

**The Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of
Upchurch Parish Council held at Upchurch Village Hall
on 17th November 2021**

Present: Cllr Tyrone Ripley (Chairman), Cllr Ernie Bernsten, Mrs Helen Boakes, Cllr John Bodycomb, Cllr Pam Denny and Cllr Gerry Lewin: and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was one member of the public.

Cllr Ripley welcomed everyone to the meeting

146. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr John Arnold (unwell); apologies accepted.

147. Declarations of Interests

None were declared.

Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

A member of the public asked for an update on the Fish Shop lights

Cllr Ripley said he will ask Cllr Arnold to send an update on the matter.

148. Paddock and Recreation Ground

Cllr Ripley reported the limes trees were felled that day and the stumps will be ground next week. The Jubilee tree will be installed on Thursday 9th December and Cllr Denny will give the contractors access to the site. The safety inspections were carried out yesterday.

Cllr Bernsten reported that the issue with the air walker was the pads and that he had spoken to Mr Belfield about the installation of the fitness equipment, the defect was reported on 20 October which was inside the twelve-month warranty period. Mr Belfield advised the warranty does not cover ground movement or shrinkage. Cllr Bernsten said he suggested the pad should be large enough to prevent movement and that the installers should re-attend to enlarge the pad under the warranty or they appoint a local contractor for cost efficiencies to undertake the repair for them at their cost.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Bernsten for his assistance with the matter.

Cllr Ripley said an application for a grant has been made to the Swale Western Area Committee for the woodland trail.

ACTION: Clerk to apply to the Queenborough Fishery Trust for a grant.

Cllr Ripley said a local arboriculturist has been contacted regard the project to replant trees on the Recreation Ground. A proposal for planting will be put to the Council, the trees will be chosen wisely to ensure there are no large maintenance issues in the future. Local businesses are interested in sponsoring the project.

Cllr Denny reported the padlock had gone missing from the car park gate; it was in the Scout Hut as contractors were on site.

Cllr Ripley said the gate must be kept locked outside surgery hours. There has previously been an incursion onto the Recreation Ground and it is important to keep the gate locked.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the Scouts requesting that leaders ensure the gate is not left open.

149. Allotments

Cllr Bodycomb reported there were no issues at the allotments. A proposal has been put forward for hardstanding and a quotation is being obtained.

Cllr Ripley reported the water has been turned off.

150. Burial Ground and Churchyard

Cllr Ripley reported the gate has been repaired.

Cllr Denny reported that she is looking into options for re-planting the bank behind the hall.

151. Highways and Street lighting

Cllr Ripley said there was no progress on the Chaffes Lane bollards, Sarah-Jayne Ellcock (KCC Highways) has moved departments and her role is being covered by two officers.

Item for Full Council

Cllr Lewin said Swale Borough Council might withdraw their streetlighting grants.

Cllr Ripley said comments need to be in by 8 December. Currently the Parish Council receives £2,550 and this might have to be added to the Precept.

152. Footpaths

Cllr Denny reported that PROW ZR13 has been cut back and is now clear.

Mrs Boakes reported that the direction sign at the junction of Forge Lane and Holywell Lane, near the cricket ground, has been knocked over.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

153. Environment

Cllr Ripley said he is waiting to receive a quotation to re-site the notice board.

Cllr Denny said the litter bin in Oak Lane has made a considerable difference to the amount of dog mess along the verge. There are ladies who litter pick along Canterbury Lane and Seymour Lane.

Mrs Boakes said the Leigh Academy has a club which litter picks and they might be able to help.

Cllr Lewin reported there needs to be a road sweep due to the detritus in the village.

ACTION: Clerk to request road sweep.

Cllr Denny said the bank opposite Snaffles needs to be cut back.

ACTION: Cllr Denny to take photos.

Cllr Denny said the situation will be monitored.

154. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

There was no update

155. Any other matter arising

Cllr Ripley reported that quotations are being obtained to install the defibrillator at Beckenham Park with the aim of the installation being carried out by the end of November.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes for external defibrillator at the Doctors.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15th December 2021 at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.08pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Dated this 1st day of December 2021