

The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Upchurch Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 16th May 2019

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Ripley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
All members were present

2. Declarations of Interests

None were declared.

Public Time

No members of the public were present

3. Paddock and Recreation Ground

Cllr Denny reported that the cutting schedule needs to be reviewed with the contractor.
ACTION: Cllr Denny to liaise with contractor.

Cllr Ripley said the Committee will need to look at the fence post COVID-19 lockdown as it will be difficult to meet with contractors at present.

4. Allotments

Cllr Masson said that he will walk around the allotments to see which plots are being worked. Several people have requested allotments and have been advised there is a waiting list. The roadway has been repaired by plot holders and a sleeper will also be laid at the entrance which will address the problem of water running off the road and flooding the entrance when it rains. This will enable the two plots near the entrance to be used.

Cllr Ripley said there has been a request from Nursery Days to have a plot for the children.

Cllr Masson said that there is a half plot available and this could be for the children as they are local children.

Cllr Lewin said that not all the children are local and the nursery is a private company.

Cllr Ripley said consideration would have to be given to other plot holders when the children are at the allotments. There are nine people on the waiting list, the nursery will have to join the list.

Cllr Denny said that it would be good to include the children. An allotment is a huge task although there are lots of ways to grow things. The nursery could also contact Upchurch Horticultural Society for ideas of how to grow things in planters made from tyres for example.

Cllr Marshall said an allotment for the children can work well as long as the children are supported and not allowed to wander round.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the nursery of the waiting list and suggest they may be able to find other ways to grow plants in the meantime.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Masson for his report.

5. Burial Ground and Churchyard

Cllr Marshall said that she was surprised how much the vegetation had grown. There is an issue that people are telling the contractor what to do and it is the Parish Council which should

be instructing the contractor rather than those who see him in the Burial Ground. There needs to be a meeting with the contractor and a representative of the Parochial Church Council to agree what needs to be done in the church yard.

Cllr Lewin said the landlady of The Crown has raised concern about the height of the cow parsley which is now above the fenestration, this is not a special environment and is a mess, this needs to be addressed as soon as possible. There is tree growth by the headstones. A meeting with the Church would be useful, the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the closed churchyard and a meeting would also clarify that it is the Parish Council which instructs the contractor.

Cllr Ripley said the contractor has been instructed to clear the area where the cow parsley is growing. A meeting can take place next week.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Marshall for her report.

6. Highways and Street lighting

Cllr Arnold informed Members that he is still trying to find the missing streetlight and that he is waiting for an update from the contractor as to when the street light replacement will start. Waiting for an update from KCCllr Whiting regarding the Crosier Court drains and the street light in Church Farm Road.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Arnold for his report.

7. Footpaths

Cllr Denny said Michael Ellis, KCC Public Rights of Way East Kent Area Officer, has informed the Council that he called at the house on PROW ZR10 but no one was in and that photos show that the footpath route through the rear garden is passable. Cllr Denny said that she had tried to walk along the footpath since and you cannot walk through the garden as there are Jack Russel dogs and children in the garden. It looks as if the owners have taken the footpath into their garden. It is not acceptable to walk through someone's garden with dogs and children in. There needs to be a meeting with the officer but site visits are currently suspended due to the government lockdown.

Cllr Ripley said the issue can be monitored and a meeting arranged when lockdown has eased.

ACTION: Cllr Denny and Cllr Masson to meet with Michael Ellis when restrictions have been lifted.

8. Environment

Cllr Ripley asked for an update on the planter.

The Clerk reported that the company has experienced some disruption this season with supply chains and the planters should be ready in early June.

Cllr Denny said the fence will not be strong enough to hold the barrier baskets

Cllr Rosewell said that he can make some A frames for the baskets.

ACTION: Clerk to send specification of barrier baskets to Cllr Rosewell.

Cllr Denny said the barrier baskets could be sited along the Recreation Ground fence in Oak Lane.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain the cost of watering all the planters.

Cllr Denny reported that the bin outside the Post Office has come off its base, the base is still in situ and the bin has been moved by the Co Op.

ACTION: Clerk to report bin.

Cllr Rosewell said that now the lockdown restrictions have eased and that he is able to go out he will install the Tikspac station on the upright sleeper on the footpath at the back of Church Lane.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Rosewell for offering to install the Tikspac. More bags are required for the Tikspacs.

ACTION: Clerk to order more bags.

Cllr Ripley asked whether the litter picker would be willing to start work again.

ACTION: Clerk to contact contractor.

Cllr Marshall reported that the bins in the Burial Ground are full and bags of rubbish are being left.

Cllr Lewin said people are still tending graves so there are a lot of arisings from the work.

Cllr Lewin reported that there is a lot of dust and detritus in all gutters in the village. As people are walking more during the lockdown, there is more rubbish in the Oak Lane verges.

ACTION: Clerk to request road sweep and Swale litter pick of verges.

9. Any other matter arising

No other matters were raised.

10. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th June 2020 at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.11pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 4 June 2020