

Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council
Minutes from the Environmental Committee Meeting
Held on 23rd September 2020 at 2pm via Zoom

***Councillors Present: Tildesley
Rees
Fray
Freshwater
Pearce
Pratt
Winstanley***

Also, Present: Parish Clerk.

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr Tildesley.

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared

3. Recreation Grounds.

a. New play equipment.

The Clerk confirmed that this project was now progressing, and the play equipment was on order with the supplier.

b. Tree Maintenance.

Quotations to be sought for tree maintenance at recreation grounds when all reports had been submitted by Medway Norse. This was currently delayed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Action: Clerk to progress.

c. Floodlights.

It was agreed that a meeting with the VHMC should be arranged with the Chairman to discuss the floodlights and other matters.

Action: Clerk to action.

d. Kingshill Recreation Ground- Play Area.

The Clerk stated that the issue of the play area at Kingshill was discussed at the last PC meeting, and since then she had emailed Medway Council regarding possible Section 106 funding for a new play area at the recreation ground.

Cllr Fray reported that Dave Harris was due to arrange a site meeting at Kingshill to discuss the Hillcrest development.

e. Signage for Recreation Grounds.

The Chairman confirmed that the Warden would collect the signage from Medway Council and then a site meeting would take place to agree the locations.

Action: Clerk/Chairman to action.

Hoo Common

The Chairman reported that the ranch style fencing at Hoo Common had been damaged and a quotation for the repair of this had been received. He stated that since then he had been approached regarding disabled access to the area.

He stated that there was an option to have the fencing repaired and incorporate a disable gate for access. He said that additional measures may also be necessary to ensure that any wheelchair users were safe on the uneven ground.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that a disabled access gate should be installed at the recreation ground, this should be self closing and fitted with a radar key to comply with the disability regulations, however no other measures should be put in place to restrict access for the disabled

Action: Recommendation to install a disabled access gate at Hoo Common.

Pottery Road Recreation Ground

The fencing at Pottery Road Recreation Ground was discussed and it was reported that this was in a poor condition at the Trubridge Road end of the ground.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that this area should be inspected when the site meeting took place to discuss the signage.

4. Parish Allotments.

The Clerk reported that the new standpipe and noticeboard was being installed at the allotments as agreed at the last Parish Council meeting.

5. Burial Ground.

Cllr Rees circulated the following report on the burial ground, this was noted by members:

1. Gates

We have not heard from the Church yet regarding a timeline for the takeover of the Burial Ground. The PCC raised £600 some time ago to put towards the gates and as there is no information on progress from the PCC then there is no progress on the gates.

2. Block on Access Gateway

As there was a risk of unauthorised entry through the gap for the gates Andrew Brice has kindly dropped some large wooden sleepers in the gateway to prevent entry. There is also a very large wooden block across the entrance to his fields to block entry to the track running along the south boundary.

3. Saplings

There will be a delivery of a further 135 saplings in early November. These will be used to infill gaps. I have walked all the borders this morning and the heatwaves have proved detrimental to the growth of the saplings. However, many have survived as follows and suggestions in bold:-

- (i) West border – Vicarage Lane - south of the stile. Many have survived. **Suggest leave alone for a good soaking this winter.**
- (ii) West Border – north of the stile – these are struggling. **Suggest that we arrange weeding between the saplings and strim the outer border adjacent to the road**
- (iii) South border – those planted above the concrete base are struggling but those under the new oak tree are doing well. **Suggest I research hedging that can cope with poor soil depth for those above the concrete base.**

- (iv) East border – many have survived – **Suggest we plant some of the new saplings in this border**
- (v) North boundary – none have survived – **Suggest we arrange weeding and plant some of the new saplings, well-spaced along this boundary.**

Notes:

- a.) Weeding should be held back until the ground is soft with autumn rain
 - b.) I circulated a **Hedge Maintenance Schedule** previously and some of the saplings are ready to be trimmed. **Suggest we start the Schedule**
 - c.) S.106 funding of £23,376.20 contribution becomes due (Hillcrest MC/19/3328) when the 12th housing unit is occupied on this development. Some of this will be available for the Burial Ground and some for provision and maintenance of off-site trees at Kingshill. **Action - The Clerk is seeking an update of an estimate obtained in 2016 for post and rail fencing so that we can supply an estimate figure for Medway Council. The suggestion is for the west and south boundaries of the Burial Ground be fenced with post and rail as this will define the boundaries while the saplings grow.**
4. **North section intended for School** on hold for now requires strimming as overgrown

The Chairman stated that Andrew Brice had now installed measures to secure the land and he asked the Clerk to liaise with him to ascertain whether there was a cost.

Action: Clerk to action.

6. **Other Projects.**

Village Planters

Members discussed the need for village planters, and it was agreed that rather than having planters, the PC should consider supporting the planting of the village centre.

It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Norse to establish their schedule of maintenance for the village centre, this would enable to PC to ascertain how it could assist in keeping this area in a maintained condition.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Medway Norse.

Parish Council Nursery/ Storage Area

The Clerk stated that this was now on hold until the issues over the Section 106 money spent on the new infants play areas had been resolved.

7. **Any Other Business.**

Members discussed the closure of the footpath at Abbott's Court, RS90.

Cllr Winstanley and Rees spoke regarding this and its current status.

It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with MC Officer, Adam Taylor to establish the current situation regarding footpath RS90.

Action: Clerk to action.

The meeting was closed at 3.05pm