

## The **Minutes** of the meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** of **Upchurch Parish Council** held remotely on **17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

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

Cllr Ripley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **98. Apologies for absence**

All Members were present.

### **99. Declarations of Interests**

None were declared.

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### **Public Time**

No members of the public were present.

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### **100. Paddock and Recreation Ground**

#### i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley reported that three parking permits have been renewed and another eligible resident has requested a permit. The signs for the play area and adult gym have been ordered.

Cllr Denny reported that Streetscape have made the adjustments to the adult gym equipment and have put new concrete under the air walker.

Cllr Rosewell reported that he has a key for the resident and will deliver it at the weekend.

Cllr Denny reported the hedge in the car park needs to be cut back.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the contractor be asked to cut back the hedge.

#### ii. To consider quotation to replant the planters

Cllr Ripley reported that Shoregate has declined to quote.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend to Full Council, the acceptance of the quotation from Amethyst for £1435 for replanting the baskets, cascade planter hire and maintenance.

*ACTION: Clerk to request quotation for additional baskets and to ascertain if they would be included in the maintenance regime.*

### **101. Allotments**

#### i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley reported that two plot holders have relinquished their plots and approximately half the rent has been received from plot holders to date.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact residents on the waiting list to offer them a plot.*

#### ii. To consider push taps for the allotments

Councillors considered the replacement of the taps at the allotments with push taps and considered a representation from a plot holder on the matter. Councillors noted that the use of hose pipes is banned under the terms of the tenancy. It was agreed to review the matter in a year.

*ACTION: Clerk to respond to plot holder.*

## **102. Burial Ground and Churchyard**

### i. To receive an update

Cllr Marshall reported that some graves have dead flowers and paper wrappings on them.

Cllr Lewin said that during the current national lockdown not everyone can get to the Burial Ground to tidy the grave.

Cllr Denny said the black bin has been emptied. The wheelie bins need to be in the right position to encourage people to put things in the right bins.

Cllr Ripley said Burial Ground boundary is at the top of the bank, the fence could be recessed to allow the Village Caretaker to move the bins out.

*ACTION: Cllr Ripley to obtain quotations.*

Cllr Marshall said concern has been raised regarding the memorial roses, two of which have died and there are nettles growing in the rose bed.

*ACTION: Cllr Marshall and Clerk to resolve.*

### ii. To consider Burial Ground planting behind the Village Hall

Cllr Marshall reported that she has measured the area where the laurel bushes were, an evergreen with variegated leaf might be an option for planting.

Cllr Ripley said the maintenance of any planting scheme need to be considered.

Cllr Lewin said the matter could be reviewed in a year.

Cllr Denny said that if it is left the area needs to be turfed.

Cllr Marshall said the area could be turfed and spring bulbs planted. Another option could be a wildflower area.

*ACTION: Cllr Marshall and Cllr Ripley to liaise regarding wildflower planting.*

### iii. Closed churchyard survey

Cllr Ripley said the Clerk is still waiting to hear back from Diocese.

## **103. Highways and Street lighting**

### i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley said the drainage issues have been reported to KCCllr Mike Whiting who is going to raise the matter with KCC Highways. The road sweep has been requested and Swale Borough Council has contacted Biffa to do this.

Cllr Denny reported that the drains have been cleared by Church Farm Road and Chaffes Lane. The road sweeper has cleaned Chaffes Lane and Oak lane.

Cllr Ripley reported that a resident has raised concern about the co-op coning off the road for deliveries. The Co-op has said that this is done so for deliveries. Due to the pandemic and the past year, the store receives 2 deliveries a day. If the driver is unable to park for the delivery they simply move onto the next store and do not deliver to Upchurch resulting in some shortages.

There has previously been an informal understanding with neighbours affected regarding the parking. Some customers do park in front of the cones which the store is happy for this to happen depending on when the next delivery is due. Some staff have been moving the cones from the road once the deliveries have been.

If customers or residents are unsure if they are able to park where the cones are, the Co-op encourages them to speak to staff who will be able to let them know if a delivery is due as the lorries are tracked.

### ii. To consider the Chaffes Lane bollards tender specification

Cllr Arnold reported that he and Cllr Sheppard are working on the specification for the scheme to ensure comparable quotations.

Cllr Arnold said the street light columns are due to be replaced on Thursday 18 March and this will be monitored.

Cllr Arnold said the KCC Highways portal shows that customers are being contacted regarding reported faults but this is not happening. KCC Whiting will be informed of the issue.

**104. Footpaths**

There was nothing to report.

**105. Environment**

Cllr Denny asked for an update on the dog waste bin in Oak Lane.

*ACTION: Clerk to chase.*

**106. Any other matter arising**

No other matters were raised.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021