



The Queen's Hall
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Parish Clerk: Sam Heynes
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Assets, Community and Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held at 8.30pm on Thursday 17th February 2022

Present: Mr A Symonds (Chairman), Mr A Burton, Mr P Ceccherini, Mr J Dickie, Mrs A King, Mr A Podmore, Mr M Sheldon and Mrs J White

In Attendance: Mrs K Ely (Assistant Parish Clerk), Mr D Forth (Allotment representative), Mrs S Heynes (Parish Clerk) and Mr K Gregory (Allotment steward), Mr S Oversby-Powell.

Public Question Time: A member of the public and Messrs Forth and Gregory, spoke of the tree cutting that had been undertaken at Whitemans Green allotment site the previous week. They expressed their objection to the use of the machinery on the site, whilst the ground was soft, which had destroyed areas of paths and grass resulting in the surfaces becoming wet, uneven and slippery, and presented a health and safety risk to allotment tenants. Cllr Symonds advised that the contractor had taken responsibility for their actions and the damage would be remedied and the ground made safe by laying a wood chipping path for access. The Clerk apologised that the allotment tenants had not been informed of the tree works.

ACE024 To receive apologies for absence
None.

ACE025 Declarations of Interest
None.

ACE026 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2021
The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2021 were approved and signed.

ACE027 To note the Action List
Noted.

ACE028 Assets

a) To consider feedback from tenants of Whitemans Green allotments regarding the formation of an allotment association.

Mr Gregory spoke of his discussions with allotment tenants following the presentation by Paul Neary of the National Allotment Society on 7th December 2021 regarding forming an allotment association. Mr Gregory advised that tenants did not wish to pursue forming an allotment association, and for the Parish Council to continue managing the site.

8.46pm Messrs Forth and Gregory and the member of the public left the meeting

Cuckfield Parish Committee confirmed their eligibility to hold the General Power of Competence on 4th May 2021, all decisions made during this meeting are done so using this power.

b) To consider quotes for maintenance of Horsefield Green.

Committee considered the quotes and resolved to mow the large area regularly according to the Groundsman's schedule. The Groundsman to trim the small section on the left of Horsefield Green to allow it to develop as a wildflower area, and seeds will be sowed in the autumn.

c) To consider quotes for a chipper, blower, bowser and ride on mower.

Committee considered the quotes and approved the expenditure for the items of machinery recommended by the Operations Manager.

d) To consider the formal registration of land owned by Cuckfield Parish Council (i.e. Observer Field, Courtmead Road, Cemetery).

Committee approved expenditure of up to £2k to register the land. The Clerk to instruct a solicitor to progress the land registration.

e) To resolve to allow the Observer Field to be used for sheep grazing for the next two years.

Committee resolved for the Observer Field to be used for sheep grazing for the next two years.

f) To consider adjusting the current preferential burial rates for Cuckfield residents to reflect the physical village boundary rather than the parochial parish boundaries that have been used historically.

Committee resolved to adjust the preferential burial rates for Cuckfield residents to reflect the village boundary map provided by the Clerk; the Clerk to inform P&S Gallagher.

g) To consider planning to use the Observer Field as an extension to the existing burial ground.

Committee resolved to consider a planning application to extend the existing burial ground.

ACE029

Community

a) To consider a street event in parallel with the 2022 Fireworks Night.

Committee did not wish to proceed with such an event.

b) To consider the results of the Parish Council survey.

Committee were disappointed by the lack of response and wished to explore options for achieving a wider reach when the survey is repeated in January 2023. Speeding/traffic management was considered the key priority for the next five years, which was in the process of being addressed by the Roads and Traffic Committee.

c) To resolve whether to proceed with an art competition for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, or to make other arrangements to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee within the village.

Committee resolved to proceed with an art competition for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Committee considered other options for commemorating the Platinum Jubilee and the Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes for a bronze plaque for the front of the Queen's Hall, and to explore whether funding for the plaque would be available from MSDC. Additionally, the Clerk would seek options for a bench and also packs of wildflower seeds to gift to each child at Holy Trinity School. Committee did not wish to rename the Queen's Hall the Queen Elizabeth II Hall.

d) To resolve to support the ISOC plans to arrange a Platinum Jubilee Street Party on Friday 3rd June 2022.

Committee resolved to support the ISOC plans to arrange a Platinum Jubilee Street Party. A grant application for £8k to fund the event had been submitted by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council; if a successful outcome is

achieved, the governance of the event would be undertaken by the Parish Council.

ACE030 Environment

a) To receive an update from the Climate Change Working Group.

Cllrs Sheldon and White provided an update from the first meeting of the working group. Whilst some members of the working group perceived that climate change required emergency action, overall the group lacked focus. The next meeting of the Climate Change Working Group would be held on 11th March. Committee wished to have a focus upon environmental issues at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting on 7th April.

b) To resolve to purchase and plant replacement trees at Horsefield Green as several Ash Trees were removed due to suffering from Ash Die Back disease.

Committee resolved the replacement planting at Horsefield Green.

ACE031 To note items arising after the preparation of this Agenda which the Chairman agrees to take as urgent. Such matters will be for noting only or deferral to a future meeting only

None.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed: _____

Next Meeting: 12th May 2022