
PRESENT

Mr C Williamson (Chairman), Mr M Appelbe (Vice-Chairman), Mr P Dartnell, Mr J Hunt, Mr P Jones, Dr M Robertson.

ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION

All other Members,

Mr. G Bland, Mrs. B Palmer, Mr. N Gray, Mr. S Holden,

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1. Adjournment for Public Speaking
 - 1.1 No members of the public were in attendance.

 2. Apologies for absence
 - 2.1 Mrs A Hastie

 3. Declaration of interests
 - 3.1 MR declared that his wife does have an allotment plot at Ockley

 4. Approval of Minutes
 - 4.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th May 2015 were unanimously accepted.

 5. Matters Arising
 - 5.1 Grounds Maintenance – The contractor has submitted their invoice for the half the year, Assistant Clerk is to analyse work tickets already received to invoice.
 - 5.2 Play Equipment Maintenance -The contractor that put in the play equipment pole that has rotted away have sent in an email saying they would see what they could do to help even though they and manufacture have unfortunately ceased in business. The Committee acknowledge this however; they felt it was not clear exactly what was being offered. CW asked Assistant Clerk to clarify with them what is being offered and the associated cost.
 - 5.3 KGV Playing Field – A letter had been received from a resident concerned that a tree is over hanging her garden that is growing in the field. JH offered to go a look at it and report back to the Committee with what action might be necessary. The office had been made aware of a couple of incidents of suspected drug taking in the field; these had been passed on to the police. JH enquired to how often the office had been informed of this behaviour and that the Committee agreed that every incident we are made aware of must be reported to the police and a record kept. CW said that the Clerk had been trying to obtain a quote for a new spring to replace a broken one on a piece of the equipment in the play area. PD raised a concern that without the Millennium Gates (these were taken down after they were damaged in an accident sometime ago) that people could access the field and camp as happened in Paddock Wood recently. A discussion followed about installing new gates this would probably need to be budgeted for. CW agreed to get a quote for the original gates to be extended as if they are put back as they are the entrance is insufficient for the Street Cruzier to drive through. The general feeling was that it would be good to close off the field but it would be taken forward once the quote to extend the gates had been received. AH sent in an email saying that she has had a meeting with funding bodies to see what help may be available for improving the football pitches and is continuing working on this issue.
 - 5.4 Heartenoak Field – A member of the public had reported graffiti at the play area. CW went to investigate and he discovered the slide had been broken which he repaired, whilst he was there some children gave him details of the person they say caused the damaged, these have been forward to our PSCO to investigate further.

Barrier tape is to be purchased so that any future broken or damaged play equipment can be taped around making it easier for the public to know that it's out of action.

The farmer who farms the adjoining field has reported the bottom end of the fence has been broken again. CW has investigated this and it's in a different place this time. It was agreed that CW should ask for a quote to mend it.

- 5.5 Fowlers Wood –Update on the replacement of the fence that runs along Fowlers Wood footpath that is broken. CW has chased the contractor and he is to complete the work soon. The work does need to be done urgently as the fence is leaning over. The Parish Council have received a letter from KCC giving 28 days to cut back the over grown hedge and trees that run alongside this fence. CW said that the contractor who is replacing the fence is also to do this work but Assistant Clerk should check that if it has been done by 20 days if not then let CW know and he will organise for it to be done.
- 5.6 Allotments – PJ gave an update regarding the allotments. At Hensil the small gate needs to be replaced; this was noted in the walk round but is still outstanding. CW and External Caretaker are to have a look at it to see what needs to be done. An allotment holder has raised that at Hensil allotments haven't got a water supply as they have at Ockley, the Fire Brigade use to help in the past. After a general discussion it was decided that the Parish Council do not own this site as it does with Ockley and we wouldn't put a water supply in to land that we do not own and it was felt it would be too expensive. PJ said that other issues with the allotments were there is one allotment with white goods that have been placed on to it; he asked if the committee agreed that a letter should be sent requesting for this to be removed immediately. PJ and Assistant Clerk have visited Ockley and looked at the non-cultivated plots. PJ is going to speak to two of the allotment holders concerning the state of their plots. Assistant Clerk has spoken with two others and one is going to give up their plot as they are moving away from the area and the other another family member would like to take over next year. MR floated the idea with the allotment holders if they would like a social/open event perhaps a BBQ organised by the Parish Council at Ockley. The allotment holders felt that they would prefer a community open day rather than a BBQ.
- 5.7 Cemetery – CW has repaired the bottom of the gate and now it opens correctly. The shed guttering needs repair and one water tank to be cleaned out; the tank is rotten and beyond repair and needs to be removed. CW to organise for this work to be completed, External Caretaker has said that he would help with this task and PJ has offered to help as well.

6. Matters For Further Discussion

- 6.1 Fun Fair – It was felt that this had been successful and that the village had enjoyed the event so it would be good to have again. Assistant Clerk to write to the Fun Fair organiser to thank them for leaving the Moor tidying and invite them to return again next year.
- 6.2 RoSPA – The report is due. MA gave a brief outline of comments on the day, these included removing the bark from around the play areas and using grasscrete instead. It was agreed to wait until the report was received and then look at the actions in more detail. MA to summarise the main points once the report has been received so that they can be emailed for consideration.
- 6.3 Hanging baskets – the current supplier has suggested that it would be better to tender for the job in the Autumn rather than the Spring as it would be easier for whoever got the contract to order and grow the plants knowing that the contract had been awarded hence avoiding the delay in the baskets going up.

7. Correspondence

An email had been received from a resident asking about the grass cutting at of grass at Iddenden Green, this has now been done by KCC and they should be doing this three times a year. She also asked about the village sign at the entrance to the village saying it was looking tired, this was put up by the Village Society years ago and unfortunately they have now ceased but the Committee agreed to arrange for the sign to be cleaned.

8. Questions and Comments from Councillors
- 8.1 MA said that the Landlord of the local pub is happy to take over the maintenance of the garden and grass around the War Memorial at the moment this is carried out by the RBL. RBL are happy for them to take this over. The Committee felt this was a good idea however they were concerned that not too many signs should be placed around the War Memorial and it was agreed this should keep this in mind as concerns have been raised by members of the public previously.
- 8.2 The defibrillator has arrived and it is to be put on to the Royal Oak pub's wall, the Landlord is agreeable to this but listed building consent will be required. MA is to liaise with the Clerk to get this underway.
- 8.3 JH had noticed that the troughs on the railings are in need of being watered. They do have reservoirs that need topping up. PJ offered to speak to the Clerk at Dunks to see what could be arranged for the ones outside Dunks Hall and MA agreed to ask the traders in the Cranbrook road to see if they could top up the reservoirs for the troughs outside or near to their shops.
- 8.4 JH said that he was concerned about the trees/greenery overgrowing the streetlights at two houses in the village. He felt that a letter should be sent to asking for the overgrowth to be cut back. Assistant Clerk to organise for a letters to be sent.
- 8.5 A member of the public had been in to the office to ask if a memorial bench could be put on The Moor. The Committee are happy for this to go ahead but would like to see a picture of what the bench would look like before it is installed to approve design.
9. Notes and Information
None
10. Confidential
None
11. Closure
The meeting closed at 20.55
12. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 26th October 2015 at 19.00.

Signed.....Date.....
Colin Williamson
Chairman Land Committee