

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17th MARCH 2020

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

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.

27/19: Allotments:

a) A request had been received from the Wellbeing in the Weald group requesting permission to erect a poly tunnel. Following installation, it would have the polythene removed and replaced with netting, which would hopefully protect the fruit trees from being stripped by the birds. Cllr. Fairweather proposed the request be granted, subject to a satisfactory inspection by Cllrs. Pethurst and Fermor. This was seconded by Cllr. Smith, one member voted against the proposal however there were sufficient votes in favour, for the motion to be carried. It was agreed to suggest that either green or black netting is used.

b) A request had been received from a tenant to move his polytunnel to his newly allocated plot of 22B. Cllr. Fairweather proposed the request be granted, this was seconded by Cllr. Pethurst and agreed.

A tenant who had been a victim of a shed break in had raised concern that other tenants may also have been victims and were not necessarily aware. The Clerk agreed that if supplied with a list of those that may have been affected, she would notify the respective tenants.

28/19: Ball Field:

A request to hold a dog show on the Ball Field in the Summer had been received. We had been informed that this had now been indefinitely postponed, due to the Coronavirus. Cllr. Fairweather proposed to allow, in principle, events such as this on the Ball field in the future. This was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

Cllr. Fletcher advised that there were eight new saplings of various species that had now been planted.

29/19: Crane Valley:

Cllr. Fletcher had noted that the litter bin next to the youth shelter was missing. The Clerk advised that because the liner was constantly being removed and thrown in the stream, the Parish Warden had temporarily removed it from the location. It was agreed he would be asked to reinstate it. The Clerk advised she had been contacted by KHWP regarding getting the youth shelter painted prior to Cranbrook in Bloom judging, to improve its appearance. Cllr. Fletcher advised that Cranbrook in Bloom were not entering any of the 'in Bloom' competitions this year.

Cllr. Fletcher raised concern about potential flooding. KHWP had created four leaky dams through the Nature Reserve however he suggested a sluice gate should also be added to prevent flooding further downstream. The Clerk agreed to seek advice from the Environment Agency along with any potential costs, which could be submitted as part of a S106 request.

30/19: Jubilee Field:

Cllr. Fermor advised there were no issues to report.

31/19: Car Parks:

a) Regal

The Clerk had been advised by the Manager of the Co-Op that there were several potholes, close to the crossing areas. It was agreed to seek quotes for repairs and to delegate authority to Cllr. Fairweather to approve. Cllr. Smith volunteered to take on responsibility for the Regal Car Park.

b) Jockey Lane

The situation of non-electric vehicles parking in the charging bays had not been resolved. A draft notice prepared by the Clerks was tabled. It was proposed by Cllr. Fairweather, seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed to approve the wording and to add that 'unauthorised vehicles may be clamped' to the notice.

The Parish Warden had also identified that vehicles were continuing to park on the hatched area at the top which caused access problem for contractors. It was agreed to seek quotes for relining the hatched area and for signage stating it was a turning area only and delegated it to Cllr. Fairweather to approve.

Cllr. Pethurst advised that the bench in front of the pond area still required repair. The Clerk would chase this up with the Parish Warden.

c) Tanyard

Cllr. Fletcher advised there were no issues to report.

32/19: Highways Issues:

The Clerk asked if Members wished to identify any issues that she needed to refer to KCC. The following suggestions were put forward:

- The edge of the highway in Swattenden Lane required repair and for a form of edging to be considered to prevent the deterioration reoccurring.
- The corner of Frittenden crossroads j/w Common Road, the oak posts that were in situ have been up routed and left in the ditch.
- The white lining at the Cranbrook War Memorial j/w the A229 is now virtually invisible.

Cllr. Fairweather reiterated what Cllr. Holden had said at the Full Council meeting, that if any issues reported are left unresolved, then contact Cllr. Holden direct.

33/19: Any Other Environmental Management Issues:

a) Speedwatch

An email had been received from the Parish Clerk at Benenden requesting information on the current agreement, service arrangements and information on which other parishes share the equipment. They were currently the only parish using the equipment. The Clerk advised members that Hawkhurst had surrendered their share in December 2016. Cllr. Fermor advised the group had ground to a halt in Sissinghurst due to the lack of willing volunteers. It was proposed by Cllr. Fairweather, seconded by Cllr. Smith to surrender our share, informing Biddenden and Newenden of our intention and to offer them the opportunity to withdraw also, leaving Benenden sole use and responsibility of the equipment, as the only current users.

b) Tree Planting programme

Members were reminded of the offer from Cllr. Holden of a grant of £1000 to each of the six parishes in his division, to purchase and plant trees. The grant would be for this specific project but each council is free to decide how best to do it. It was suggested by Cllr. Fletcher that we apply for the funds, passing them on to Cranbrook in Bloom to enable them to source and plant the trees. It was delegated to Cllrs. Fletcher and Fermor to put together a list of desirable trees.

c) Public Toilets:

It was agreed to ask the Parish Warden to adjust the finger post sign on the corner of Carriers Road so it advises visitors that we have a public toilet in the building.

34/19: Litter Picks and Litter Bins:

In light of a recent accident when a parishioner fell over a litter bin in an unlit area of Sissinghurst, it was agreed that Cllr. Fairweather would look for a possible solution to highlight the bin's position, in his role as a Borough Councillor.

It was agreed that the litter picks scheduled for the 28th March would go ahead as planned. It was decided that as opposed to everyone meeting beforehand and after, that there would be a single collection point in Cranbrook and in Sissinghurst where volunteers will be able to collect equipment.

Cllr. Fairweather advised the Clerk has a meeting scheduled with Urbaser to discuss the contract for emptying bins in the recreation grounds and cemeteries.

35/19: Streetlighting:

No issues were raised.

36/19: Public Rights of Way:

No issues were raised.

37/19: Items for Information:

Cllr. Fermor advised that in her capacity as Tree Warden, she would be writing to the owners of the trees overhanging the Pound, formally requesting that maintenance on the trees is undertaken.