

ROOTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND BURIAL COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST 2015 IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT

Cllr. R. Harris (Chairman)	Cllr. K. Curtis	Cllr. D. Thomas
Cllr. Gilbert (Vice Chairman)	Cllr. D. Hiles	Cllr. L. Watts
Cllr. J. Cahan	Cllr. G Watson-Smith	Cllr. N. Wickenden

ABSENT

None

ALSO ATTENDING.

None

- 1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s 85).**
Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllr J. Kitchenham, Cllr A. Martin and the Clerk T. Thorpe. Minutes were taken by the Council Chairman David Thomas.
- 2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL, PREJUDICIAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND UPDATES TO MEMBERS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS.**
Cllr. Harris declared a personal interest in respect of item 9.c as he sometimes assists this fellow farmer. The Chairman reminded those present that they should declare an interest if they became aware of one at any point during the meeting.
- 3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2015 AS A TRUE RECORD.**
Not available for signature. Deferred to next meeting.
- 4. UPDATE REGARDING MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.**
None provided by Clerk. Deferred to next meeting..

TO CONSIDER INFORMATION & MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:-

- 5. GENERAL RECREATION, ALLOTMENT AND BURIAL ISSUES**
 - a) Report and decision regarding review of fees and guidelines for burial.**
RESOLVED that no exception would be made to present rules which permit only the Council's contractor to excavate grave plots as they have £10M public liability insurance for this work and are aware of Council's specification. Every Councillor present voted to support this.
- 6. RECREATION GROUND AND CAR PARK.**
 - b) Consider offer from third party's insurers in compensation for damage caused by the July 2013 diesel spill in the Car Park.**
RESOLVED to reject the current offer, CLERK to request £9,000 compensation.
 - c) Car Park. Quote from Coppard for removal of tree stump, investigation and clearance of drain blockage and installation of inspection chamber and manhole cover.**
Quotation not received for tree stump removal - deferred.

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The Council Chairman stated Council had paid Coppards to investigate a blockage in the car park drain, found to be by the Scout Hut, but its significance was unclear. Council did not consider car park drains a problem and had not planned any expenditure on them. The only drainage work in budget was £2000 towards lower pitch improvement, new drain at foot of batter and 'Verti draining'. He explained Coppards quotation dated 11.8.2015 was for work contained in the Tangent Space Scout Hut Conditional Survey which specified the drainage work required by the Contractor and Coppard for Refurbishment of the building. RESOLVED to accept Coppard's quotation of £2,100 + VAT, to construct new inspection chamber in driveway, connect to Scout Hut drain, and remedial tarmac, and charge this expenditure to Scout Refurbishment Project. CLERK to advise Coppards.

Standing orders were suspended at this point so that that Cllr. Curtis could present a report from the Sports Club AGM held on 3rd August 2015. The following issues concerning the Council were raised at the meeting:

1. Drainage to the lower pitch

2. Mole activity.

ACTION Council Chairman to phone Mole Catcher.

3. Rabbits coming from farm land causing damage to playing pitches. Committee Chairman suggested ferreting through the warren.

Recreation Committee requested that the Council Chairman shoot rabbits on the farm land to reduce their number. He stated that the banking on farm boundary land provides a safe back stop preventing bullets reaching the Recreation Ground. Chairman has a Sussex Police Firearms Certificate (Rifles for Vermin, Fox, and Deer), a £10M PLI Shooting Insurance and a Permission to Shoot Letter from the Owner of the Farm Land.

ACTION Item to be added to agenda of next Council meeting to consider approval from the Full Council for this together with provision of written approval to carry a rifle (unloaded and enclosed in a case) on the Recreation Ground if access is required to the farm land, in case the farm field gate is not used.

7. ROTHERFIELD PARISH CEMETERY

d) Spoil compound in Parish Cemetery. Consider quote for screening by planting.

Awaiting quotation. RESOLVED to instruct T Moaby to screen sides with bare root native hedge planting when seasonally appropriate up to value of £200.

e) Track by side of Cemetery. Consider quote for clearance of track to allow it to be used for access by mini digger for grave excavations.

RESOLVED that the Committee Chairman would do this personally before burial scheduled for 17th August.

f) Decision regarding offer to tidy waste in lower field and place in or near new spoil compound.

RESOLVED to accept Les Pike's offer to undertake this and to hire a machine from Coppards up to budget of £100 for one day. CLERK to check the insurance implications for this before proceeding.

8. ST DENYS' BURIAL GROUND

g) Drinking fountain in wall. Decision regarding repairs to return this to working order.

