HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE GROUNDS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2015 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs E Tickell (Chairman), Councillors Mrs L Evans, B Mowatt, Mrs S Schillemore and R Veitch.

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IN ATTENDANCE: Carla Baverstock-Jones, Executive Officer and Clerk to the Council and Sarah Guy, Senior Administrator (Minute Taker).

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public were present.

GPS 098 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Burridge.

Apologies were also received from District Councillor D Denston.

GPS 099 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

GPS 100 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE GROUNDS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2014.**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Grounds and Property Committee Meeting held on 10th November 2014 be duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

GPS 101 **TO OPEN THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr Evershed and Mr Steward asked the Committee if they could discuss Item 11 on the Agenda before Item 5 is discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** that Item 11 could be discussed first.

GPS 102 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER THE WAY FORWARD REGARDING THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF CATHERINGTON DOWN.**

A Report by the RFO was circulated and Mr Steward (a member of the public) stated that the Report was interesting and suggested that to protect Council Tax Payers; the Parish Council could consider obtaining an indemnity from Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Schillemore mentioned that she wasn't quite sure how much of this Report is regarding Catherington Down or the total running cost of the Countryside Team. Cllr Evans confirmed that a proportion of the running cost of the Countryside Team was apportioned to the Down.

A discussion was had with regards to whether there was a budget for stiles and if monies could be obtained from Hampshire County Council for their replacement and repair. Cllr Tickell confirmed that it was the responsibility of Hampshire County Council. Further, stiles

were no longer used and as and when stiles required replacement, they were being replaced by metal gates suitable for disabled access.

The Chairman noted this Report and suggested proposal and stated that it will come back to the next Council meeting.

GPS 103 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE WORKING PARTY REGARDING THE SALE AND REPLACEMENT OF THE COUNRYSIDE TEAM VEHICLES AND TO AGREE ON A COURSE OF ACTION**

A report was read out by Cllr Evans. The favoured vehicle was the Ford Ranger. The Countryside Team have booked in a site visit/test drive with Queen Elizabeth Country Park as they currently use a Ford Ranger. Further information is to be sought regarding petrol vs. a diesel engine and whether or not they would be looking to get new or used vehicles.

It was **RESOLVED** that further investigations are done before any decisions are made.

GPS 104 **TO RECEIVE AND AGREE THE AMENDED DRAFT TREE POLICY**

The Draft Tree Policy was circulated and Cllr Tickell started off by saying that amendments had been made with the Policy with a couple of additions having been made in accordance with the discussion at the last meeting.

Cllr Vietch commented that the Policy is very complete and to the point and very easy to read and understand. Additional clarification was added confirming that the Parish Council would not bear the cost of any investigation or report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Tree Policy be agreed with the following amendments:

1). and engineers to be changed to **an** engineer.

2). To add a sentence to the end of the Subsidence paragraph as follows: The person/body providing the evidence will bear the cost.

GPS 105 **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE QUOTATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OFFENCING AT WAGTAIL COPSE**

A Report by the Countryside Team was circulated. The two options for fencing were option 1: To supply and erect 40 metres of 6 foot tall close board fencing using concrete mortised posts and wooden gravel boards and option 2: The same as option 1 but with concrete gravel boards.

The three quotes that were received were as follows:
Contractor 1: For option 1: £1770 exc. VAT and for option 2: £1945 exc. VAT.
Contractor 2: For option 1: £2043 exc. VAT and for option 2: 2251 exc. VAT.
Contractor 3: For option 1: £2415 exc. VAT and for option 2: 2562 exc. VAT.

Cllr Tickell highlighted that the recommendation in the Report was to go with contractor 1 as this was the most economical.

Cllr Vietch queried the quote for Contractor 1 as the quote implied that the fencing was one straight line when in fact this wasn't the case. The Chairman responded by saying that the

quote be accepted subject to the contractor confirming that the quote took into account that the fencing to be done around the Copse was not straight.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1). The necessary work be undertaken for a new fence to be supplied and erected; and that

2). Company 1 be asked to confirm that their quote was on the basis that the fence was not in a straight line and that they be contracted to undertake the works in accordance with the submitted quotation of £1945.00 + VAT, using concrete posts and concrete gravel boards.

GPS 106 **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE TREE MAINTENANCE AT PUMP LANE**

A Report by a member of the Countryside Team was circulated. The Chairman informed the Committee that she had done her own investigation and Wych Elm was not supposed to produce suckers as referred to in the Report. The Chairman advised that she would like to see a reduction in the height of the Wych Elm Trees as the indications were that they were supposed to be a hedge as part of a planting scheme. The team could assess how they responded to this rather than removing them.

Cllr Evans suggested that due to the significant alteration of the landscape, HPC should first notify residents in the area first before cutting back or removing the trees.

It was **RESOLVED** that Horndean Parish Council consult informally with the residents in the area on the cutting back of Wych Elm trees to 5ft in height with additional Native British Wych Elm Whips planted to bolster the planting at the next planting opportunity.

GPS 107 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE TEAMS GROUNDS MANAGER IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED AND ONGOING PROJECTS**

A Report by the Grounds Manager was circulated and Cllr Shillemore stated that she was thrilled to see so much moving on. This was then agreed by all the Committee. The Chairman noted the Report.

GPS 108 **TO CONSIDER THE SALE OF THE RIDE ON MOWER**

The Clerk informed the Committee that no Report had been prepared for this Item but that the idea was for the Committee to discussion the way forward regarding the sale of the ride on Mower.

Cllr Tickell mentioned that due to the grass cutting being contracted out, the obvious option was for the Mower to be sold as it would no longer be used. It was agreed that Cllr Evans would make enquiries to get an idea of the value of the Mower.

It was **RESOLVED** that initial enquiries be made for an idea of the value of the Mower with a view to selling it.

GPS 109 **TO AGREE TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS, IN THE VIEW THAT PUBLICITY WOULD PREJUDICE THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS OR ARISING OUT OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED**

It was **RESOLVED** that the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting.

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Chairman

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Dated