

DRAFT MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

20 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE

1. Present: GD, MA, FS

DO & SA (Co-opts)

2. Apologies -none

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7th July 2016 were approved

4. Matters arising. Item 8.1 in the Minutes of the meeting of 7th July. This item concerned a hedge which needed attention. It was reported that this has now been trimmed back.

5. Declarations of Interests. David Oversby as Tenant of Allotment

6. Update on Amenities

6.1 A report on work considered required bringing Contract 5 up to standard had been submitted by the new contractor which flagged up certain areas that had been neglected.

The reported noted no work had been carried out to maintain the bank on the far side of the stream near the village green. The area requires a major overhaul to remove brambles, Elder and nettles. The cost for this would be £300 plus VAT. The report stated the Cornus & Ribes have not been reduced to the required 50% for a number of years and the shrubs had only received light trim around the first 1.5m up. Again the cost for this would be £300 plus VAT.

Cllr. Dean reported that the Clerk had received an offer from the PSO regarding the Payback Scheme and it was agreed The Clerk would be asked to investigate whether this work could be done under this scheme in which case there would be no charge to the Council.

Cllr. Dean reported that The Clerk had received positive feedback on the work the new contractors had carried out.

6.2 There had been issues regarding the Gate at the entrance to the New Burial Ground. We are very grateful to Cllrs. Tom and Janetta Sams and Daniel ? who recently cleared all the ivy on the stone pillars but the gate still had problems with the bolts and it was difficult to open. Cllr. Dean reported she was meeting with a Company on 22nd October to obtain a quote to remedy the problem and will report back to the Council. Additionally the contractor responsible for this area has also been asked to give a quotation for the repair.

7. Employment of an Amenity Manager. It was agreed not to proceed with this at the present time as Councillors on the Environmental Committee were happy to continue to monitor the Amenity Contracts.

8. Cllr. Dean reported on a recent Conference she attended on Allotment Law. A discussion was held on what as a Council we are required to provide for allotment holders and the value of forming an Allotment Association. It was also noted that the rents the Parish Council charges for the current allotments have not been increased since and when the new allotments come on stream a rent review should be carried out to include the existing allotments.

9. Woodlands Walk

9.1. Cllr. Dean circulated photographs of some Pink Algae that had appeared on the lake. She had discussed this with Sharon Amos who in turn spoke to her contact at Hadlow College. The opinion given was that it was in fact bacteria and recommended

a chemical solution should be sought.

This led to a further discussion about the amount of green algae build up on the lake. It has been getting steadily worse over the last 3 to 4 years and it has a very unpleasant strong odour. Cllr. Dean circulated details of a product called Aquaplancton which claimed to clear all types of algae as well as sludge slime and silt and safe for all water birds, fish, and plants and in fact all forms of wildlife.

Sharon Amos will speak to her Environmental contacts in KCC and Hadlow College to get their view. If it is considered suitable the Environmental Committee will seek information as to the amount required and cost.

9.2. A resident had reported that a tree in Woodlands Walk had caused a fence post to become loose. On investigation it was found not to be the fence post close to the tree, but one further along Woodlands Walk that had become loose. Contact will be made with the company that installed the new fence to ask them to rectify it.

10. Work Required in Play Area

Following a recent inspection The Clerk and Cllr. Dean met with Craigdene Ltd on to obtain quotes for remedial work needed. Unfortunately this was not received before the Environmental Meeting so no recommendations could be made.

David Oversby reported there is no Barrier from the Play Area into Church Lane. This apparently had been long overdue and recommended that the Parish Council consider installing one to prevent children from running from the Play Area into Church Lane.

11 Village Hall Salt Bin. It was recommended that the Parish Council do not purchase a salt bin.

12 Items for discussion at next meeting

Vandalised gates within the new Burial Ground and leading to the Garden of Remembrance

Treatment of various Benches around the village and in the Garden of Remembrance

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date of next meeting – To be confirmed.