



HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL ON MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.15 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs E Tickell (Chairman), Councillors M Burridge, Mrs D Denston, R Sowden and N Wren

IN ATTENDANCE: Carla Baverstock-Jones, Executive Officer & Clerk to the Council, Carole Burnett, Grounds Manager, Sarah Guy, Senior Administrator (Minute Taker).

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public were present.

G15/16 007 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs L Evans and D Alexander.

G15/16 008 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

G15/16 009 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN TO THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Cllr Wren was nominated as Vice Chairman of the Grounds Committee. This was proposed by Cllr Burridge and seconded by Cllr Mrs Denston.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Wren become Vice Chairman of the Grounds Committee.

G15/16 010 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 06 JULY 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Grounds Committee Meeting held on 06 July 2015 be duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr Burridge and seconded by Cllr Wren.

G15/16 011 TO OPEN THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman opened the meeting to members of the public.

Mr Evershed thanked the Council for completing and installing the Catherington Village signs.

Mr Evershed made a suggestion relating to agenda Item 9, for a set of stocks to be made from the timber and for them to be placed at Old School Field. He also said that the CVRA (in relation to agenda item 10) welcome the planting of a tree to commemorate the Queen being the longest reigning monarch.

Mr Evershed said that he had two concerns from when he walked the footpaths, one being the state of a kissing gate for which he provided a photo and the other being a tree overhanging a lane/track at "The Creek" on Old Lane, Catherington. Mr Evershed said the roots of the tree are only half embedded into the cliff edge. Mr Evershed's concern was if the tree was to fall on someone, it could prove very dangerous and suggested that perhaps it would be worth investigating with the land owner. Photos of the kissing gate and tree in question were passed to the Clerk for investigation.

G115/16 012 **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A REPORT IN RESPECT OF A WORKS SITE AREA FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE TEAM**

A report by the Grounds Manager was circulated.

A discussion took place and it was queried whether or not burning of materials was allowed on sites owned by HPC. This was answered by the Grounds Manager whose response was that all the sites have burn sites on them.

Cllr Wren queried that the diagram in the report didn't show the position of the current trees and suggested that if a bonfire was being lit, some trees would need trimming. The Grounds Manager responded by saying that there has never been an issue in previous years with burning materials, whereby no trees have been interfered with.

Cllr Wren asked if HPC was registered as an exemption for burning green waste. This answer was not known, but the Grounds Manager stated that it had been done historically and she would find out this information. Cllr Wren queried if the trees needed to be removed from where they had been felled. The Grounds Manager responded by saying that there would be too much to leave in the woodland.

Cllr Mrs Tickell questioned the safety around laden vehicles driving up and down Catherington Lith, to which the Grounds Manager assured Committee Members that it was minimal products being transported from one other site to Catherington Lith.

Cllr Mrs Tickell stated that Catherington Lith is supposed to be an area of leisure and hoped the burning of materials wouldn't become a detriment to the area. The Grounds Manager said that the woodland needs thinning out as it is very dark, although it can be beautiful at certain times of the year.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a). the Grounds Committee support the recommendation of the report by the Grounds Manager which includes fencing off the existing site at Catherington Lith with access gates for Countryside Team vehicles.
- b). the Countryside Team build a wood chip store and clear space for log piles.
- c). the Countryside Team continue using the existing burn site at Catherington Lith.

This was proposed by Cllr Burridge and seconded by Cllr Mrs Denston and is to be put before Council at the next scheduled meeting.

G115/16 013 **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A REPORT IN RESPECT OF THE REPLACEMENT OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AT MERCHISTOUN HALL**

A report by the Senior Administrator was circulated.

A short discussion took place and it was mentioned by Cllr Burridge that he felt the cargo net should be replaced in the interest of Health and Safety.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Grounds Committee support the recommendation for the net and crossbar to be replaced as per quotation 1 from "RSS Playground Inspection and Maintenance" (£2,521.66), given that it is assessed as being a medium risk.

This was proposed by Cllr Burridge and seconded by Cllr Wren and is to be put before Council at the next scheduled meeting.

G15/16 014 **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A REPORT IN RESPECT OF FENCING FOR THE PURPOSE OF WOODLAND MANAGEMENT**

A report by Carole Burnett, Grounds Manager was circulated who stated that she had no preference over the cheapest quote as all three provided, offered the same. She also stated that coppicing was widely used.

