

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 26 June 2014 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT Mr R Dinnis (Chairman)
 Mr M Brett
 Mr B Wilkinson
 Mr R Theobald
 Mr D Hart

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr R Cooper

1 Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman

Mr Dinnis was proposed by Mr Wilkinson and seconded by Mr Brett for the position of Chairman.

Mr Cooper was proposed by Mr Brett and seconded by Mr Hart for the position of Vice-Chairman.

As there were no other proposals, Mr Dinnis was duly elected Chairman and Mr Cooper as Vice-Chairman.

Mr Dinnis then took the chair.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 May 2014

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

It was agreed that there will be published agendas of all Footpaths meetings in future, not just when there are new matters arising.

4 New Siting of Notice Board in Thong (45)

The Parish Council would like to re-site the notice board in Thong as the present location is a hazard to get to, due to the speed of traffic. An alternate location has been proposed which is to move the notice board next to the post box going south in Thong. Permission will have to be sought from the owner of Cheney's Farm. Mr Brett will deal with this.

5 New Notice Boards for Shorne West (46)

The corrected total costs for the two new notice boards made by Mr Ron Bardoe are as follows:-

Morgan Timber (Strood) Ltd for the wood which came to £112.03 + £22.41 (VAT) = £134.44.

Mr Bardoe's bill was £457.00.

The total cost for the two new notice boards is £569.03 (ex VAT).

6 Wall at Village Hall, Adjacent to 14 The Street (45)

Miss Newton had reported having water in her garage. The slight dampness that is present is being monitored by Mr Bugg in conjunction with the builder who carried out the works.

7 Shorne Village Hall – Drain in Car Park (46)

Mr Bugg is seeking someone to take up the cover to the gully before CSG can go ahead with the works as they did not want to have the frame breaking. The matter is in hand.

8 Football Club - Lease (47)

Mr Theobald reported that the new lease for the football club is ready, which will be for fifteen years. In order for “**exclusion of security of tenure**”, with regard to automatic renewal of the lease, it is necessary to get the certificates signed by both parties in front of a Notary Public. It was reported that this was now not necessary and that the document can be signed in front of a Commissioner of Oaths. Mr Theobald will make enquiries to see if there is somebody locally who can perform this.

9 Crabbles Bottom - Clearance of Vegetation on Bridlepath (48)

Mr Dinnis reported that he has drawn up a specification for the works for the on-going maintenance which will be sent out to three contractors for quotations. He has also sought Tim Bell's assistance due to his expertise with such matters and will be meeting up with him the following Thursday.

10 Rights of Way (49)

Shornemead - Re-Opening of the Level Crossing (49a)

Mr Brett and Mr Theobald attended a GROWC meeting when the matter was discussed. The matter should take two years and that the time was now up. It was suggested that a petition should be raised.

Mr Theobald reported that the new PROW Officer for Dartford & Gravesham used to work for Maidstone Borough Council. He reported that the matter has

also surfaced to the top of the pile at KCC. Mr Theobald has also spoken to someone at County Hall about this matter.

11 Any Other Business

- (a) Mr Theobald had previously reported that with regard to the landscaping strip off Michael Gardens, he had contacted Mr Miller who in turn has raised the matter twice with the officers at the Borough Council. The screening is an issue and the Parish Council does not want more licences being issued to residents. Still awaiting a reply from the Borough Council. A letter will be sent to the Chief Executive at the Borough Council.
- (b) Mr Theobald reported that he had been contacted by one of the Borough Councillors for Higham, whose brother has advised that at Court Wood (at the junction of Pear Tree Lane and the Gravesend Road), the footpaths have been obstructed by barbed wire.

Mr Theobald reported that he has walked Court Wood. If the Parish Council were to put in a claim, affidavits would have to be collected by walkers who have walked there over twenty years. A lot of the walkers live in Higham but the footpaths are in the parish of Shorne. Mr Theobald will speak to some of the Higham Borough Councillors about this. He will also contact Bill Ripper, who is the footpaths officer for Dartford & Gravesham, to update him on the position.

- (c) Mrs Shove had enquired as to who maintained the bus shelter on the A226, adjacent to Pear Tree Lane as it is in a bad state. Mrs Shove asked Pat Oakshott, Chairman of Higham Parish Council who thought it was the responsibility of Shorne Parish Council. Mr Theobald thought that many years ago, Adshell were involved with advertising at Bus Shelters so KCC would be involved. Mr Dinnis will look into the matter.
- (d) Mr Wilkinson had reported that it would appear that the bark is very low under the play equipment in Mill Hill Lane. He has contacted Graham Marchant at Gravesham Services who is awaiting a bulk delivery of bark. Mr Marchant is to be reminded about the bark.
- (e) Mr Theobald reported that at the bus shelter at the Crossroads on the north side the lamp column and sign board have been sprayed with silver spray paint. Stuart Alford is to be advised of this and also reminded that the works on the steam cleaning of the two bus shelters have not yet been carried out.
- (f) Mr Wilkinson reported that he had asked Kevin Law to clean the swing and steps at the play area in Mill Hill Lane at a cost of £50.00. The bill has been settled.
- (g) Mr Wilkinson reported that he had been telephoned on Sunday, 22 June 2014, by the police (PC Dave Greenwood) at Maidstone, who advised that the fencing to football ground had been damaged by a Honda Civic K8EFL driven by Tony Nelson of Orchard Lea Farm, Shorne Ifield Road. He is willing to pay for the damage. The fencing is to be inspected to assess the damage which is on

the same side as the gate before asking Gravesend Fencing for a quotation to repair the damage.

- (h) Mr Hart raised the matter of the e-mail received from the lady who lives at "Kiora", in Green Farm Lane who reported possible ash die back on Footpath N5 157. The matter is to be investigated.
- (i) Mr Hart reported that a few weeks ago there were police helicopters circulating over Claylane Woods and that some motorcycles have been stolen. Parishioners living behind Davys Place have complained about this.

It was thought that it is the Dept of Transport's responsibility as the land in question runs alongside the A2. The ownership of Claylane Woods is also to be established. It was agreed to contact Kent Highways to establish the responsibility for the boundary fencing on the A2 at Claylane Woods and to advise that the Parish Council is particularly concerned about the entrance at the south-western end of Claylane Woods and the A2. Also could they advise as to who owns Claylane Woods.

- (j) Mr Dinnis raised the matter of which footpaths were maintained by KCC. Mr Leaney, a parishioner at "Ewhurst", Bowesden Lane, has been in contact to advise that the footpath which starts opposite the See Ho pub in Pear Tree Lane, which goes down a couple of fields and comes out at Shorne School has become so overgrown with stinging nettles that it he can no longer use it for the school run.

Mr Dinnis was advised that in May last year, the Parish Council was advised of the changes to be made by the PROW & Access Service to their vegetation clearance on the public rights of way. They would be operating a schedule that is 60% fixed and 40 & reactive. The paths that are on the fixed schedule in Shorne parish are N156, NS158, NS160, NS162, NS163, NS355 (total 2232 metres) which are generally programmed for one cut. The reactive part of the programme will allow for a further 890 metres of cutting which will take the form of a second round of cutting starting immediately after the completion of the fixed schedule which will take between three and four weeks to complete. Mr Dinnis will reply to Mr Leaney.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.