

**The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee of
Upchurch Parish Council held in the Committee Room, Upchurch Village
Hall on Wednesday 19th February 2020**

Present: Cllr Tyrone Ripley (Chairman), Cllr John Arnold, Cllr Pam Denny, Cllr Gerry Lewin, Cllr Janet Marshall and Cllr Gary Rosewell.

100. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Masson (holiday) apologies accepted.

101. Declarations of Interests

None were declared

Public Time

No members of the public were present.

102. Paddock and Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

The Village Caretaker has reported that the fence at the edge of the Recreation Ground opposite allotments has fallen down after the stormy conditions.

The suggested grant from SBCllr Richard Palmer proved an unsuccessful application due to the Parish Council not meeting the criteria on this occasion.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next FC agenda Recreation ground fencing.

Swale Borough Council will not replace the dog waste bin at the Recreation Ground.

Action: Clerk to follow up and get a quote for the bins, can the bins clearly state Litter and Dog waste as the one in the Paddock area.

Clerk to enquire and ensure that Swale will still continue to empty regularly.

ii. To consider quotations for play area repairs

The Committee considered the quotations for the play area repairs and agreed to recommend to Full Council to accept the quote from Maylow Construction for £354.

103. Allotments

The tenancy agreements have been sent out.

104. Burial Ground and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Marshall had attended a KALC Course on Burial Ground Management and there were two speakers. The first speaker covered the rights of burials; the crisis regarding the lack of burial space; the finance and political issues of the maintenance, management and re-use of church yards; and the current challenges in law, the theological arguments against the modern demands of a mobile society for a choice of a final resting place. There is currently a review of several Acts dating back two-hundred years.

The second speaker spoke about the management of burial grounds. People must be clear about what they are signing up for; there must be clear communications; an explanation of the rules for example, maintenance; the rules must be adhered to as Upchurch Parish Council has published its rules and they must be obeyed; the procedure for removing memorabilia

which must follow the process set out in the Arnold-Baker Local Council Administration. The compliance letter may need to be reviewed.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Marshall for attending the course and for her report.

ii. Burial Ground and Churchyard Regulations

Ongoing.

105. Highways and Street lighting

The pot hole at corner of Garden Cottage has been reported to KCC Highways by Cllr Arnold. Cllr Arnold and Cllr Ripley have had a meeting with the lighting contractor regarding a Lighting Management System. This would be an annual cost of approximately £1200 which would also include all ongoing maintenance of the street lighting. The system would also provide the opportunity to adjust the lighting, especially out of peak hours for further energy efficiency and savings for the Parish.

ACTION: Cllr Arnold to invite the Contractor to the next Full Council to provide a presentation of the management system.

106. Footpaths

ZR10 has been reported KCC Public Rights of Way says the path is on their list of paths to be inspected but cannot say when it is likely to happen.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Denny for supplying photos to be sent to KCC Public Rights of Way.

107. Environment

The barrier baskets have been ordered

108. Any other matter arising

No other matters were raised.

109. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18th March 2020 at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.02pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Dated this 5th day of March 2020