

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29th MARCH 2022 IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Josephson & Miss S Wright (allotment representative)

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk and Asst Clerk.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Cllr. Wogan thanked the Committee and staff for their support during the last year. She also thanked Cllr. Summers and Carole for tending the beds in Newlands Place and Susie Kemp for tending other beds around the village.

27/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

28/22 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Josephson due to ill health and Miss S Wright (allotment rep).

29/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

30/22 RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2021

Cllr. Williams proposed the minutes of the meeting of 23rd November 2021 be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.

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

31/22 CLARIFICATION OF (NON-CONFIDENTIAL) ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

None

32/22 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON PENDING MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. Outdoor maintenance staffing & training – John McHale is now working 16 hours per week. Don and John have completed certified chainsaw training and Don and Harry have attended first aid training.
2. Verge cutting by East Sussex – We were invited by East Sussex County Council to take part in a wildflower verge trial: the information was incomplete, so the invitation was declined.
3. Ashdown surgery access – This had been chased up. It is hoped funds will be available this coming financial year
4. Highfield verge bollards – Bollards would be installed shortly, along with the verge adjacent to the Hopyard.
5. Rush Green culvert – a response was still awaited.
6. The JFC football field – planning permission for the shipping container has been applied for.
7. Playpark repairs – the adult gym equipment has been repaired. The zipwire is scheduled for repair shortly.

NOTED

33/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS

A report had been previously circulated and was

NOTED

34/22 ALLOTMENTS

1. The Allotment manager's report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.
2. Cllr. Summers (allotment rep) reported that the wire fence on the new allotment site is broken down. She asked about the trough and was told that it was in hand and would be done before the summer.

Cllr. T Lewin advised that the gatepost is rotted. He was informed that this would be replaced when the site was drier.

The allotment manager had suggested that a skip be hired as a one-off to remove accumulated. This was proposed by Cllr. Wogan, seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

A proposal had been made that ploholders should pay a refundable reposit to secure the return of the plot in good condition at the end of the tenancy.

This was discussed and Cllr. Williams proposed the following be added to all new agreements:

'All new tenants to pay a £ 50.00 deposit at the start of their tenancy. This is refundable at the end of tenancy subject to satisfactory inspection of plot condition.'

This to be left to the Allotment managers discretion.

This was seconded by Cllr. Spackman and AGREED with 5 for and 3 against.

35/22 CEMETERY

1. The Burial Clerk's report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.
2. The issue of cemetery fees was discussed, and the Burial Clerk had provided a comparison of local fees.

Cllr. Wogan proposed that the fees be increased by 10% for parishioners and 20% for non-parishioners. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED with 1 against.

The fees would be looked at again in a years' time.

3. The cemetery extension. The Clerk advised that we were still awaiting the surveyors report. He also apprised members of issues relating to compulsory purchase.

36/22 FOOTWAY & OTHER LIGHTING

1. The Clerk had been asked to find out costs of converting the Parish's streetlights to LED illumination to save electricity costs, and the advisability of extending the period of 'dark hours'. He advised that he was awaiting a response from the service provider.
2. The Clerk had been asked to investigate the feasibility and cost of adding to the skatepark lighting to cover the new extension, and the practicality of varying the 'dark hours' at that site. He advised that a response was awaited.

37/22 FOOTPATHS

1. Cllr. Summers spoke about the bad state of the footpath between Spring Meadow and Upper Close. County Cllr. Taylor had also inspected the path and East Sussex Highways had agreed that it was in a bad state. They would endeavour to repair it in the next financial year. The Parish Council was asked to add their support to getting this path repaired.
2. Footpath 22g. Attention had been drawn to the deplorable state of footpath 22g (which bisects the allotment site and gives access to the Forest Way and Tablehurst Farm). Cllr. T Lewin had been in contact with Rights of Way at East Sussex County Council. The Parish Council was being asked if they wish to commit Parish funds to improving this path – possibly in the way of match funding with East Sussex County Council.

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to obtain estimates for the repair and chase up East Sussex County Council for a decision.

Cllr. T Lewin would see if there were any grants available, and Cllr. Summers would investigate if Biffa were giving grants for this type of work.

38/22 PARISH TREES & ALLIED MAINTENANCE

1. Tree surveillance issues – The Parish tree warden had been contacted to update his findings following the survey done in 2020. Clarification was awaited of actions required.

2. The Clerk advised that there was a course on offer of a tree inspection course for non-professionals and volunteers. Cllr. Hill advised that she would like to attend this course.
3. Correspondence re Gilham Lane – a letter had been received from a resident regarding the drainage ditch problem. This appears to be neither East Sussex County Council's nor the Parish Council's responsibility. After discussion, Cllr. R Lewin proposed the following ' that the drainage ditch be cleared on an ad hoc basis as a good will gesture. Letters to be written to residents whose property fronts the Lane to point out that they have responsibility as it is a private road (riparian rights).'

This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and was AGREED with 1 against.

39/22 CORRESPONDENCE

None

40/22 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY THIS COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL

Cllr. Wogan asked that the matter of a donated tree/hedge from The Seasons be discussed at the next Amenities & Services Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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