

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 IN THE ROSE ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. J Wogan (Chairman), Hill, Josephson, R Lewin, Pritchitt, Summers & Williams

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. McKinney & Williams

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk and Assistant Clerk

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

**348/18 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. McKinney & Williams due to family commitments.

**349/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllr. Wogan	352/18	Personal	Residence backs onto Kennard Path

**350/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were proposed for acceptance with one minor amendment by Cllr. Pritchitt, seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and were signed as a true record.
- There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**351/18 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

- Composting – Leaves from the Greens were bagged and deposited on the 'Gleeson land'. The bins had now been built and the leaves emptied into them. Reinforcement of the pathway will be completed when the ground dries out. NOTED
- Streetlight Power contract. A new electricity contract has been negotiated that should save us upwards of £ 1,000 per year. NOTED
- Canal refurbishment – This is now nearing completion. A 'heritage information board' has been commissioned. Any surplus grant monies will be spent on hedge plants. NOTED
- Gilham Bank trees – A full survey report was received in January: approval has been given for payment and a further grant has been sought to fund the necessary tree work. NOTED
- Gilham Spring refurbishment – A further grant has been received to implement the refurbishment work. As the Spring is now within the Conservation Area, negotiations are in hand with the Conservation Officer over layout and materials. NOTED
- Security Measures in the Groundman's compound – The current lighting is not adequate. Replacement security measures will be installed week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> March. NOTED

**352/18 FINANCIAL REPORT**

1. A financial report to end of month 10 had been previously circulated and was NOTED.
2. Priorities for 2018-2019. The Chairman asked for the Committee's priorities and the following were proposed:
  - A replacement tree (London Plane) on Rush Green (South). Cllr. Hill to investigate the cost and the Clerk to contact Philpotts to see if they have any trees to donate.
  - The cutting of the hedge at the Cemetery.
  - Replacement of the cherry trees in the Cemetery that have been removed with crab apple trees or similar. Cllr. Wogan proposed that a budget of £ 200 be allocated for trees and protection. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED. Cllr. Pritchitt to research protection.

- To continue with the maintenance of the open spaces (including ditches) in the village.
  - Tree Survey – this will now have to be paid for once a year.
  - Planters on Newlands Place.
  - Maintenance of Kennards Path – Cllr. Wogan reported that someone had cleared one area of the path and scattered wild flower seeds. The other side needs clearing. The Clerk advised that he was awaiting a reply from Affinity Sutton.  
It was asked that the ~~twitten~~ between Upper Close and Spring Meadow be put on the next SLR agenda for discussion.
3. Areas for potential grants for 2018-2019. The Committee was asked to think about any areas of outdoor maintenance/refurbishment which might be eligible for grant funding in the forthcoming year.

### 353/18 ALLOTMENTS

- Representative's Report – Annette Armstrong had provided a report that had been previously circulated. NOTED
- Admin Report –
  - 2 people on the waiting list inside the Parish
  - Nobody on the waiting list outside the Parish
  - No one on the waiting list for raised beds
  - There are no empty plots on Johnson's Field
  - There are no empty plots on the new site.
  - Allotments are being advertised on the website and notice boards.
  - One payment still outstanding – chasing email sent.
  - **Water to be turned back on at the end of March/beginning of April.**
  - A site inspection will be carried out during March to inspect sites and to check to see if any maintenance needs to be carried out. Cllr. Pritchitt said she would like to accompany Janet on her inspection.
  - Cllr. Summers volunteered to be the rep for Johnson's Field site.
  - It was suggested that bark be sourced to put inside the gate where it was extremely wet.

NOTED

### 354/18 HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY

- Matters arising from the SLR meeting of 23/01/18 – A copy of the minutes had been previously circulated and was NOTED. The situation regarding the Tyes crossroads was discussed and it was AGREED that a letter of support for West Hoathly Parish Council be sent to East Sussex County Council.
- Status of access to 'Jacks Yard'. Concerns were raised that the sign erected at the entrance says: 'Private Road' – it was suggested that this be changed to 'Private Access'. The Clerk to look at the agreement with Mr Chadder (who erected it) and write to him stating that we wish to change it. Cllr. Hill asked that the posts for the other side of the village green be put on the next agenda for discussion.

