

**Environment Committee**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

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

**228. Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr Blanch

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

**230. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

**231. Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Minute 101 - Public Toilets:** Further ongoing maintenance had been undertaken as petty vandalism was still taking place. The outer door to the men's toilets had now been replaced and a padlock had been fitted to the gate to prevent public access to the rear of the block.

**232. Financial Statement**

This had been circulated by the clerk. It was noted that burial fees were significantly reduced from previous years. There had been an overspend in the partnership maintenance budget, however the insufficient income had been shown in the budget and the expenditure figure included work from the previous financial year, this then balanced the figures. It was noted that payment had been received in full for the works carried out in the Garden of Remembrance. A discussion followed regarding the refuse freighter in the car park and whether this expenditure was justified. This facility was well used and popular with residents and it had been included in the 2009/10 budget.

**233. Cemetery**

The Chairman reported that the new notices had been erected but that dog fouling was an on-going problem. A discussion followed regarding this and the possibility of creating greater public awareness. It was agreed to contact the Primary School to see whether a joint campaign could be undertaken, this to include posters, press coverage, etc. With regard to replacement gates by the Garden of Remembrance, it was agreed to write to local funeral directors asking whether they might be able to find a sponsor to fund these as a memorial.

**234. Skatepark and Mantell Memorial**

A request had been received from the District Council regarding the installation of railings and a warning sign by the skatepark. After discussion, it was agreed that neither was necessary and no action would be taken to further this suggestion. A meeting had been arranged with the person responsible for the Mantell Information Board to discuss its replacement. Unfortunately this had been cancelled but would take place shortly when a price would be obtained for a new board.

**235. Allotments at Courtmead Road and Whitemans Green**

As discussed previously, the charges for the allotments would be increased from 1<sup>st</sup> April. It was noted that there were long waiting lists for the allotments. Additional expenditure had been incurred this year for the development of the new allotments and it was considered that in future the rental charges should cover the cost of any new development. This would be taken into account if further expenditure was anticipated in the future.

### **236. Street furniture and Salt Bin**

The Chairman stated that a new bench would be purchased in the new financial year to replace the old concrete bench at Whitemans Green that had now been removed. It was also hoped to purchase a bench for Ardingly Road. There was a discussion regarding the request from the school to install a salt bin along the Ardingly Road/Glebe Road footpath. However, there were no staff available to put down the salt and it would be up to the public to do this. It was agreed to write to the school informing them of this and to leave the matter in abeyance for the time being.

### **237. Tidying of the Street Scene & Dog Fouling**

An email had been received from the Cuckfield Society regarding the setting up of a project to tidy up the verges around the village. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea and the clerk would contact the Society asking them to produce a project plan for approval.

The Society was also concerned with the amount of dog fouling and it was agreed that, as discussed previously, this concern should form part of a general village-wide campaign to tackle the problem.

Complaints had been received regarding the new dog bins that had been installed at Whitemans Green & Mytten Twitten. The standard bin supplied by MSDC was bright red and very intrusive. It was agreed to write to MSDC highlighting the concerns over the unsuitability of the bins and asking for their replacement with green bins. The possibility of moving the bins to where they would have less visual impact would also be investigated.

### **238. Observer Field**

A report had been circulated by Mrs Burgess. It was noted that wildflower plugs would be planted as part of the Environment Grant. It was also hoped that the 'Community Pay Back' scheme would assist with the maintenance work of the field.

### **239. Christmas Lights**

Funds had been allocated in the budget for the replacement of the four strings of lights in the High Street but it was hoped that donations would be received from local societies for additional lights. A donation had been agreed by the Independent State and, when more details were available, the clerk would write to the other groups. A meeting would be required with the company responsible for the erection of the lights but in the absence of Mr Gilboy it was not clear as to the current situation.

### **240. Refurbishment of the Village Clock**

The refurbishment was now well underway and the family sponsoring the work had agreed to the replacement clock dials, including gilding and lighting. Contact would need to be made with the owners of the building to agree the erection of a new memorial plaque commemorating the works.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.