

**Harrietsham Parish Council**  
**Environmental Committee**  
**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 20th March 2023**

**Present:** Cllrs Dean (chairman), Dayes, Luck, Stanley, Mrs S Amos and M Cuerden (RFO/Amenity Manager)

- 1. Apologies:** None **Members of the public:** None
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting** (16th January 2023) were signed (without amendment) at the following Council meeting, another copy was signed for our records.
- 3. Disclosures:** None.
- 4. Amenity Contracts (Update):** MC reported that he had walked round the open spaces on a couple of occasions, and found everything to be in generally good order. In particular,
- he noted that there was no sign of any more broken glass by the Glebe Field bench (as had been previously observed by Cllr Stanley).
  - Both aerators on the Woodlands Walk lake were working, but one seemed to be running at less than full power. Cllr Dean stated that this was the council's one, but she was struggling to get a response from H2O, who maintain it. MC requested their contact details, saying that he would have a go. Cllr Dean also noted that there were still a considerable amount of leaf fall on the W/Walk path, although MC said that he hadn't noticed this when he walked the path only a couple of days earlier – he would have another look.
  - The medical centre was neat and tidy, with well trimmed hedges, with the sole exception of a patch of shingle (to the right of the front door as you approach the building). Here there are a fair number of weeds growing, although he thought that there were fewer than he had previously observed, so this is probably fresh growth.
  - One of our contractors had written to MC, noting that they are currently raising their prices to other customers by 8%. They were, however, conscious that they had tendered for their contracts based on only a 3% year-on-year increase. They were therefore asking if the council would consider allowing a contract variation to let them increase their fees by 5%. After some debate, it was agreed to **Recommend to Council** that we allow this contract amendment, applicable to their **current** contracts, so **not** applying to the new contract they are taking over in April 2023. Proposed Cllr Luck, seconded Cllr Dean, all in favour.
  - Cllr Dean raised the question of whether we should consider more CCTV coverage, given the problems with the Glebe Field play area and instances of vandalism on West Street Green. She was aware that the play area is already covered, but no-one could say if there were warning signs to deter unwanted attention.
- 5. Teers Meadow:** MC reported that he had walked the field as well, and it was looking good too. Mrs Amos reported that she had attended one of the two recent events run by the Medway Valley Conservation Partnership. She understood that both had been lightly attended, but had achieved a fair amount of work towards tidying the meadow up. She also reported that the missing plaque from the middle of the bench had been found in some shrubs and replaced on the bench – but it now required re-fixing. MC said he'd have a look.
- MC reported that we had now taken delivery of the tools recommended for purchase by our consultant, and was now making final arrangements for their safe storage. To this end, we had ordered a lockable external tool storage container to be placed in the office back garden.
- Cllr Dean confirmed that we have now also taken delivery of the information board relating to the Lottery Fund's Teer's Meadow grant. We are trying to arrange a meeting with the contractor to discuss where, exactly, we wished to place them.
- 6. Stream Management Plan:** MC read out an email proposal from the Medway Vallet Conservation Partnership, who seem to have taken over work previously done by KCC, concerning a review of the Stream Management Plan. MC noted that we did have one, but that it was now overdue a review by about a year. Whilst we weren't aware of any changes, it seemed prudent to review the Plan, just to make sure. The proposal's price was quoted as £1,946 (plus VAT). It was agreed to **Recommend to Council** that we accept the proposal as offered; proposed Cllr Dayes, seconded Cllr Dean, all in favour.
- 7. Date of next meeting** – To be advised (should be May 15th, but elections are due before then, and the Annual Meeting to agree groups will be after that date.)

Meeting closed at 8:30 pm.