

**The Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of
Upchurch Parish Council held at Upchurch Village Hall
on 18th August 2021**

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

Cllr Ripley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

116. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Gerry Lewin (personal); apologies accepted.

117. Declarations of Interests

None were declared.

Public Time

No members of the public were present.

118. Paddock and Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley reported to Members that it had been raised that a piece of equipment at the northern end, closest to Bradshaw Close, the northern most post of the two ground support post rocks when the equipment is used or if given a hefty push.

Cllr Denny said that she had inspected the equipment and there is minimal movement and that she will monitor it. The next inspection is in November.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

ii. To consider quotation for Paddock maintenance work

This has previously been agreed.

iii. To consider quotations for grounds maintenance

Cllr Ripley informed Members that six companies had been approached, two have submitted quotes and one has declined to quote. Clarification is needed on one of the tenders.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain clarification.

iv. Gates in Recreation Ground fence

Cllr Ripley said that some properties in Bishops Lane have gates opening to the recreation ground and this had been raised by St John's College when they carried out an inspection. Councillors will monitor the situation.

Cllr Denny reported that the Council has applied for a grant from the Welcome Back Fund for benches. There may be funding available from the Queenborough Fishery Trust for the woodland trim trail.

ACTION 1: Clerk to obtain quote for nature trail

ACTION 2: Clerk to apply for grant

Cllr Denny informed Members that the Paddock Project group is willing to apply for grants,

119. Allotments

To receive an update

Cllr Ripley said the 5mph sign has been delivered and will be installed.

Cllr Denny reported that neighbouring vegetation is overgrown.

Cllr Ripley reported that a plot at the allotments has not been worked and is very overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to contact plot holder.

Cllr Ripley reported that a significant amount of produce has been stolen from the allotments.

Councillors expressed their concern at this.

Cllr Ripley said the plot holders have taken action and have installed CCTV cameras.

120. Burial Ground and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley said concern has been raised at the amount of plant growth in and by the churchyard wall.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain a quotation.

Cllr Ripley said the Burial Ground gate needs a new post.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain a quotation.

Cllr Denny said the family of the memorial bench which has fallen into disrepair needs to be asked if they wish to renew the bench.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the family.

ii. To consider quotation for tree work in the closed churchyard

Councillors considered the quotation and it was **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council to accept the quotation from Lindsay & Co for £380 to crown raise two ash trees to around 5m and clear debris.

Councillors considered the quotation to remove saplings and vegetation from graves in the church yard. It was noted that this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council but that of the family and the church should deal with this. It was **AGREED** not to proceed with the work.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the church.

121. Highways and Street lighting

Cllr Ripley informed Members that a resident reported that the street light outside 6 Marstan Close had been out since 6 June 2021.

Cllr Arnold said that someone had switched the light off, this has now been turned on again. This would have been picked up if a maintenance contract were in place but the Council cannot enter into a contract until the work has finished, test certificates have been supplied and the numbers added to the poles. The contractor wants a twenty-five year contract and if agreed there will need to be a clause that the contract is not transferrable. The light on Windmill Hill is outstanding.

Cllr Arnold said BT Openreach has problems in the village, there is concern from residents regarding telegraph poles in The Poles. There are overhead cables in The Poles, Crosier Court, Bradshaw Close and Church Farm Road. Crosier Court has pipes underground for this. SBCllr Horton and Gordon Henderson, MP, are challenging the issue. The matter is covered by the Telegraph Act 1868.

122. Footpaths

Cllr Ripley reported that the kissing gates have been installed at footpath PROW ZR12 opposite Bradshaw Close.

Cllr Ripley informed members that on 15 August a race was organised through Upchurch along PROW; neither KCC nor the landowners were informed and KCC has told the organisers that they need permission to do this.

Cllr Denny said that the footpath from Chaffes Lane to Bishops Lane is still overgrown making it inaccessible for a resident with a mobility scooter.

ACTION: Clerk to report again

Cllr Denny reported the fence by the Vicarage to Bradshaw Close is leaning right over.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the church and the matter is being dealt with by the Diocese.

ACTION: Clerk to report to KCC PROW and church.

Cllr Ripley said the finger post has not been put on the replacement lamp post in The Poles.

Cllr Arnold said that he had reported this to the contractor who will replace it.

123. Environment

i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley reported that the planters have been installed. A credit of £180 has been given due to the lateness of the delivery. The hedges along Chaffes Lane have been cut back

ii. Trees for the Jubilee

It was **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council accepting the quotation from Majestic for £1,589.37 to supply and plant an oak tree

iii. Best Kept Garden Competition

Item deferred to next GPC meeting.

Cllr Denny said she attended the Horticultural Show as a representative of the Parish Council.

iv. Litter bin for Four Gun Field

Cllr Ripley said SBCllr Horton has received a request for a litter bin, the Parish Council should support this.

The Clerk reported that she has asked Swale Borough Council if they will supply one free of charge as there is no bin in the area.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

124. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons

Cllr Ripley reported that he has paid a deposit of £50 to secure a piper for the celebrations

125. Stand at Village Celebration Day

Cllr Ripley said that unfortunately no one is available on this occasion to man a Parish Council stall.

126. Any other matter arising

Cllr Rosewell asked for an update on the defibrillator.

Cllr Ripley said there have been two offers to site the defibrillator on private houses.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Beckenham Park to ascertain if they would be willing to have the defibrillator on the site.

Cllr Denny said the Parish Council notice board at the Co-op has become overgrown making it difficult to put notices on it.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Co-op.

Cllr Denny said dirt has accumulated between the bus stop and the hedge.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

Cllr Arnold asked if the notice board could be re-sited to help with access.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 2nd September 2021