projected costs involved.

09/19: Play Equipment:

Replacement of Toddler Multiplay equipment – Ball Field

A detailed quote had been received from Proludic and although further quotes were expected they had yet to be received. With this in mind, Members agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting.

10/19: Issues from Inspection of Grounds:

Cllr. Fletcher declared an interest in the following item as the request had been submitted by a family member. He took no part in the discussion or subsequent voting.

a) Allotments: Cllr. Pethurst – Request re Plot 9.

The Clerk had received a request from the tenant of 11C who had been struck by the amount of insects and frogs that inhabit an uncultivated plot next to his. He is asking for a part of the vacant plot to remain unallocated to provide a haven for these creatures to survive and thrive. He explained that if maintained correctly it would encourage the natural predators of the bugs and caterpillars that plague vegetable and fruit growers thus being a benefit to the other tenants. He gave assurances that the area would be kept tidy and airborne seeds heads would be minimal. Cllr. Fairweather proposed that the tenants request be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

The trees overhanging at the top of the allotments required pruning, the Clerk agreed to contact the landowner to request this is undertaken.

Members commented on the success of the Wellbeing in the Weald community plot.

b) Ball Field: Cllr. Pethurst.

Cllr. Pethurst had nothing report. Dog fouling would be discussed under its own agenda item.

c) Crane Valley: Cllr. Fletcher

Cllr. Fletcher reported that the extension to the boardwalk in the Crane Valley had been completed. He also reported some graffiti on the skate ramp. The Clerk would ask the Parish Warden to remove it by a thorough clean however if this is not successful to consider painting over the profanities.

d) Jubilee Field: Cllr. Fermor

Cllr. Fermor raised concern regarding the trees overhanging the basketball net. This would be raised with the grounds contractors, however if extensive pruning was required the Clerk would obtain the necessary quotes.

11/19: Car Parks:

Issues from Inspection of Car Parks:

a) Regal – Cllr. Veitch

Cllr. Veitch had not raised any concerns prior to the meeting.

b) Jockey Lane – Cllr. Pethurst – Tarmac repairs.

Cllr. Pethurst reported the damage to the bench which had been noticed by the Cranbrook in Bloom judges. The Clerk advised that the Parish Warden has started a schedule of repair for all the parish benches. She would request this bench is repaired as soon as possible.

A quote of £480.00 + VAT had been received for repair to the large pothole at the entrance of the car park. Cllr. Fairweather proposed the quote be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed. The Clerk would request the smaller hole next to it be considered at the same time within the current quote.

c) Tanyard – Cllr. Fletcher

Cllr. Fletcher had nothing to report.

12/19: Highways Issues:

No issues were raised.

13/19: Litter Picks and Litter Bins:

Litter and dog fouling – Ball Field

A member of the public had reported a significant rise in dog fouling on the Ball Field. The Clerk was pleased to report that TWBC Enforcement Officers were scheduled to attend in the near future. It was agreed to ask them for notices advising of the maximum penalty of £1000 for failing to clean up after your dog which we could erect at the entry points to the field.

A request had been received to replace a bin in Sissinghurst that had been removed following a traffic accident some time ago. A further request had been received to replace the litter bin in Carriers Road that was removed following a direct request from the primary school. Cllr. Fairweather advised he would take up both requests with Gary Stevenson at TWBC in his role as a Borough Councillor.

Cllr. Fairweather advised that litter picks would be scheduled in Cranbrook and Sissinghurst for late October. He would be seeking a volunteer to lead the Cranbrook event. It was agreed that more advertising was required to promote the litter picks.

A concern had been raised by a member of the public that there was evidence of rats in Hop Pocket Close in Sissinghurst. Residents were advised to contact the Environmental Health Department at TWBC. They will be made aware that it is a paid for service unless in receipt of benefits.

14/19: Street Lighting:

Cllr. Fletcher reported that the shade on Column 84 in the Crane Valley had been moved. The clerk would contact the contractors to rectify when they are next undertaking their routine inspection.

Cllr. Pethurst highlighted the brightness of the lights on the playground at Cranbrook School. Members were advised that the lights were erected following approval of a planning application. It was agreed that a member of the Committee could devise a letter for the Clerk to send to the School requesting they consider shades to minimize the glare.

15/19: Public Rights of Way:

Cllr. Pethurst remarked on the extent of dog fouling evident on the PROW through Comforts Wood. A concern was raised by a parishioner regarding the uneven surface of the footpath between the White Horse Public House and Costa Coffee in the High Street. Cllr. Fairweather volunteered to email KCC with a request to investigate the issue.

16/19: Items for Information:

Cllr. Fletcher advised that as a bee keeper he had listened to a very interesting talk given by Nikki Gammon from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust on how to replant churchyards to make them wildlife friendly. He would pass her details onto the Burials and Properties Committee.