

**Harrietsham Parish Council
Environmental Committee**

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 15th November 2018 at 7:30pm

1. **Present:** Cllrs Dean (chairman) and Stanley, Mr D Oversby, M Cuerden (RFO/Amenity Manager)
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Foster, Mrs S Amos **Members of the public:** None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (20th September 2018) were signed (without amendment) at the September Council meeting. A second set was signed for our records.
4. **Declarations:** Cllr Dean re Woodlands Walk, upon which she has dispensation to talk.
5. **Amenity Contracts (Update):** The Amenity Manager reported that all contracts appeared to be progressing well. Prior to the meeting, Mr Oversby had reported that the allotments didn't appear to have been done in September. The Amenity Manager had contacted the contractor just before this meeting, and been informed that they had been, (but noted that, with over a month gone, we'd probably never be sure), but that they had visited recently to complete the final cut of the year, and had done the allotments again anyway. The irises in the West Street stream had been cleared, as requested. The Amenity Manager also flagged up a possible problem for next year, because the various contractors doing work on the A20 verges seemed to have left quite a bit of debris behind, which the our contractor had noted might make it impossible for them mow the verges, and possibly to not even be able to trim them. The clerk had raised the matter with Kent Highways, but all we could do now is wait and see what the position in April is.

Cllr Stanley commented that the Burial Ground hedges had been cut (inside and top) but that as a result there was now a fair amount of debris on the path running along the other side, from Teers Meadow. This was causing some inconvenience to walkers. The Amenity Manager undertook to have a look, and see what could be done.

Teers Meadow. The Amenity Manager reported that because Sally Evans had fallen seriously ill, there had been an informal meeting between Cllrs Dean, T Sams and J Sams, the Amenity Manager and Mike Phillips, who was standing in for her. This was to confirm the council's previous outlined expectations for Teers Meadow, which allowed Mike to pick up from where Sally had left off, and had file an outline application with the Heritage Lottery Fund. We were now in the 10-day period during which we could expect feedback on the outline, allowing us to progress to a full application. The only major change to our expectations from this meeting was that Mike advised against widening the scope of the application to include noticeboards outside of Teers Meadow as this would greatly complicate the application.

6. **Old CTRL site / New allotments:** The Amenity Manager summarised the main options for getting water to the new allotments. We could tap into the water mains in Fairbourne Lane, but then we would have to run a trench and pipe to the allotments themselves, terminating at a standpipe. We could either drill a borehole (which turned out to be surprisingly viable), or pump water from the stream. However, both of these but would require an electricity supply to the pump and that meant a generator, which was going to present its own problems. The other alternative was to simply supply each allotment with access to a tank, and then contract MBC Landscape to fill it / them from a bowser. MBC have confirmed that they could access the site with their vehicle, and had offered a price "per load" to supply water to one or more tanks – this seems to be the way forward!

The question of applicants for allotments was then raised, as it was noted that the clerk is having difficulty finding people to take on one of the existing allotments, let alone filling the 16 – 20 new places. It was thought that the clerk was writing to everyone on the current list to make sure that they still wanted one, and it may be that after that we will have to advertise (locally, in Network and Facebook) for new applicants.

The Amenity Manager also noted that, although we don't yet formally own the land, we ought to be starting to think about letting one or more maintenance contracts for the land's up-keep. Councillors also noted that we should survey the site to identify possible access points for any unwanted visitors, which may then entail the installation of bollards similar to those surrounding the Glebe Field.

7. **Woodlands Walk:** Cllr Dean reported that aerator is again working well, and the chalk treatment has been booked for early February 2019. She also commented that, by and large, the lake was looking better than it has for some time, even through the summer. Cllr Dean also reported that work to clear and repair the drains had been satisfactorily completed.
8. **Items for Discussion:** None.
9. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 17th January 2019 at 7:30pm in the Parish Office

Meeting closed at 8:30pm.