RESOLVED to restore to working order by fitting an appropriately styled tap, budget £50.

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h) Entrance to Old Burial Ground. Consider repair/improvement to pathways.

RESOLVED to monitor condition of paths through the regular safety inspections of this cemetery and use the monthly reports to Parish Chairman to identify any area needing attention.

9. TO CONSIDER URGENT ITEMS ON BEHALF OF OTHER COMMITTEES

Planning and Building Committee

a) WD/2015/1418/FA Rocks Farm Business Centre, Burnt Oak Road, Stone Cross, Crowborough TN6 3SJ

Minor material amendment to WD/2013/2230/F (demolition of the existing buildings with retention of one business unit and the replacement of the mobile residential unit with a new dwelling with associated landscaping).

RESOLVED to defer to Wealden District Planning as minor material amendment could not be detected by the Councillors.

b) WD/2015/1537/F Downsvie Vineyard, Hadlow Down Road, Crowborough TN6 3RG

Erection of an agricultural building including ancillary wine and cider production.

RESOLVED to APPROVE. Reason - Parish Council has a policy to support Parish businesses and this new agricultural building will enable a small business to expand. Planning Chairman allowed Applicant to speak to the meeting. He explained the significance of the proposed farm building. He agreed to the use of green roofing materials to blend into the landscape.

c) WD/2015/1274/FR Bridgers Cottage, Town Row Green, Rotherfield TN6 3QU

Retention of agricultural worker's mobile home for a further temporary period of three years.

RESOLVED to APPROVE for a further period of 3 years. Reason - Parish Council has a policy to support Parish farming operations. The retention of this agricultural worker's dwelling on this large farm is essential as the worker needs to live on the farm to tend to livestock 365 days a year.

ACTION: Council Chairman to report Planning Committee Decisions to WDC Planning Department.

WD/2015/1045/F Catts Farm

Application to erect residential dwelling in place of agricultural/industrial buildings.

Only partial planning documents were available from WDC Planning Department. Cllrs Wickenden and Thomas had called at the property on 10.8.2015 and the owner informed them he had been notified by WDC that his application had been approved. This application has not been before Parish Council and subsequently Cllr Wickenden checked WDC database but could find no trace. Council will request clarification from WDC.

Highways Lighting and Transport Committee

d) Response to ECSCC consultation regarding request for installation of brown "tourist" sign for the Mark Cross Inn.

RESOLVED to agree to sign approval for this. Cllrs Curtis and Thomas voted against this Proposal.

e) Picnic bench at Mark Cross. Outcome of discussions with planting sponsor regarding resiting bench to grass area adjacent to parking bay opposite Church and decision on further action.

Council Chairman raised issue that there are now 2 picnic bench and a further bench seat at Mark Cross but all are hidden by high grass at present and, unlike the ones in Rotherfield, not being used. Grass has been left high because of wild flowers. Council Chairman explained that following closure of the A267 B2100 slip road at Mark Cross the match funding sponsor has

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offered to plant free of charge the grass area adjacent to parking spaces opposite the church. RESOLVED to leave the new picnic bench at Mark Cross and investigate the cost of an additional one for Rotherfield Recreation Ground, carried forward to next meeting. Cllrs Curtis and Thomas voted against this Proposal

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

24th November 2015 - This Meeting will consider the Committee's Precept for 2016 - 2017

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

- Cllr Hiles suggested the use of wire mesh at the rear of the burial excavation and cement dust in the soil would stabilise the plot.
- Cllr Watson Smith raised issue of broken road edge, Brickyard Lane near Entry Hill. CLERK to investigate and report to ESCC.
- Cllr Cahan reminded Councillors she was still awaiting some Councillor personal profiles which were due by 31st July.
- Cllr Curtis stated the Kings Arms was hit twice on August 7th by HGVs. He suggested Council investigate the Kent Lorry Watch scheme with a view to recommending a similar scheme for Sussex. CLERK to add item to agenda of next Highways Committee meeting.
- Cllr Gilbert will clean finger post at Blackdon Hill and the Committee thanked him.
- Cllr Harris asked Cllr Wickenden to check the condition of shrubs and trees at Court Meadow Green to see if remedial work is needed and report to Council.
- Cllr Thomas reported on the status of The Catts Inn. The licence has been returned to Enterprise Inns and the managers have given notice and will leave the 13th September. Council Chairman will draft a letter to Enterprise Inns Area Manager, expressing our concern about the future of this pub, for consideration at the August PCM.

The chairman declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 21:15.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

Confirmed as a true record at the 24th November 2015 meeting of the Committee

_____Chairman _____Date