

ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community
in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 19:30 IN ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

COUNCILLORS ATTENDING

Cllr C. Prince (Chair)	Cllr. D. Thomas	Cllr. Mrs. A. Watson
Cllr. L. Pike	Cllr. M. Hall	Cllr. N. Wickenden
Cllr. Mrs P. Halse Adamson	Cllr. R. Harris	

ALSO ATTENDING. The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe. No members of the public attended.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s 85).

An apology for Cllr. Miss. N. Bolton was received and accepted.

2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24TH MAY 2011 AS A TRUE RECORD AND TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be adopted and the Chairman signed them.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

4. ALLOTMENT ISSUES

- i. Information and further action re: ownership of the site and drafting of new agreement between Parish Council and Rotherfield Horticultural and Allotment Society.**

It is understood that exchange of contracts for the land on which these are situated is to take place shortly and also that the new owners wish to continue with allotments on the site. The new owners intend to increase maintenance and tidying of the site and will contact the Council with a view to discussing a possible increase in rent to reflect this. A new agreement form will need to be drawn up between the Council and new owners once the details are known, progress can then continue with the drafting of an agreement form between the RHAAS and the Parish Council.

5. GENERAL RECREATION AND BURIAL ISSUES

- i. Review outstanding items on cut list.**

Clerk is to review outstanding items and raise them with the Contractors, CLERK also to check growth on unused gravesites on St Denys' Old Burial Ground so that action may be taken.

- ii. Review cut list to enable issue of invitations to tender for the cutting of grass and hedges related work.**

Details circulated of current cut list and also some suggested amendments, RESOLVED to meet at 19:00 prior to 18th October Planning Meeting to discuss a revised cut list for incorporating into invitations to tender for the grounds maintenance contract.

6. RECREATION GROUND.

- i. Issues and actions arising from safety inspections.**

None noted for the Play Area or Recreation Ground in the most recent inspections. Some of the wooden posts bordering the car park require replacing. Clerk has noticed that seat bordering the "1200 Path" requires repair as it is very loose. In addition, the concrete framework of another seat is still by the Pavillion waiting for new laths and reinstallation at the top of the bank by the Bowls Green overlooking the pitch.

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Email: rotherfieldpc@yahoo.co.uk

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 3BJ Tel: 01892 664245.

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- RESOLVED CLERK to contact Tony Moaby for quotes for repairing seat and reinstalling the other, also to replace posts bordering car park that have rotted. His advice is to be sought regarding treating the replacements against rotting or the cost of chestnut posts as an alternative.
- ii. **Adoption of policy and conditions for use of Recreation Ground.**
Draft circulated prior to meeting for comment. Alterations to the wording were suggested, CLERK to deal with these and present amended policy to be considered for adoption at a future meeting. The School have written advising that a weekend has already been selected for a “camp out” in 2012 and they have been advised that a copy of the new policy will be provided for them.
- iii. **Value and insurance of the two barriers in the car park.**
Insurers advise that “all risks” cover for these would cost £1.16/£100 (including IPT and commission). RESOLVED to insure each barrier for £500 on this basis, CLERK to arrange with insurers.
- iv. **Quote for improving surface of path to the Pre School.**
To regrade existing surface of approximately 165m, compact, and supply a 40mm layer of 10mm surface course would cost £3080. Tender limit is £3K, weed killing excluded which the Chairman is dealing with. The area to be resurfaced would be from the car park to the entrance to the Community Storage area under the Pre School. RESOLVED CLERK to seek contribution from ESCC toward the work as the current surface is potentially a hazard to users. Coppards provided the quote and they are on the ESCC approved contractors list.
- v. **Progress report and further action regarding feasibility study into creating tennis courts in the Recreation Ground.**
Initial report received indicating that there is space for two club dimension courts and that a feasibility study should be ready by end of November for consideration. RESOLVED CLERK to respond indicating Council’s support for proposal and also to ensure that all Councillors involved with the project are kept informed of progress.
- vi. **Rabbit burrow issues in the Recreation Ground.**
Sports Club report there is the start of a rabbit issue on the upper and lower grounds. An active burrow is near to the new fence over by the Pre School and activity on lower pitch in batter bank again near Pre School. Scratchings/burrows present a safety risk on pitches and the banks could be undermined. RESOLVED CLERK to contact a Parishioner who is known to deal with rabbits and enquire whether he may be able to assist with this problem.
- vii. **Request for clearance of leaves from rear Car Park.**
The Village Hall has passed this issue to a Councillor and Cllr. Prince has kindly offered to deal with the matter.
- viii. **Information and further action regarding items stored in the “Community Storage Area” beneath the Pre School building.**
Bonfire society currently has items stored here in addition to Pre School items and possibly items from Rotherfield Players. CLERK to draft a policy regarding safe storage of items in this area for consideration at a future meeting.

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ix. Information regarding proposed solar panels on the Village Hall.

Hall are investigating possibility of installing these and will provide further information in due course, they have been made aware that the trees by the side of the Hall are not on Council property.

7. ST DENYS' BURIAL GROUND

i. Issues and actions arising from safety inspections.

No safety issues noted, Clerk is to inspect graves that require clearance of saplings.

ii. Letter from neighbouring Parishioner regarding encroachment of brambles into her garden.

Owner of an adjacent property has written complaining about this issue. There are general bramble issues throughout the Churchyard and regular attention to these is recommended for inclusion on the updated cut list.

8. ROTHERFIELD PARISH CEMETERY

i. Issues and actions arising from safety inspections.

None noted in the most recent inspection. Clerk reported that warning sign in Eridge Lane is becoming obscured by hedge growth.

ii. Value and insurance of the Cemetery gates.

Insurers advise that "all risks" cover for these would cost £1.16/£100 (including IPT and commission). RESOLVED to insure the gates for £1500 on this basis, CLERK to arrange with insurers.

iii. Mole issues in the Cemetery.

RESOLVED CLERK to contact Graham Long to discuss this and also a recurrence of the issue in the Recreation Ground play area.

9. TO RECEIVE URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

- CLERK is to contact plumber to enquire specification for pit to be excavated to enable installation of drain off point for tap at Cemetery.
- CLERK to investigate and report potholes in Mayfield Road by Horsegrove Farm entrance and also one in Five Ashes Road near Freemans Farm.
- CLERK to enquire of Wealden District Council regarding an enforcement issue with a satellite dish in the Conservation Area.

10. TO RECEIVE DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE.

Tuesday December 6th at 19:30 in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall. This meeting will consider budgets and precept requirement for 2012/13.

The Chairman declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 20:50.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

.....Chairman.....Date

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