SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee Meeting held on 13th June 2024 at Shorne Village Hall

PRESENT Ms P Clifton (Chairman)
Mr C Rea (Vice-Chairman)
Mr R Lane
Mrs S Lindley
Mr R Theobald
Mr J Bugg
Mr R Hardy
Mrs D Salmon (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES Mr T Rochard-Pullen

In attendance: None

Not in attendance: Mrs L Williams

1. **To receive any declarations of interest for any items on the agenda:**
None.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on Thursday 28th March 2024:**
The minutes were approved as a true record.

3. **Any Matters Arising from Minutes not covered in the Agenda:**
None.

4. **Recreation Ground:**
   - Ms Clifton has checked the lease with Shorne FC regarding the wooden table which is broken outside of the the pavilion. The lease does not make responsibility clear. Members agreed the best resolution was to contact the Small Works Contractor asking for him to dispose of the table and invoice the Parish Council.
   - Members noted that there is an increase in litter accumulating outside the pavilion, especially at the rear. Letter to be issued by the Clerk to the leaseholders.
   - Ms Clifton reported that vegetation has been cut back by a kind resident allowing the gate to now open properly. Ms Clifton passed on her thanks.

5. **Shorne Common:**
   - Ms Clifton had circulated a quote from Versatile Property Services Ltd on the 13th May which included renovation of the bench on Shorne Common. The contractor has since removed the lichen, sanded the surface and taped off the bench before applying wood preserver. Ms Clifton circulated photos to members upon completion. All members acknowledge the excellent work. Ms Clifton will contact the contractor to enquire about the small plaque which has not been replaced.

- Ms Clifton advised that the paint has started to peel on the seesaw. This appears to be wear-and-tear, not vandalism. Members agreed that it is unlikely that this would be covered by the guarantee. Ms Clifton to contact Small Works Contractor to carry out the repair.

6. Shorne Common Rough:

- The Small Works Contractor has cleaned graffiti from the sign near the parking area and the sign at the Woodlands Lane/Ridgeway junction.
- The Small Works Contractor has installed a bollard to prevent cars entering the picnic area from the footpath NS162.

(a) To approve quotation for clearing Picnic Area:

Ms Clifton and Mr Rea met Tom Gozzett at the picnic area on 20th May. An updated quote of £750.00 was circulated to members on 31st May for the clearing of overhanging trees and vegetation around the full perimeter. All members approved the quote.

- In addition to the quote for clearing the picnic area, Mr Gozzett quoted to dismantle the 2 decaying Sycamore trees which have sooty bark disease. Mr Rea commented that this is a safety risk and should be actioned. All members agreed to the quote of £750.00. Formal ratification to be included in the Agenda for the Parish Council meeting on 27th June. Ms Clifton will submit the form to Gravesham Borough Council for tree work in a Conversation Area.

7. Crabbles Bottom:

- Ms Clifton advised that the orchard has had 2 cuts this year, the footpath and bridleway has had 1 cut.
- On the 13th May Ms Clifton circulated a quote of £300.00 from Tom Gozzett for the removal of the snapped branches from the apple trees. Works have been completed.
- Ms Clifton has recently inspected the repaired fence next to the Den. There is no evidence of further damage.
- The fence to the side of the bridleway near the entrance to Crabbles Bottom is damaged and lying on the bridleway. Ms Clifton has reported this to Kent Country Council. A previous report was submitted by Mrs Lindley regarding another section of the fence that is also damaged. Ms Clifton and Mrs Lindley confirmed that these are separate locations.
- Ms Clifton commented at how attractive the meadows are looking currently with quite a few different species of wild flowers.

8. Footpaths:

Ms Clifton and Mr Hardy have recently walked many of the routes around the parish and note the following:

- The barrier as The Ridgeway end of NS162 has been replaced;
- KCC have cleared many of the footpaths of vegetation, including NS156, parts of which had previously been reported as impassable;
- The culvert appears to be blocked where the stream runs under NS156 near Warren Farm. To be followed up with KCC by Ms Clifton;
- A trampoline is blocking NS156, north of A226 near the end of Coutts Avenue. To be followed up with KCC by Ms Clifton;
- NS156/158/159 running across the farmland south of the A226 has now been widened following the reports of being too narrow;
- Crown Lane has been cleared but not the section where Malthouse Lane runs into Crown Lane.

