SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee
Meeting held on 27th July 2023 in Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT
Miss P Clifton (Chairman)
Mr C Rea (Vice Chair)
Mr R Lane
Mr R Theobald
Mrs S Lindley
Mr R Hardy
Mrs L Williams
Mr T Rochard-Pullen

Apologies
Mr J Bugg

20. To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda

Mrs Williams declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8: Bus Shelters – Quote for renovations

21. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2023

The minutes were approved.

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

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

23. Recreation Ground

Phil Reeves from AFC Shorne took part in a Kent County Football Assoc seminar on 13th July regarding the grants for maintenance of football pitches which are used by grassroots clubs. Mr Reeves is required to send the association photos of the pitch once the lines have been painted. An assessment report will then be compiled.

The teams will be carrying out practice sessions on Wednesday evenings while it is still light.

24. Shorne Common

Ms Clifton reported that Mr West has not yet been able to look at the roundabout at the Play Area which is showing signs of damage and corrosion.

Ms Clifton reported that she had seen Mr Maurice Doore on the previous day. He reported that a tree had come down in Mill Hill near his house. He had cut it up and placed it just inside the car park. It doesn't appear to be taking up any parking space but we may want to have it removed next time the tree work is undertaken. The Common is due for inspection by the arboriculturalist this autumn.

25. Footpaths

Paths reported at last meeting update:

John Pelham has a new volunteer who lives in Higham, he has cleared NS 156 entrance, opposite the See Ho. The truck which was blocking the entrance now appears to be parking farther along the road.
NS 157 running from Green Farm Lane past Barrett's Folly has been cleared but this doesn't appear to be walked very frequently. This should be a convenient way for those living in Lower Shorne to walk to the village as the path emerges onto the Gravesend Rd, opposite the entrance to Crown Lane.
NS 163 from Muggins Lane – website states Work Scheduled – Ms Clifton had been told the previous day that it had actually been cleared. This will be checked.

Mr Rea and Ms Clifton had recently walked NS 156 from the See Ho to Swillers Lane. Most of the path was passable, one had brambles growing which Mr Rea cut back.

Mr Theobald will keep up the pressure on Network Rail regarding the bridge at Shornemead

26. Bus Shelters

Mr Lane, Mr Bugg & Ms Clifton met Mr Williams of GWC Contractors Ltd at the North bus shelter on 20th July. Mr Williams had previously provided us with an estimate and has now been given the full specification. He will come back to us with a firm quote.

27. Crabbles Bottom

The 2nd cut to the Orchard, Footpath and Bridleway was carried out on 8th May. Further strimming to the base of the trees was done at the end of June.

a) Fencing Repairs

Photographs had been emailed to Members showing where the fence alongside the footpath had started to deteriorate.

It was agreed that Ms Clifton would obtain a quote from Hoist Fencing as the company had previously been chosen to erect a fence at Shorne Common, and had done an excellent job. The quote would be obtained in the Autumn when the brambles around the fence had died back.

b) Request for Metal Detecting

A request had been sent by Mr Parkinson, a resident of Higham who wished to carry out metal detecting at Crabbles Bottom. Mrs Lindley had sent Members links to useful websites which explained the key considerations for land owners, as well as a template for a Permission Agreement Form.

A long discussion followed and it was agreed that Ms Clifton would request Mr Parkinson to sign the Permission Agreement Form. This would also ensure he was a current member of the National Council for Metal Detecting. It would also be stated that the Parish Council would need to be advised of all findings and exact location of the find.

c) Possibility of sheep in the Orchard

The local Young Farmers have told us that they would be interested in grazing sheep at the Crabbles Bottom Orchard. This was discussed. It was agreed that this could benefit us by controlling the grass growth. The Parish Council would not want to take on any liability and the Young Farmers would take on all responsibility, including ensuring that the fencing was adequate. Ms Clifton will contact the Young Farmers to advise them that they must send us a detailed proposal in order that we can consider the proposal.

28. Scout Premises - Update

Mr Theobald reported that we need to do some more surveying in order to produce plans showing the boundary of the area currently included in the lease.

29. LTC Designated Funds - Update

Ms Clifton reported that unfortunately there had been no further communication from Mike Phillips who was on contract to Kent Downs AONB. This will be removed from future agenda.

Post Meeting Note: On 28th July an email was received from Mr Phillips saying there was new funding to support his role and he would be pursuing the projects previously proposed.

30. Verges and Greens

Ms Clifton reported that the report made on line to KCC regarding the dips in the verge at the corner of Tanyard Hill and Court Lodge is now reading : Risk Assessed, No Action Required.

31. Land below Highbank - Update

No update. This will be removed from future agenda.

32. Defibrillator for Shorne West – Update

Mr Rea reported that UK Power Networks have agreed to the installation and connection of the Feeder Pillar for the AED. Mr Rea will do a leaflet drop himself to inform residents not to park nearby while this work is being carried out. Mr Rea will order the AED and cabinet and request that UK Power Networks raise an unmetered account.

33. Site of former Shorne Windmill – Update

Mr Riddick has given permission to Shorne Woods Archaelogical Group to carry out geophysics on the site.
Since receiving permission, Andrew Mayfield from the group had informed Ms Clifton that they hoped to commence the work around mid July.

.

34. Coronation Mugs and Coins

It was agreed that, as we still have a number of mugs and coins, we would advertise these for sale on Facebook. Ms Clifton has also emailed Shorne School to confirm that they can tell the parents that they are able to purchase mugs and coins.

35. Litter in Park Pale

An email has been received from a local resident who has been picking up the litter in Park Pale.
The resident believes that most of the litter in Park Pale is dropped by people parking in order to visit the Country Park, and suggests having signs saying "please take your litter home with you",

It was agreed that Mr Lane would request Gravesham BC to put litter bins in the location, and possibly signs.

36. Request for Enclosed Dog Field

A request had been received from a company which operates an enclosed dog exercise field, enquiring if the Parish Council had any parcels of land which they could use in a similar way. It was agreed that Ms Clifton would reply saying there was no available land.

37. Village Hall Car Park

Mr Lane and Mr Bugg have prepared some draft drawings. Quotes will now be obtained

Any other business:

38. Matters raised by Members

Mrs Lindley enquired about the leak in the pipeline towards Manor Field. Mr Theobald reported that Southern Water had discovered a slow leak and had tightened the gland nut.

Mr Rochard-Pullen reported speeding traffic near Smith's Farm, causing problems for the horse riders in that area. He asked about the possibly of signs to slow down the traffic. It was explained that this had been brought to our attention previously but KCC would not agree to this, partly due to the number of signs already in the village.

Mr Hardy enquired about the CCTV cameras for Shorne Ifield Road. Mr Lane will pass the cameras to Mrs Williams, who has offered to set them up. Mr Rochard-Pullen offered to monitor the CCTV.

39. Matters raised by attending Parishioners

None in attendance

Date of next Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee Meeting. Thursday 12th October 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:19

Signed Ms Clifton:…….. Dated:……..