

# Harrietsham Parish Council

## Environmental Committee

### Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019 at 7:30pm

1. **Present:** Cllrs Dean (chairman) and Stanley, M Cuerden (RFO/Amenity Manager)
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Dayes and Foster **Members of the public:** None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (11th September 2019) were signed (without amendment) at the September Council meeting. A second set was signed for our records.
4. **Disclosures:** None.
5. **Amenity Contracts (Update):** The Amenity Manager reported that the contracts seem to be progressing well. He noted that

5.1 The book recording the memorial trees in the Garden and New Burial Ground has been found and a copy made. We need to compare the record with the trees actually in the ground to ascertain whether any have been lost (and need replacing), and whilst these are being put in, we can offer the opportunity for anyone else to contribute one.

5.2 The Glebe Field generally is in good order. The new play equipment has been ordered and work to install it should start shortly. We have a possible issue with the keys to the bollards – which seem to have stopped working – this is with the Cllrs Sams and the Clerk at the moment.

5.3 The medical centre and Church Road verges are fine. The branch that was going through a neighbour's fence has been dealt with, and the whole back hedge reduced in height to make it more manageable. For some reason the contractors left another branch, which is also growing sideways and upwards, (clearly with the intention of becoming a beech tree in due course). The Amenity Manager suspects that this was because it was difficult to get to without risking further damage to property, but he will ask MBC to have another look.

5.4 Woodlands Walk is generally in good order. Cllr Dean reported an incident of fishing, in which the perpetrator claimed to have not seen the sign – so she requested that another “No Fishing” sign be put up, probably best sited where the footpath past the nature reserve arrives at the dam. The Amenity Manager will discuss this with the clerk. Cllr Dean also reported that one of the duck houses appeared to be sinking, and so is in need of some refurbishment – the Amenity Manager will contact the contractor, MBC. (Cllr Dean has both a boat and supplies of Sandolin waterproof paint.) There was also a discussion as to whether the lake needed another chalk treatment early next year. It was agreed to do one more, making the fourth year in a row, and to then review the situation – Cllr Dean to contact H2O for pricing.

5.5 The bench in the Garden of Remembrance has been inspected, and, as suspected, has collapsed due to rot at the back. It is probably beyond economic repair, but finding a similar one might be a challenge. The Amenity Manager will see what he can find.

5.6 The war memorial is also looking good, although a couple of issues have arisen following the recent Remembrance Service there. It seems that the contractor cut the grass and trimmed the edges, (as per spec), but didn't plant up the south border. Unfortunately, they also didn't remove the old wreaths on the memorial itself or crosses from the border, leaving it for the local RBL organiser to do it on the day. Whilst this isn't in the spec, it does indicate a lack of common sense. Cllr Dean also reported a tree branch that is interfering with the hedge in the Marley Road/Stede Hill corner. The Amenity Manager would have a look.

5.7 Some of the A20 verges have been done, but some are looking quite sorry for themselves, and it was noted that the contractor is obviously doing what they can. The builders are still parking on the verge south-side and Lenham-side of the railway bridge.

5.8 Teers Meadow – Work to clear the 80% and fence the area is underway, and expected to be finished within a week or so. A meeting had been held regarding the information boards, and we are now awaiting proposals. It was noted that we should now be thinking about getting the Friends of Teers Meadow going.

5.9 Saxon Place amenity land – Work has started, and the entire area is now looking a lot better.

6. **Allotments:** The Amenity Manager had previously circulated a report highlighting the alternative methods of providing water to the new allotments, and the probable costs involved. One option considered and rejected (due to cost) was to connect to the mains in Fairbourne Lane, and then run a pipe to the allotments for a standpipe. Cllr Stanley wondered if we could reduce the cost if we were to provide a standpipe just inside our land, and then leave the allotment holders to use buckets or a hosepipe for the rest of the distance. The Amenity Manager undertook to get an indicative costing for such a solution to see if it was a possibility, otherwise, it was considered that this allotment site might not be viable.
7. **Items for Discussion:** None.
8. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 9th January at 7:30pm in the Parish Office

Meeting closed at 9:35pm.