

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 28 June 2018 in Shorne Village Hall**

PRESENT Mrs L McCluskey (Chairman)
Mr R Lane
Mr J Bugg
Mr R Hardy
Mrs S Lindley
Miss P Clifton

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr R Theobald,
Mr R Cooper and Mr C Rea

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2018

The minutes were AGREED as a true record.

2 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3 Update on Maintenance at Crabbles Bottom (77)

Mrs McCluskey and Mr Lane surveyed Crabbles Bottom on 6 June 2018.

(a) To approve further repairs to the bridleway fence

AGS Hoarding & Fencing Ltd have now replaced the decayed sections of fence alongside the bridleway, which were originally reported on 14 November 2017.

However, during the survey on 6 June, a further 10 metre section of fencing was found to be collapsed and a longer section where the fencing was unstable and only being held up by adjacent bushes and vegetation. AGS Hoarding & Fencing have provided a quotation for replacing the 10 metre collapsed section and to carry out repairs and replacement of the longer unstable section. The Committee is invited to approve the replacement of the 10 metre section that has collapsed and to consider the options for the longer unstable section.

It was agreed that Mr Lane will check on previous quotations for replacing the 10 metre section of fencing and if the price quoted is reasonable, to go ahead with the work. On the second part of the works, members agreed to defer this to be looked at in October 2018.

(b) Update on meadow maintenance

Despite only being cut in early May, the grass on the orchard meadow area had grown significantly. Mr Lane instructed Tom Gozzett to carry out the

second cut of the season, to include the inset meadows. This was carried out on 23 and 24 June 2018.

(c) Update on footpath & bridleway maintenance

The footpath and bridleway were found to be heavily overgrown during the survey on 6 June 2018. This was partly because H&P Conservation Works mistakenly omitted the second cut last season. H&P Conservation Works subsequently carried out the first of this season's cut backs on 13/14 June.

(d) To consider taking over the vegetation maintenance in Bowesden Lane

A number of comments have been received on social media and by email that the footpath and bridleway in Crabbles Bottom were still not accessible from Bowesden Lane due to overgrown vegetation in the non-vehicular section of Bowesden Lane. This is still classified as a highway and the overgrown vegetation has been reported to KCC Highways. However, the Committee is invited to consider whether it may be in the interests of the parish to take over the vegetation maintenance of this section of Bowesden Lane and to include it with the Crabbles Bottom footpath and bridleway maintenance. H&P Conservation Works have offered to add this to their schedule in future but it would need a one-off cut back first.

Members agreed that Shorne Parish Council should take over the vegetation maintenance of this section of Bowesden Lane from KCC, and Mr Lane will request that KCC pays the Parish Council the same amount KCC has in its budget for maintaining this section. There have been unconfirmed reports on social media which suggested that KCC has now cut back Bowesden Lane, but this needs to be checked.

Mr Lane will also find out whether KCC would consider paying the Parish Council to take over the maintenance of the vegetation in Crown Lane under a similar arrangement

(e) To consider obtaining signs for Crabbles Bottom

As discussed previously, it was decided to consider installing appropriate signs at the entrances to Crabbles Bottom. This will require 4 signs. Members agreed that Mr Lane should proceed with obtaining estimates for the cost and erection of the signs.

4 Maintenance of Play Equipment at Shorne Common (78)

The wood chippings offered by NPC Tree Surgery were not considered suitable for a play area and Mr Lane therefore requested Mr Vilday of All Seasons Garden & Landscaping to provide and spread bark during the annual routine maintenance. The work was carried out on 26th and 28th June 2018.

5 Litter Patrols (79)

The Parish Council's insurer has confirmed that our insurance provides cover for litter patrols and other voluntary activities, but requested that we notify them of the dates of any events where more than 10 volunteers are expected to participate. There will be no additional costs.

The next Shorne litter pick is provisionally arranged for 22 September 2018. It will be necessary to coordinate the dates with any litter picks carried out in Shorne West, so that the litter picking equipment can be shared.

Mr Lane attended a #LitterHeroes Ambassador event organised by Keep Britain Tidy at Central Hall Westminster on 23 June.

