SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee Meeting held on 22nd July 2021 in Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT
Miss P Clifton (Chairman)
Mrs L McCluskey (Vice Chair)
Mr R Theobald
Mrs S Lindley
Mr R Lane
Mr C Rea
Ms A Franks

Apologies
Mr R Hardy

45. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2021:** These minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mrs McCluskey seconded by Mr Lane. All agreed.

46. Any Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda.

No matters arising from the Minutes

47. Update on Shorne Common - Play Equipment report and how the opening went.

Mr Lane reported that he thought the opening event was very good, with over 80 people in attendance. Mr Lane sent a press article to Kent Messenger Group, but he doesn't think they published anything.

Mr Lane is still waiting for Redlynch to replace the main gate post and re-hang the gate, and to swap over the swings, but we do not have a date yet. We have not paid them, and he suggests that we withhold 5% (£1,155) retention until they have carried out the work.

Mr Lane meet with Highways England's contractor Balfour Beatty and they have agreed to re-profile and resurface the parking area with MOT type 1 aggregate free of charge. They have also offered to replace the gate post if Redlynch lets us down.

The final grant application was submitted to Veolia Environmental Services on 16th July, and hopefully we should receive the remittance shortly. Today we received the remittance advice for the £10,000.00 contribution from Gravesham Borough Council. Mr Lane said we now need to start considering the adventure trail.

Chris Zgoda, Shorne's Scout Leader, has offered us the use of their lawnmower to keep the grass cut around the play equipment, and has also offered to carry out this work. It was proposed by Mr Lane that we pay £50.00 for the use of the lawnmower and £100.00 per year for them cutting the area, this will be reviewed at the next Full Council meeting, this was Seconded by Mr Rea.

Mr Rea proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Lane for the many hours of work he has put into this project and the Councillors all thanked him for this.

Ms Clifton reported that since the rain the slide is working much better, and she has seen lots of children using this.

Ms Clifton reported that where the old equipment use to be we need to consider levelling and then either turfing or seeding which Mr Villday could do.

Mrs McCluskey suggested contacting the people from the Consultation who wanted to be involved in the Friends of Shorne Play Area, and setting up a meeting/facebook page/wattsapp group so they can arrange a rota between themselves, Mrs Poole will organise this meeting.

Mr Lane reported that the adventure trial needs to be done in the winter and someone needs to take charge of this project, but the planning needs to start now.

48. Update on Crabbles Bottom

Ms Clifton received an email last month from a local walker saying how beautiful the meadows were with masses of wildflowers.

Ms Clifton reported that Mr Gozzett will be doing the 3rd cut of the Orchard very soon, and he will look to see if the wild flowers in the Meadows have died before he cuts these.

49. Shorne Common Rough

49.1 Bollard update – Mr Vilday has been self isolating so nothing has been able to progress with the new poles.

50. Chestnut Corner Notice Board

Ms Clifton reported that she had chosen the plain lettering and will be ordering the new noticeboard very soon.

51. New Signs at Shorne Common

Mr Lane collected 2 new signs from Tom Clisby today. He reported they look good and he will fit the new play area sign over the next few days. He is awaiting John Vilday to fit the new posts for the new Shorne Common sign. Mr Clisby has declined to invoice the Parish Council, and it was proposed by Mr Lane and seconded by Mr Rea that we make a suitable gift to him, or a donation to a charity of his choice.

52. Litter Bin Request

Ms Clifton received an email from Mr Bell, who said there are no suitable places to install litter bins near the exit to the Country Park. Hopefully with the new signage going up in Park Pale and the bollards going up on the pavement this will stop the litter in Park Pale. The majority of people do use the litter bins in the car park, they dispose of 13,000 litres of waste per week peak season.

53. Bus Shelters.

Mr Theobald has produced some detailed drawings, load calculations, and specifications to open up the front of the existing bus shelters at Shorne Crossroads. Kent County Council will accept applications for match grant funding covering up to 50% of the cost of a refurbished bus shelter, with a maximum value of £2,000 available per request. This rises to £3,000 for a replacement shelter, or £4,000 for a 'bee-friendly' replacement shelter.

Mr Lane reported that for eligibility, we will need to liaise with Kent County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, and the bus operator, obtain quotations for the work, and carry out a public consultation to demonstrate the usage of the bus stops and the level of public support for our proposals. This will be quite a time-consuming process, and the application requirements are quite prescriptive. Ms Clifton will contact Kent County Council for some advice on this to get the project started.

Mr Lane reported that the closing date for this year's application is tomorrow, 23rd July 2021, so we have missed this year's window. We will need to carry out a significant amount of work between now and next year. It may be advisable to submit two separate applications over two years to maximise the grant.

54. Recreation Ground – Rubbish/Licencing

Ms Clifton reported that a large amount of rubbish has built up to the side of the pavilion, Mrs Poole will write to the current lease holder Mr Cater asking for this to be removed.

The licencing arrangements were published on the website earlier this year, and Mrs Poole will now be writing to the various people who have been using it for commercial gain, stating that they need to apply for a licence and pay the licence fee. The details can be found under Categories / Licensing of Commercial Activities on Parish Council land.

55. Malthouse Lane Track

Two parishioners reported to Ms Clifton that the track behind St Katherine's leading onto Crown Lane is not passable. Ms Clifton has spoken to Mr Pelham from Public Rights of Way who has said this track is the responsibility of Kent County Council Highways. Ms Clifton has reported this on the website, reference 584400. Mrs Poole will also chase this up on the website.

56. Coutts Ave rear garden

Ms Clifton has received an email from a resident in Coutts Avenue asking who owns the scrub land between the boundary of his rear garden and the public footpath because he needs to access the land to maintain his garden wall.

Despite enquiries, it has not been possible to find out who owned the land, and Ms Clifton has passed on to the resident the contact details of the agent for the land.

57. Telephone Kiosk Chestnut Green

Ms Clifton has been in contact with British Telecom Customer Services, and they are awaiting to hear back from the Regional Field Officer regarding the rewiring.

58. NS 167 Update

Mrs McCluskey reported that the stile gate has now been fixed and replaced, there are notices on the fence saying please do not feed the horses and that they bite.

Any other business:

59. Matters raised by Members

(a) Mr Lane reported that we have had further correspondence from UKPN regarding underground cable at Shorne Common.

(b) Mr Lane also said we need to agree actions regarding Highbank. It was agreed that we would seek advice from Ron King of King Prior solicitors who are a local firm.

(c) Mr Theobald reported that he had a meeting with Mrs Lindley today at British Nuralite and we have also had communication from Graham Rusling, Kent County Council Public Rights of Way and Access Service Manager, who is going to keep us informed of the closure of Shorne Mead Crossing.

(d) Mr Theobald also reported that an Oak Tree in Shorne Common needs to be looked at as it seems to have a fungus on the leaves, as they have gone white.

60. Matters from other Committees being discussed for convenience

Mrs Lindley reported that two thirds of the bollards have been completed outside Shorne Country Park.

Nothing reported.

61. Matters raised by attending Parishioners

No parishioners in attendance.

Date of next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Council meeting. 14th October 2021
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.47

Signed Ms Clifton:…….. Dated:……..