

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th SEPTEMBER 2021 IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. R Lewin

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk and Asst Clerk. Miss Susan Wright (allotment representative), Mr David & Mrs Roberts, Jeff & Janet Male

202/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Roberts stated he found the state of the village very untidy. He asked if anyone from the Parish Council checked on the jobs that East Sussex were supposed to do, and if the Parish Council outdoor maintenance team were managed effectively. Cllr Josephson said that the fault lay with the County & District Councils not dealing with the areas that were their responsibility and pointed out that the parish team only worked 3 days per week.

Mrs Janet Male said that she felt very sad about the state of the village

203/21 APOLOGIES

Cllr. R Lewin due to a previous commitment

204/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

205/21 RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 8TH JUNE 2021

Cllr. Josephson proposed the minutes of the meeting of 8th June 2021 be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.

There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

206/21 CLARIFICATION OF (NON-CONFIDENTIAL) ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

Cllr. Hill asked if any contact had been received from Grow in Forest Row Project – It was advised that no contact had been received.

207/21 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON PENDING MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. Pending works:
 - Ashdown surgery access – no progress since the last meeting
 - BT forecourt – no progress
 - Verge bollards (A22/Lower Road green) – on the 'to do' list.
 - Rush Green culverts – The blacksmiths have not replied despite reminders, leaving the task unfinished.
 - The 'Shoe Oak' protective works and play area repairs are on the priority 'to do' list.
 - The additional water trough for the allotments is on the priority 'to do' list.
2. Gilham Bank grant application – This was turned down by the Lund Fund and the Clerk would now apply to the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme.
3. Tree Planting – The planting of trees (donated by the Woodland Trust) is scheduled to go ahead on 12th October. Cllr. Hill advised that she was meeting with the lady concerned very soon. Cllr. T Lewin asked that the tree that The Seasons wished to donate should also be considered.
4. The Kickstart programme – This scheme had not delivered any candidates.

NOTED

208/21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The report to end month 5 had been previously circulated – NOTED

Cllr. T Lewin asked if the budget for 'Road Safety' could be used for the Speedwatch Campaign. The equipment could be purchased from the Police, and would cost about £500.

It was suggested that Cllr. T Lewin should obtain itemised costs and this matter be discussed at the next Amenities & Services meeting in November.

209/21 ALLOTMENTS

1. The Allotment manager's report was NOTED.

Miss Wright (Allotment representative) reported that the gate on the new site was very heavy and had to be lifted each time it was used. She suggested that the large plots (on Johnsons Field) were split in half.

Cllr. T Lewin proposed that when any large plots on Johnsons Field become empty, they should be cut in half. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.

Cllr. Wogan and Cllr Summers (allotment representative) along with Miss Wright would have a meeting with Janet Lamprell (Allotment Manager) to discuss various issues.

Cllr. Hill asked that all Committee members should look at the allotment Terms and Conditions prior to the next meeting – the office was asked to circulate this to all members.

2. The 'Gleeson' Land – Cllr. Hill advised Committee members that this piece of land had been purchased for £1 for the purpose of absorbing flood water. This matter was discussed. It was decided to leave this land as an informal area for children to play in. Cllr. Summers reported that someone had been mowing part of it. The area would be checked every few months.

210/21 CEMETERY

The Burial Clerk's report had been previously circulated and was NOTED. The Committee thanked the Outdoor Maintenance team and the Burials Clerk for their work to achieve winning the Cemetery of the Year Award 2021 for the second year running.

211/21 CEMETERY LAND ACQUISITION

There was discussion on this matter. The Committee was advised that the owners of the land had obtained a surveyor's report (not a local company) and this had given a value of £ 80,000.

The Clerk advised that a local surveyor should be instructed to value the land as grazing or development and their valuation(s) then be used as a basis for negotiation.

Cllr. T Lewin proposed that a local surveyor be instructed to value the land and an offer be made based on that figure. This was seconded by Cllr. Josephson and voted on.

4 for and 4 against. The Chairman used her casting vote and voted against.

REJECTED

Cllr. Pritchitt proposed that the Parish Council should pay the £ 80,000 to avoid compulsory purchase costs. This was seconded by Cllr. Spackman and AGREED with 2 against and 1 abstention.

212/21 TREE WORK

1. Cemetery – There were some pressing works to be dealt with in the Cemetery – it was AGREED to delegate instruction of a tree surgeon to do these works.
2. Priority tree works - Cllr. Hill and Wogan had looked at the tree report and asked that the Tree Warden be asked for the 'missing pages'. It was AGREED to delegate instruction of a tree surgeon to do any necessary works.
3. Tree work on behalf of East Sussex County Council – This possibility of this had been mentioned by the County Councillor at a recent Full Council meeting. It was AGREED that this option would not be pursued.

213/21 STAFFING ISSUES

Cllr. Spackman advised that he had attended a meeting with Cllr. Wogan and the Clerk – it had been suggested that the outdoor and indoor maintenance teams be combined but this would be looked at again next March. Hiring an apprentice to join the Outdoor Maintenance team was discussed. Cllr. Josephson proposed that engaging an apprentice for the team be looked into immediately. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

214/21 GRASS CUTTING

The County Council had invited the Parish Council to submit their plans for verge cutting for the next year. The details had been previously circulated. Cllr. Spackman proposed that Option 1 be accepted but the Clerk to ask if an additional 2 cuts per year could be included for £ 881.00. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.

215/21 SKATEPARK PROJECT

A project had been proposed by the Youth Coordinator to paint the skatepark, under professional instruction. Details had been previously circulated. This was discussed and concerns were raised regarding the paints used and where exactly the mural would be. Cllr. Hill proposed that the Youth Coordinator be asked for clarification of the project and that the contractors who built the recent extension be asked for their opinion on whether the skatepark surface would be compromised. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.

216/21 CORRESPONDENCE

None

217/21 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY THIS COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL

None

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

SIGNED.....(Chairman) DATE.....