A discussion took place and some questions were raised regarding the validity to fence the areas using galvanised fencing. Carole responded to these queries by saying that they had previously tried the method of weaving a basket around the areas that had been coppiced but this had not protected the new shoots. If there were no fencing, this would run the risk of ruining the woodland.

The Grounds Manager also mentioned that the fencing isn't aesthetically pleasing but it is effective.

Cllr Mrs Tickell stated that from her perspective, the wildlife corridors would be at risk if this fencing wasn't used.

It was queried by Cllr Burrige whether HPC would need to commit to the three years. The Grounds Manager stated that they could commit to one year to start with and then review it to see how well it was working.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Grounds Committee put forward to Council to agree to proceed with quote 2 from "Heras Readyfence Hire & Sales" (£2,025) and for it to be reviewed next year in time for the budget being set.

This was proposed by Cllr Burrige and seconded by Cllr Sowden.

G15/16 015 **TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE USE OF THE REMAINING WOOD FROM THE RECENTLY FELLED TREE AT CATHERINGTON**

Cllr Mrs Tickell mentioned that she thought the remaining wood from the recently felled tree was quite rotten and said she wouldn't want to commit the Countryside Team to a project when they are very busy during the winter months.

A short discussion took place and Cllr Wren made a suggestion for a bench made out of beech wood to be purchased, commemorative to the tree. Cllr Mrs Denston made a suggestion for a plaque to be put on the tree stump, commemorative to the tree.

Cllr Mrs Tickell made a suggestion for an article to be put in the press (Horndean Post) to say that the wood is rotten/diseased, HPC had no use for it and querying if members of the public had any suggestions for the wood.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be deferred in order to see if there is any mileage on an article being written for Horndean Post by contacting Paul Ferguson.

G15/16 016 **TO CONSIDER THE PLANTING OF A TREE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE QUEEN BEING THE LONGEST REIGNING MONARCH**

A short discussion took place regarding the planting of a tree in commemoration of the Queen being the longest Reigning Monarch.

The Grounds manager stated that it would be a lovely idea for a tree to be planted in commemoration, although stated that the best time for it to be planted would be in December – tree planting week. She also mentioned that it would be beneficial to get a bigger tree as it would have had a better start in life and would also mark the occasion

Ideas were put forward as to where Council Members thought would be a good idea for a tree to be planted.

Cllr Mrs Tickell suggested that perhaps more than one tree could be planted to avoid disappointment to residents over one particular ward being chosen.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Grounds Committee recommend to Council for

a).three trees to be planted in commemoration of the Queen being the longest Reigning Monarch in the following locations in Horndean:

- Jubilee Field
- Old School Field
- Deep Dell

b). the Countryside Team look at what tree would be most suitable on which land.

c). the trees to be planted in December – tree planting week.

G15/16 017 **TO CONSIDER THE SETTING OF THE BUDGET 2016/17**

The Clerk informed Committee Members that the purpose of the agenda item was for the Grounds Committee to put forward some ideas to be put in the budget.

Suggestions were made for more benches at Hazleton Common and elevated wooden trestle walkways.

The Grounds Manager informed Committee Members that a small boardwalk is going down at Dell Piece West with the help of volunteers and that this was due to start three days from that evening's meeting.

The Grounds Manager said that she was waiting on a more up to date list from the previous Council Meeting and that the list needs to be more precise.

G15/16 018 **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE APPLICATION TO MODIFY THE DEFINITIVE MAP**

A copy of the definitive map with modifications was circulated.

The Chairman explained that this is managed by Hampshire County Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that no objections were seen and that the upgrade to add the Bridleway from Denmead Bridleway No 502 to Horndean Bridleway No 501 to the definitive map be noted.

The public part of the meeting closed at 8:20PM.

G15/16 019 **TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND THE 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 confidential part of the meeting.

G15/16 020 **TO CONSIDER THE WAY FORWARD IN TERMS OF THE POSSIBLE ENCROACHMENT OF PARISH LAND**

It was **RESOLVED** that the issue of the possible encroachment of Parish Land be dropped.

The confidential part of the meeting closed at 8:25PM.

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Chairman

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Dated