

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2017**

PRESENT: Cllr. Holmes (in the Chair), Cllrs. Fermor, Cllr. Swann, Cllr. Goodchild (part)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Veitch and Smith

Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying:

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

25/16:

Litter picks and Litter bins:

Cllr. Holmes informed the Committee that a litter pick has been arranged in Sissinghurst for Saturday 25th March. Due to concerns about the amount of litter in the Parish it was decided to schedule a litter pick in Cranbrook. Cllr. Goodchild volunteered to organise this. It was discussed how best to promote the event. Suggestions to advertise on the Parish Council website and “Be in the Know”.

Cllr. Fermor proposed signage to be positioned at sites that have been cleared, saying a litter pick has taken place. This was seconded by Cllr. Holmes and agreed.

Cllr. Swann reported that he was concerned the Parish Council were being charged twice for the emptying of some bins within the Parish. The Clerk advised the Committee that this is being looked into by TWBC.

Cllr. Swann proposed that an email be sent to Biffa from the Clerk to ask if the bins located at the Rugby field are taken off their list. This was seconded Cllr. Holmes and agreed.

The meeting was then closed for the public to speak. A parishioner wanted to highlight concerns over the amount of litter in the Parish. A suggestion was put to the Committee about giving talks to all the local schools and groups to encourage more to help with the litter pick on Saturday 15th April. Cllr. Fermor agreed to draft up a letter to send to the schools and groups to promote the litter pick and to try and raise awareness.

The meeting was then re-opened.

26/16: Play Equipment:

The Parish Warden had advised that the bark in the Ball Field play area required topping up and would cost approximately £500.

Cllr. Holmes proposed the bark be topped up as required. This was seconded by Cllr. Swann and agreed.

27/16: Issues from Inspection of Grounds:

a) Allotments:

Cllr. Holmes reported that Helen Musgrave, Gardener at Sissinghurst Castle is happy to judge the Allotments again this year.

b) Ball Field:

The Clerk reported to the Committee that a quote from Kent Grasslands had been received to spike, roll and quadra plane both the Jubilee and Ball Field for £400 + VAT. The Football Club had also requested permission to roll the pitch area when necessary.

Cllr. Holmes proposed that the quote from Kent Grasslands be accepted and that Cranbrook FC be allowed to roll the pitch as necessary. This was seconded by Cllr. Swann. Following a complaint, the Football Club would be asked to ensure that any litter left following a match is immediately removed by the Club.

The Parish Warden advised that some of the Ball Field bollards are becoming rotten and awkward to remove when access onto the field is required. He requested that the Committee consider a barrier. Cllr. Goodchild suggested that he gets quotes for a suitable wooden barrier.

c) Jubilee Field:

Cllr. Fermor was pleased there was no evidence of dog fouling.

d) Crane Valley:

Cllr. Swann reported that Kent Highweald Project and Cranbrook In Bloom have been working on the undergrowth and the wild meadow area. Callie Fiddimore from KHWP has noticed part of the bank has eroded near the skate park. She is happy to look into rectifying this. The payment to rectify this can come out of grants already received on behalf of Kent High Weald Project. Cllr. Swann confirmed there were sufficient grant funds remaining for this work.

Cllr. Swann proposed permission be given to KHWP to complete the work subject to approval from the drainage system board. This was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

Cllr. Fermor agreed to write an article for the Parish Cake to promote the Crane Valley Nature Reserve.

28/16 Issues from inspection of Car Parks:

a) Regal:

Cllr. Swann reported Kent Grasslands had cleared around the recycle bins and this was looking better. Cllr. Swann agreed to check the gullies on all car parks with Cllr. Veitch.

b) Jockey Lane:

Cllr Goodchild had nothing to report.

c) Tanyard:

Cllr. Fermor referred to the safety report recently received. One tree that needed felling and other priorities were noted. Cllr. Fermor felt that the Committee should act on the report to address the trees that require immediate attention. An application will have to be made to TWBC to carry out the work as the trees are in an conservation area.

Cllr. Holmes proposed that we send the schedule to Ben Hatcher, local tree surgeon for an itemised quotation looking at priority work. This was seconded by Cllr. Fermor and agreed.

Cllr. Holmes suggested that a sign be erected near the culvert to report any issues or blockages, to the Parish Council. A quote from Iden Signs will be obtained.

29/16 Highway issues:

Hawkhurst PC have advised us that they are relinquishing their part ownership of the speedwatch equipment. We are waiting to hear from Benenden, Newenden and Biddenden Parish Councils.

An email had been received from a local resident concerned over a local bus company using Quaker Lane as a cut through. After a discussion it was felt that it should be forwarded on to KCC Cllr. Sean Holden as the local Member of the responsible authority for highways. The Clerks will reply to the local resident to advise them of this.

30/16 Tesco Bags of Help Programme:

A discussion took place around the programme, which gives grants of up to £4,000. The Committee agreed to keep the item on the agenda so the Committee can put forward what local groups can benefit. Cllr. Holmes would advise Cranbrook in Bloom about it.

31/16 Any Other Environmental Management Issues:

a) Street lighting:

Cllr. Swann met with the contractors that maintain the street lighting, four were identified as needing urgent attention. He proposed category 1 lights on the list be repaired as per quote received. This was seconded Cllr. Holmes and agreed.