

## Harrietsham Parish Council

### Environmental Committee

#### Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2020 at 7:30pm

1. **Present:** Cllrs Dean (chairman), Dayes, Foster and Stanley, M Cuerden (RFO/Amenity Manager)
2. **Apologies:** None **Members of the public:** None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (12th November 2019) were signed by Cllr Dean after Cllrs Dean and Stanley agreed they were a true record of the meeting.
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 New Burial Ground and Garden of Remembrance all looked fine, if a little muddy. He still needs to go round with the map of memorial trees to ensure that all are still present.

5.2 The Glebe Field generally is in good order. The new play equipment has been installed, with additional seating, and we have received positive feedback from members of the public. The notice of “Please don’t” in the corner by the rectory needs re-planting, having fallen over. The AM will contact JB to get this done.

5.3 The medical centre and Church Road verges are fine. The branch that had been left by MBC has now been dealt with by them.

5.4 Woodlands Walk is generally in good order. We have the new no fishing sign, and MBC have been asked to erect it when they return the duckhouses, which are currently being refurbished. The two privately-owned aerators are being serviced, and ours needed a new rope. We hope that the rope will be at no or minimal cost, and ours doesn’t need a service as we think it was done last year.

5.5 The bench in the Garden of Remembrance does need replacing, so the AM used the projector to show councillors several possible replacements. After some discussion, it was decided to **Recommend to Council** that we purchase a “Larbruck” hardwood seat from Glasdons for about £950. We have also received a quote from MBC to install any replacement using a concrete base, at a cost of £450, which is also recommended for acceptance.

5.6 The war memorial area is looking neat and tidy, although the AM had noticed that the old (2018) wreathes are still in a small pile to one side. The AM will contact the contractor and ask for them to be removed. At the last meeting Cllr Dean also reported a tree branch that is interfering with the hedge in the Marley Road/Stede Hill corner. The Amenity Manager had a look, but couldn’t see the problem – it may be that the contractors had already removed it.

5.7 Due to the time of year, there is no work currently scheduled for the verges, so we shall wait and see how things develop when work starts again. In the meantime, though, the council has a meeting with Bellway arranged, at which the verges near their site will be discussed.

5.8 Teers Meadow – The fencing and clearance work has been completed, and the meadow looks much better. Cllr Stanley commented that some of the new gates (and the old one into the burial ground from the avenue) are difficult to open and close, possibly having dropped a little. The AM said he would have a look. We are now looking at scheduling the various activities for the forthcoming year on the meadow, and arranging the grazing – both being actively arranged by Mike Phillips. There is a meeting with the grazier later this month, and discussions are proceeding with the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership for the activities. We hope to hear about the information boards soon. It was acknowledged that the proposed “Friends of Teers Meadow” needs to get up and running as soon as possible, and that the Cllrs Sams be asked to pursue this.

5.9 Saxon Place amenity land – Work is continuing, and the area is looking ok.

6. **Allotments:** Following the discussions at the last meeting, the AM had revised his report on the allotments, and the options for arranging water. Whichever way we do this, there will be a cost, which will need to be covered by the allotment holders, and there is potential for this cost to be significant. The Committee were concerned that the people on the waiting list might not realise that this was the case, so it was agreed that we should write to all those on the list, appraising them of the possible costs, and to see if they still wished to proceed, as well as participating in (and possibly running) an Allotment Association to administer such matters as the water bills. If enough do, then the council will proceed to arrange the facility. If, however, there is a general reluctance to accept these costs, then it is proposed that we abandon using this site for allotments and consider alternative uses instead. We shall then look for a more suitable site should there be further development within the village. The AM will liaise with the Clerk to generate the letters.
7. **Items for Discussion:** Possible future facilities for the village.
8. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 12th March 2020 at 7:30pm in the Parish Office

Meeting closed at 9:30pm.