6 Court Wood - Update on pathways (80)

At the previous meeting, Mrs Lindley reported that she had made further enquiries to the Land Registry to try to establish land ownership. Mrs Lindley reported that there has been a planning application from one of the owners of a piece of land, who has purchased a further piece of land and had erected a fence. He is applying for retrospective consent.

Mr Theobald previously undertook to discuss the matter with the planning case officer at Gravesham, and to arrange a date to walk the tracks.

7 Additional Supplementary Cutting of Greens & Verges (82)

Colin Lawrence completed all 4 supplementary spring cuts to the greens and verges where bulbs are planted by mid-May. The verges were very overgrown by mid-June; but have since been cut. The Committee is invited to consider whether it is in the interests of the parish to carry out a fifth cut in early June in future years. A Motion was proposed by Mr Lane to a fifth cut in future years, which was seconded by Mrs McCluskey. The Motion was carried.

8 Damage to verges at Forge Lane and Malthouse Lane (83)

Mrs Lindley has been in contact with KCC, who reported that they will arrange to have both sites levelled, top soiled, and seeded later this summer. This was delayed due to wet ground conditions. Mrs Lindley reported that the fences have since been removed, although it is not clear whether re-seeding has taken place. The matter is to be kept under review.

9 Replacement Signs in Shorne Common Rough (85)

At the previous meeting, Mr Lane agreed to look into the cost of replacement signs. Quotations will be requested at the same time as the signs for Crabbles Bottom.

10 Fence in Burdett Avenue and Footpath NS156 (86b)

At the previous meeting, Mrs Lindley reported that she has raised the matter with KCC Highways and also with KCC's PROW department as it appears that the resident has fenced off part of the land alongside Footpath NS156.

Mrs Lindley reported that she had visited the site the previous day. The fence across the end of Burdett Avenue was still there, although all of the fencing alongside footpath NS156 has been removed. The householder has also installed a CCTV camera on a KCC-owned tree, and other cameras facing the footpath. KCC Highways has written to the householder instructing them to remove the fence from Highways land. Mrs. Lindley will contact the land owner about establishing access from Burdett Avenue to footpath NS156.

11 Possible Telecom Mast in Shorne

Shared Access Ltd has contacted the Parish Council regarding the potential to locate a telecom mast on Parish Council land in Mill Hill Lane in return for a £30k 25-year lease payment. A draft proposal was circulated on 27 June 2018.

There was a discussion with comments from various members of the Committee. Mrs Lindley stated that 4G signal is already available in the village for EE customers, and expressed concerns regarding the close proximity of the proposed mast to the Scout Hut and nearby properties. It was agreed that Mr Lane would reply, advising that there was not sufficient information to determine whether the Parish Council would be prepared to pursue the matter, but that members of the Parish Council would be willing to meet with representatives of Shared Access to discuss the matter further in order to assist the Parish Council's decision.

12 Village Hall Car Park - Surface Repairs

Mr Lane reports that the Village Hall Management Committee has raised the issue of the car park surface again. Mr Lane is obtaining quotations to get a view of the likely cost if it is decided to proceed.

13 Any Other Business

(a) Park Pale motorbike disturbances

Although not a Footpaths issue, there have been a number of disturbances from motorcyclists using Park Pale as a race track. Police have been informed and have attended to warn and disperse offenders. There were two telephone calls by a parishioner the previous evening, and the Police will be requested to take further action.

(b) KCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan

KCC has launched a consultation on their Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The closing date is 12 September 2018. Mrs Lindley reported that the consultation had more questions than the previous one that she had completed as an individual. There were still issues concerning unconnected bridleways, such as the one leading to Shorne Mead, which connects to cycle paths and footpaths. Mrs McCluskey will respond to this.

(c) Mrs Lindley reported on a planning application from Shorne Country Park for Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras. This raises the question of whether visitors will be penalised for visiting the shop or checking to see whether there are spaces in the car park. Mrs Lindley will ask the Country Park for their parking policy.

(d) Miss Clifton reported on the Neighbourhood Watch Rural Liaison Team. There is a northern division which extends from Dartford to Faversham.

(e) Mr Hardy reported that the area by the notice board in Michael Gardens Play area is very overgrown with vegetation due to the hedges. He will contact the horticultural services at GBC to report this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm