

Harrietsham Parish Council Environmental Committee

Minutes of the Environmental Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2015
in the Parish Office Committee Office starting 7:30pm

1. Present: Cllr Glenda Dean, Cllr Ken Kay, Cllr Michael Williams, Co Opt, Sharone Amos
2. Apologies: No apologies. No members of the Public.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as signed. Proposed by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Williams.
4. Matters Arising:
 - 4.1 Based on a Tree Survey report dated 21st October 2014 from Challice Consulting that an Apple Tree in Woodlands Walk was reported as dead. This has caused further Health and Safety issues where one of the limbs had fallen. The said limb has been removed and the tree will require further consultation and planning permission to consider removal. Proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Williams.
5. Declarations of Interest declared
 - 5.1 Cllr Dean (Woodlands Walk) as she lives overlooking the Woodland and Lake.
6. Allotments
 - 6.1 Hedge cutting will be completed under the Amenities Contract. Proposed by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Williams. All in favour.
7. Review of Amenities Contracts
 - 7.1 Contracts 1-6 Current contract expires April 2016. Contracts were discussed at length where it was agreed to pull all six contracts under one. This would simplify costs and general governance. Proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Dean. All in favour.
 - 7.2 Contract 7 (Hedge cutting)
Decision taken to leave the current contact as is. Proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Dean. All in favour.
8. Lake and Stream Management Plan Update
 - 8.1 Cllr.Dean reported that following substantial rain over the Summer Pilgrims Lake is now clear of algae.
 - 8.2 Two years ago Medway Valley Countryside Partnership produced a stream and lake management plan for Harrietsham Parish Council. To further enhance this Hadlow College 'Fisheries' have offered to complete a one day electric survey fishing to see what's in the lake, free of charge. Environmental committee are seeking clarity over Personal Insurance cover currently priced at £60. Health and Safety issues including Supervision will also be discussed. This is to support a further three week study block comprising of two students. Proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Williams.

9. Glebe Field Update

9.1 After discussion it was felt that digging a trench around the perimeter would collect rubbish and water and furthermore would create Health and Safety issues. Due to its roman historical importance we cannot dig down more than Twelve inches. Extending the Soil formations all the way around was too expensive and unnecessary and would not enhance its appearance. The proposal is that the mounds of soil will be remodelled and wild flower seeds sown. This will combat weeds and will be easier to maintain. One mound of soil has already been remodelled and plants added at the gate for Harrison Drive. This was carried out by the residents. Proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Dean. All in favour.

10. Items for discussion at the next Meeting

Items numbered 7, 8 and 9 will be further discussed.

11. Date of next meeting – 19th November 2015

12. Meeting closed at 20:36hrs.