(a) Shornemead Crossing:
The Parish Council have been told that there are technical problems with the new bridge. Mr Theobald will write to Network Rail to request a date when the bridge building will resume.

9. Verges and Greens

- Collin Lawrence has completed the 5 cuts to Post Office Green/Chesnut Corner and the verges at Tanyard Hill and Court Lodge.
- Ms Clifton has emailed Gravesham Borough Counci regarding the safety concerns of there being no rail around the green at Swillers Lane. No reply received at the time of the meeting.

10. Bus Shelters – Update:

- The solar lighting was successfully installed in May with great feedback from the parish. Questions have been raised regarding the prevention of birds nesting. Members do not see this as an issue currently but will closely monitor the situation and discuss again should it be necessary.

11. LTC Designated Fund – Update:

- On the 12th May, Ms Clifton circulated a **draft** letter of agreement for the project at Crabbles Bottom. As this is a draft agreement it can be adapted if required to include assuarance that Kent Downs National Landscape would not be able to dictate management of the site. Ms Clifton requests this is added to the Parish Council meeting on 27th June.

(a) National Nature Reserve:

- Ms Clifton and Mrs Lindley attended the North Kent Partnership NNR All Partner meeting on 25th April 2024 at Shorne Woods Country Park.
- The NNR **core** partners will receive letters of intent, maps and management plans which are required before declaration in April 2025. Affiliate partners, including Shorne Parish Council, will be added later.
- The name has finally been chosen for the NNR as Kent Woods and Downs National Nature Reserve.

12. Debrillator for Shorne West – Update:

- Mr Rea reported that he had completed and submitted an Impact Form, giving demographic information on the population who would benefit from the defibrillator.

13. Small Works Contractor:

- Versatile Property Services Ltd is storing the spare bollard.
- Further works to be discussed are restaining the bench and repainting the old water pump at Chesnut Corner. Is is unclear who owns these. Ms Clifton will contact the caretaker of Pump Cottage to see if he has any information.

14. Pear Tree Lane Petition:

- Shorne Wildlife Community Group have forwarded a letter to the Parish Council which they have sent to the Planning and Regeneration Department at Gravesham Borough Council:

We write as Shorne Wildlife Community Group in support of our member, Mrs Marion Polhill for her complaint about the lack of response to her substantial petition for the Council to protect and preserve the trees, both veteran and future veteran, together with the hedges and wildlife in the ancient lane in Shorne known as Pear Tree Lane.
In community spirit of collaboration we are waiting to hear what you can do about this.

Shorne Parish Council note that this has been received.

Any other business:

15. Matters raised by Members, including from other Committees being discussed for convenience:

- Mrs Lindley has sent the first draft of the Annual Report to all members via email. Mrs Lindley has asked members for a suitable cover photo. Ms Clifton will send her suggestion to Mrs Lindley. Mr Rea advises he will send the photos of the solar lighting at the bus shelters in preparation for the next Annual Report.
- Mr Lane reported that an email notice has been received from KCC requiring the non-motorised section of Bowesden Lane, adjacent to Crabbles Bottom. Vegetation is required to be cleared within 28 days. Ms Clifton and Clerk to liase with Mr Gozzett as a matter or urgency.
- Mr Lane reported that the internal audit has been completed, with positive comments received. The Clerk has all documents ready to circulate in advance of signing off at the Parish Council meeting on 27th June.

16. Matters raised by attending Parishioners (at discretion of the Chairman):
None in attendance.

Date of next meeting. The next meeting of the Footpaths, Land and Properties Committee will be held at 19.30 on Thursday 25th July 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:26.

Signed Ms Clifton :…….. Dated:……..