

**The Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of  
Upchurch Parish Council held at Upchurch Village Hall  
on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Present: Cllr Helen Boakes, Cllr John Bodycomb, Cllr Ernie Berntsen, Cllr Pam Denny and Cllr Gerry Lewin; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Denny took the Chair. Cllr Denny welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**177. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Rosewell (work) and from Cllr Tyrone Ripley; apologies accepted.

**178. Declarations of Interests**

None were declared

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**Public Time**

No members of the public were in attendance

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**179. Paddock and Recreation Ground**

Cllr Denny reported the Nature Trail has been ordered and amendments are being made to the boards. The new grass maintenance contract has begun and The Paddock mowing was satisfactory but there was a strip at the Recreation Ground near Chaffes Lane which had not been cut. The contractor has said that the main field of the Recreation Ground will be cut with gang units and the remaining grass around the peripherals will be cut using a smaller ride on machine. This may mean that the areas are cut at different times. The Tikspac bags have been delivered and given to Mr Kew. Extra keys have been cut for the Recreation Ground and Paddock and a set given to the grass cutters.

**180. Allotments**

There was nothing to report

**181. Burial Ground and Churchyard**

i. To receive an update

Cllr Denny reported that the contractor has been instructed to remove yew branch. The chestnut fencing has been repaired.

Cllr Boakes said a quote for the notice board it yet to be received.

ii. To review Burial Ground fees

Cllr Denny said the fees were last reviewed in 2019.

Cllr Lewin said the Burial Ground has limited capacity and the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the site.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend adopting the revised fees. to Full Council

**182. Highways and Street lighting**

Cllr Berntsen reported that discussions regarding a maintenance contract with Prime One Maintenance is ongoing, other companies have also been approached. Prime One owns the software platform, other companies can maintain the lighting but they would need to buy the

software from Prime One. The term of the contract is still being negotiated. Synergy with a contract for Newington Parish Council is also being discussed. An energy cost comparison will be drawn up to see the difference LED lighting has made.

### **183. Footpaths**

There was nothing to report.

### **184. Environment**

#### i. To receive an update

Cllr Denny informed Councillors that Cllr Horton is progressing the annual village litter pick, the school is onboard to help with the litter picking. Amethyst cannot guarantee that the planters will be in situ in time for the Jubilee weekend, Cllr Ripley is liaising with the knitting ladies to see if they could help with bunting or something suitable.

#### ii. To consider quotation to re-site the notice board

A quotation is yet to be received.

### **185. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022**

There was nothing to report.

### **186. Any other matter arising**

The Clerk reported that the IT company had phoned, the new email addresses have been set up and details will be sent to Councillors tomorrow.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.56pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022