

The **Minutes** of the meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** of
Upchurch Parish Council held at Upchurch Village Hall
on **20th October 2021**

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

136. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Mrs Helen Boakes (unwell) and Cllr Gary Rosewell (work): apologies accepted.

137. Declarations of Interests

None were declared.

Public Time

No members of the public were present.

138. Paddock and Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley reported the Jubilee oak tree has been ordered and the company wants to know exactly where it should be planted and the preferred date of planting.

It was agreed to arrange the planting at the earliest convenience of the contractor.

Cllr Denny said it has been agreed to have the limes trees removed and consideration be given to the site of the Jubilee oak tree. Advice received is that the limes have a root disease so would not be a concern to other trees. There is an oak tree by the Scout Hut.

Cllr Lewin said it should be planted by the path near Oak Lane and set away from the path to allow it to grow and spread.

ACTION: Cllr Ripley to arrange a site meeting to agree the position.

Cllr Ripley reported that the application to the Swale Welcome Back Fund for benches has been successful and the benches will be installed tomorrow.

Cllr Denny reported that she and Cllr Ripley had met with the contractor regarding a woodland trail, a quotation will be submitted.

ii. To consider quotation to replant the barrier baskets

Councillors considered the quotation to replant the baskets and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** not to replant for the winter as the area is very open but to wait until the summer season.

ACTION: Cllr Ripley to remove and store the basket liners.

139. Allotments

Cllr Bodycomb informed Members that he had met with a prospective tenant who has taken on the last vacant allotment. A request has been made for hard standing at the entrance of the allotments.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

140. Burial Ground and Churchyard

Cllr Ripley reported that the contractor will empty the compost bins and will carry out another cut of the Burial Ground and churchyard and also prior to Remembrance Day if necessary.

Cllr Denny said it had been agreed to leave the bank when the laurels had been removed but the area needs to be planted. Weeds and small laurels are growing.

Cllr Lewin said there needs to be low maintenance small plants.

ACTION: Cllr Denny to research suitable planting.

Cllr Denny reported that the gate is being repaired.

Cllr Lewin reported that the contractor has the weed killer for the churchyard wall.

141. Highways and Street lighting

Cllr Arnold reported that completion of the upgrade of the streetlights will be week commencing 25th October, the last light to go live is the one at the bottom of Windmill Hill. The lights will be labelled. The maintenance contract is still to be agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Bernsten and Cllr Arnold to consider maintenance contract.

Cllr Arnold said that he will get the streetlights listed on KCC's system.

142. Footpaths

Cllr Denny said the issue on PROW ZR13 still has not been resolved.

Cllr Arnold said it has been reported and KCCllr Baldock has also been informed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Michael Ellis, KCC PROW Officer.

143. Environment

Cllr Ripley informed Members that he had been unable to pursue a quotation to re-site the notice board as the contractor was injured.

144. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Cllr Arnold said some roads are not interested in a street party but would be interested in using the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Ripley said this has been publicised, the Parish Council is organising the lighting of the beacon and the Jubilee oak tree.

145. Any other matter arising

Cllr Lewin reported that the Poppy Appeal starts on 30th October and will be launched on 28th October. Poppies will be put on the lamp posts throughout the village. The Parish Council poppy wreath has been posted to Ferques, the Mayor has arranged for a floral tribute to be bought for the Upchurch service.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Lewin for organising the poppies and wreaths.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 7.30pm

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Dated this 4th day of November 2021