

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT CHURCH FARM AT 7.30P.M**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. R. Roud (Chairman), Mrs. L. Hogben P. Leale, J. Luque, Mrs. M. Tatton and D. Thornewell  
Paul Gladdish Larkfield Allotments Representative

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. S. Millson

**APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING**

(i) **Planting of Trough – South Ward Playing Field**

It was **NOTED** that no action has yet been taken by the Conservation Group to plant up the troughs but they will plant some bulbs and Cllr. Roud will try to obtain some ivy.

(ii) **Registration of Whimbrel Green as Village Green**

The Clerk reported that she has received notification from KCC that the application to register Whimbrel Green as a Village Green will be heard at the Regulations Panel on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019.

(iii) **Memorial Bench – Rocks Close, East Malling**

The Clerk reported that Liz Stedman, the lady who has requested the placing of a memorial bench at Rocks Close Open Space has indicated that she is prepared to meet to discuss the position for such a bench with Cllr. Roud and Cllr. Thornewell.

It was **AGREED** that Liz Stedman be asked if she could meet next Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Rocks Close Open Space at 10.00 a.m. She has also provided a brochure showing possible wooden benches. The clerk will contact her to confirm and will then inform Cllr. Roud and Thornewell.

(iv) **Skate Park, Litter Bin**

The Clerk reported that the litter bin at the Skate Park has now been installed, a picture was shown to Members, although it has only been there a week it is being used.

(v) **Repairs to Ragstone Wall, South Ward Playing Field**

It was **NOTED** that a quotation had been received from Gary Jiles in the sum of £4,600 for the repairs to the ragstone wall at South Ward Playing Field. The Clerk commented that she has included an amount in the Budget for this work at £5,000.

(vi) **Tree in East Malling Institute Car Park**

The Clerk reported that the above tree has had it's crown raised so it is not such a problem with the branches being too low. The Clerk was asked to find out there is a Tree Preservation Order on this Scots Pine.

Cllr. Roud will speak to John Hilden to make enquiries about the bays being marked in the car park and also when the lines will be reinstated in the access road to the Village Field car park and allotments following the resurfacing.

### **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(i) **Report by Larkfield Allotments Representative**

Paul Gladdish said that the padlocks have been giving problems with some allotment holders. It was **AGREED** to ask Astra Security if they could give the offending padlocks an overhaul.

The Assistant Clerk had prepared a summary of the current situation in respect of the allotments at all three sites which was circulated to Members. (Appendixed to these Minutes).

(ii) **Request for Greenhouse – Plot 27 Larkfield Allotments**

Mark Francis who has Plot No 27 at Larkfield Allotments is requesting to erect a Polycarbonate greenhouse on his plot. It was **AGREED** that this be permitted.

(iii) **Any Other Allotment Matters**

Cllr. Thornewell reported that he has been approached by Commungrow for a grant toward buying tools. This will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

### **OPEN SPACE MATTERS**

(i) **Play Equipment Repairs and Maintenance**

There was nothing to report as the latest Inspection Report had not yet been received.

(ii) **Tree Planting at South Ward Playing Field**

The Clerk reported that she has spoken to Qualitree and they are trying to source root balled trees as they need less watering than open root ones. She will monitor this situation.

(iii) **Any Other Open Space Matters**

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton suggested that a wildflower area be created at South Ward Playing, possibly around the edge. It was **AGREED** to investigate this report back to the next meeting of this committee. Apparently Plant Life in Cuxton carry out this type of scheme.

### **HALF-YEARLY BUDGET SITUATION**

The Clerk circulated an account sheet showing the Budget income and expenditure up to the end of September, half year, which was felt to be satisfactory.

### **CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR 2020/2021**

The Clerk had prepared a Provisional Budget for this Committee which was explained to members present and it was **AGREED** this be **RECOMMENDED** to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for adoption, subject to any changes they may wish to make. (Appendixed to these Minutes)

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Open Spaces Society: **"Open Space – Autumn 2019"**

It was **NOTED** that the latest issue of Open Space had been received and Cllr. Luque took this to read and will report back with anything of interest to the Council.

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### **Information**

It was **NOTED** that some information had been received from the Open Spaces Society giving brief details of some their work.

Qualitree:

### **Quotation for Tree Work at South Ward Playing Field**

It was **NOTED** that a quotation had been obtained from Qualitree for work to a tree at South Ward Playing Field that overhangs Mill Street, this follows a request from a resident as the tree was shedding chestnuts onto her car opposite the tree. The quotation is in the sum of £408. It was **AGREED** no further action be taken at present.

Simon Allum:

### **Access from M20 to Larkfield Sportsfield**

Cllr. Thornewell reported that he met with Simon Allum from Atkins Global who are one of the contractors in connection with the Smart motorway, on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October in respect of a maintenance access from Larkfield Sportsfield on to the M20 in the vicinity of the redwing close footbridge.

Cllr. Thornewell said that we would require drawings showing details of the proposal that have not yet been received. Also he stressed that it would be important that any access would be secure to prevent access by unauthorised people.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council:

### **Leybourne Lakes Country Park – User Panel Minutes – 14.11.2019**

It was **NOTED** that the Minutes of the above Meeting had been received and will be available in the Parish Office should any Member wish for a copy.

Peter Bratchell:

### **Trees at Watercress Court, Mill Street, East Malling**

It was **NOTED** that an email had been received from Peter Bratchell, a resident of Vigor Close asking who owns the park adjacent to Watercress Court. It is not clear what tress he is referring to so it was agreed that the Handyman inspect the trees to try to establish whether there is a problem with trees on South Ward Playing Field or the Blacklands Scout site.

## **ITEMS CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS**

The Chairman expressed concern that recently cars were actually parked on East Malling Village Green. It is thought there was either a funeral or wedding at St. James Church.

After discussion it was **AGREED** that suitable small boulders be investigated to go round the edge of the green to avoid this happening in future.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton commented on Cottenham Orchard and the Clerk agreed to ask Medway Valley Conservation Group if they have the results of the survey that should have been carried out either last month or this month.

Cllr. Thornewell proposed that the next meeting of this Committee take place in January and the December scheduled meeting be cancelled.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**CLOSURE**

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.47pm

Chairman  
20<sup>th</sup> January 2020