

Environment Committee
Minutes of a Meeting of the held on 4th June 2009

Present: Mr Gregory (Chairman), Mrs Burgess, Mr Salisbury, Mr Gilboy
In attendance: Mrs King, Mrs Jones (Clerk)

25. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that Mr Gregory be re-elected as Chairman and Mrs Burgess be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Environment Committee.

26. Apologies for Absence were received from Mr Gallagher and Mr Blanch.

27. Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest regarding any items on the agenda.

28. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2009 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

29. Matters arising from the Minutes

Minute 234/08: Skatepark at Whitemans Green: The District Council had recently approached the Council with regard to monthly safety inspections. The cost of this, using their contractor, would be approximately £10 per month. Sufficient funding had been included in the budget and it was agreed to go ahead with these inspections.

Minute 237/08: Dog Fouling: The clerk's assistant would be in contact with the school shortly regarding a campaign to alert the public to this problem. The Chairman reported that the dog fouling in the churchyard was on the increase and it was agreed that some new posters should be erected to warn the public of the problem.

30. Financial Statement and Budget

This had been forwarded to members. In view of the reduction in general reserves, the importance of each committee remaining within its annual budget was stressed. The need for a rolling programme for future expenditure would also need careful consideration.

31. Cemetery Matters

Notification of a rating re-valuation for the cemetery had been received. Mr Gallagher was to provide this information. The tablet for the Garden of Remembrance was also awaited. Letters had been sent to the local funeral directors regarding sponsorship for the new gates at the Garden of Remembrance and this matter would need to be followed up in due course. A new compressor would be required for the burial extension and the electricity supply would need to be checked. A settlement had been made to the employee with regard to the broken windscreen in the layby. The erection of a disclaimer notice for the layby would be looked at and a letter sent to staff regarding safe working practices.

32. The Observer Field

A detailed report on progress with the Observer Field had been circulated by Mrs Burgess. Contact had also been made with a person interested in restoring the Observer Post and with an ecologist who was interested in the ecological impact of the site. It was agreed to invite them both to give a short presentation at the next Environment meeting in July for a 7 pm start.

33. Information Board for the Mantell Memorial

It was agreed that a replacement information board be purchased for the Mantell Memorial at Whitemans Green at a cost of £250.00.

34. Allotments at Courtmead Road and Whitemans Green

The Chairman reported that the new allotments at Whitemans Green had been marked out and the grass had been cut. Several of the new allotments had been let and the waiting list was minimal although the list at Courtmead Road remained very long. The pipework would be carried out shortly.

35. Replacement of the Christmas lights

Mr Gilboy detailed the proposals for the new Christmas lights. A further quotation had also been received from another contractor. It was agreed that a decision would be taken at the July meeting. A letter had been sent to all traders requesting sponsorship for the lights. One donation from the Craft Shop had been received to date and the Parish Council was most grateful for this contribution. Funding was also to be received from the Independent State of Cuckfield. The need to build up reserves for future expenditure was highlighted.

36. Maintenance along Footpaths

There was a discussion regarding the grasscutting along the paths. This was a costly contract and it was agreed to arrange a meeting with the contractors to discuss this work.

37. New Litter Bins

It was agreed to erect a litter bin at the end of Courtmead Road.

38. Overgrowth along Pavements

A complaint had been received from an elderly, visually impaired, resident regarding the problems caused by bushes overhanging the pavement in the High Street/London Road. It was agreed to check on this and to write to the householders, pointing out the difficulties this caused for the elderly.

39. Refurbishment of the Village Clock

It was noted that the village clock had been beautifully restored and was now back as a feature of the High Street. Some damage had been caused to the tarmac in the car park by the crane and this was being taken up with the contractors. A presentation would now be arranged with the Bowring Family.

40. Cuckfield Society's Village Clean up Day

This event, planned for later in the month, was welcomed by the Parish Council and the results would be awaited with interest.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.