### 355/18 CEMETERY

#### I. Report:

- Memorials and additional inscriptions approved since the last meeting

Renovation	478	Henrotin
Headstone	EB86	Taylor
Tablet	JB2	Nice

- Deeds of grant of exclusive right to burial issued since the last meeting

Deed No. 1316	EB61	Levy
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- Headstones laid down for safety since the last meeting

Sink into Ground	646N	Steele
<b>Sink into Ground</b>	<b>648N</b>	<b>Smith</b>
Laid Down	736N	Green
Sink into Ground	636N	Adlington
Laid Down	HN4	Dickson

- Deeds of Grant transferred since the last meeting

Deed No. 1314	515	Friend
Deed No. 1315	563	Friend
Deed No. 1269	EA54	Dunford
Deed No. 1057	276B	Dunford

NOTED

- II. Cllr. Wogan asked that the maintenance crew investigate a crack in the cemetery perimeter wall (opposite Freshfield Bank) to see whether it posed a threat of collapse.
- III. Closing Cemetery Gates – a grave had been dug and left open recently. The Funeral Directors and gravediggers that used the cemetery had been notified that this was unacceptable and reminded of our Policy. It was agreed that a notice be put on the gates to remind visitors to shut the gate.
- IV. Compulsory Purchase of additional land. Cllr. R Lewin proposed that the Council do not initiate compulsory purchase until the final draft of the Wealden District Council Local Plan is published later this year. This was seconded by Cllr. Josephson and AGREED.
- V. ~~It was agreed at the last meeting that a Working Group would be formed "To consider the options for the proposed new extension and the management of the current cemetery".~~ It was agreed that this would consist of Cllrs. Pritchitt and Wogan and the Burials Clerk.
- VI. Replacement of cherry trees – Four diseased/dead cherry trees were recently cut down in the cemetery. The replacement of such had been discussed under the priorities for the coming year.

#### 356/18 ITEMS FOR DECISIONS

1. ~~Wealden Spring Clean: This was to take place 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Wealden District Council advising that we would not be able to participate this year due to the short notice and asking them for more notice next year. The matter of a Parish litter pick would be discussed at the next meeting.~~
2. Garden Competition 2018: It was agreed that gardens would be nominated by the public for judging. This would be gardens visible from the highway. Nominations should be received by 30<sup>th</sup> June and judging would take place during July by the Council. Awards would be presented at the Autumn Reception. These changes should be advertised widely.
3. ~~Knotweed treatment contract: This was originally set up under the auspices of the Canal project. Cllr. Wogan proposed that the financial responsibility for this contract be transferred to the outdoor maintenance budget. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.~~

#### 357/18 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from East Sussex County Council re verge cutting: An e-mail had been received regarding the reduction in verge cutting for the next year. They would be reducing the number of cuts from 6 to 2 per season. The following options were offered:
  - A financial contribution to your Parish Council equivalent to the value of two urban grass cuts based on current ESCC contract rates which will be in the region of £ 923 per annum. This can be provided to the community as a basis to commission and employ your own grass cutting services using a local contractor.
  - For your Parish to pay for additional urban grass cuts over the two cuts per season provided by the County Council. To maintain the current standard of six cuts this would cost Forest Row Parish Council in the region of £ 1,847 per annum.

Cllr. R Lewin proposed that we continue with the 2 cuts per season but reserve the right to change our position on this in the future. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.

2. Cat memorial: A proposal had been received from Ballard and Shortall for permission to erect a small memorial to the 'Co-Op' cat that had recently passed away. There would be no expense to the Council. Cllr. Wogan proposed that consent be given for a suitable plaque to be attached to the one of the brick planters with a simple form of wording. (to be agreed). This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.
3. E-mail from Gerard Van Dyke regarding overgrown trees on the Brambletye Hotel land: Mr Van Dyke had supplied photographs along with an explanation of why the trees were a nuisance. Cllr. Hill proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Van Dyke explaining that although the Parish Council had sympathy with his position, it had no power to do anything as they were

not on Council land, but if they begin to obstruct the footway in any way, please advise Wealden District Council. Also suggest that he send the photos to Wealden District Council and quote the relevant legislation. This was seconded by Cllr. Wogan and AGREED.

**358/18 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY THIS COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL**

- Skatepark Drainage
- Compulsory Purchase of Cemetery Land
- ~~Posts on Foresters Green easement~~
- Parish Litter Pick

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

SIGNED.....  
(Chairman)

DATE.....