



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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND BURIAL COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH JUNE 2017 AT 19:30
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL TN6 3LX**

PRESENT

Cllr. T. Gilbert (Chairman)	Cllr. L. Henrick	Cllr. J. Richardson
Cllr. G. Watson-Smith (Vice Chairman)	Cllr. A. Martin	Cllr. N. Wickenden
Cllr. A. Hardy		

ABSENT

None.

ALSO ATTENDING

One Parishioner in respect of item 4a).

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)

Apologies for absence was submitted by Cllrs. Cahan, Harris and Thomas.

b) Declaration of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda, and updates to members' register of interests.

None. Chair reminded those present that they should declare an interest during the meeting if they became aware of one relating to an agenda item.

c) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 11th April 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that these were a true record and that they be adopted and signed, and the Chair signed the minutes. The audio recordings and draft notes relating to the meeting may now be destroyed.

**d) Update regarding matters arising and action items from previous meetings
Actions outstanding from the 11th April meeting of this Committee are as follows: -**

Suggestion to mark dedicated motor cycle spaces in the Recreation Ground car park

This was raised at a Village Hall meeting. They want white lines to denote a space for motorcycle parking. **RESOLVED** that we make this change. **ACTION** for Cllr **Martin** to consider how to provide the markings.

Cllr Gilbert is now dealing with this and has obtained the paint required. Lining will be done when pressure of work allows.

Update from Cllrs. Martin and Wickenden re: progress and matters arising from annual tree survey.

Cllr Wickenden has the paperwork for this and has looked at some areas and will report to the Monthly Parish meeting.

Report to be submitted at June PCM, CLERK to add to agenda.

Update regarding realignment of ashes memorial slabs.

Clerk has again written to plot owner who did not respond to the mailing earlier in the year. Will advise Cllr. Harris if no reply is received within 14-day timescale given so that work may be undertaken.

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Information regarding graves that require turfing.

Joint effort from Cllrs Harris and Gilbert has completed this work, and Council Chair has been attending to the watering of the plots involved.

ITEM FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Memorials in Old Burial Ground.

Based on a previous quote the cost is likely to be close to the £3k limit above which formal tender is required. Clerk will therefore arrange to issue formal tender requests to 3 local stonemasons identified and will add an agenda item for the July PCM so that these can be considered.

ITEMS FOR OTHER COMMITTEES

Highways Lighting and Transport Committee – report on recent site meeting at Mark Cross to investigate provision of a safe crossing place and decision on further action and expenditure to progress this matter.

Clerk is preparing information for ESCC so that a feasibility study can be undertaken by them to enable the project to progress.

Ongoing projects: -

Raising the roof

Clerk has spoken to Nick Rowe at Cripps regarding the updated legal agreement in respect of the work. He will retain the papers relating to the Hall pending further progress. Council Chair has submitted his suggested way forward with this project and an item will be added to the agenda of the June meeting to consider and agree further actions.

War Memorial

Clerk reported that the planning application for this has been approved by Wealden's planning department. Council Chair will discuss format of invitation to tender with Cllr. Hardy so that the project can submit these to three stonemasons for them to quote.

e) Committee financial report and agree any actions required.

Circulated in advance of the meeting. Clerk reported that the Recreation Ground and Other Open Spaces general repairs and maintenance budget stood at £1557 against annual budget figure of £1500. £1431 of expenditure is attributable to the installation of the replacement security floodlight to the rear of the Village Hall and a contribution of £400 has been promised toward this by the Hall Committee; this will return the budget within limit, transfers may be required from other budgets as the year progresses.

RECEIVE INFORMATION AND MAKE DECISIONS ON ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURE AS REQUIRED REGARDING THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND.

2. RECREATION GROUND, CAR PARK AND VILLAGE HALL

a) Path to Bowls Club

Carried forward from previous meeting. It was recommended that rubber grass mats be used for this. 45m² of mat will be required at an estimated cost of £500, Cllr. Martin considered that installation cost would be in the region of £300. **RESOLVED** that Cllrs. Martin, Harris and Gilbert proceed with the installation of the path on this basis with maximum ex VAT budget of £1K.

b) Action to prevent damage to wall of the Scout and Youth Community Hall.

Carried forward from May PCM. Scouts do not wish for a "rubbing strip" to be attached to the wall of the property to prevent damage to the rendering. It is considered that cost of reconfiguring the barrier to remove the gap between the post and building would be too high, thought has now turned to laying a surfaced path between the tree and barrier post and installing bollards to block off the gap by the building.

RESOLVED to carry final decision regarding action on this to the July PCM, **CLERK** to add to agenda of this meeting and establish and circulate to Councillors details of

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the lease so that maintenance responsibility may be determined.

3. ROTHERFIELD PARISH CEMETERY

a) Maintenance or improvement matters requiring attention.

RESOLVED that **CLERK** instruct Will Clark to “top” the lower field and deal with the bracken surrounding it.

4. OLD BURIAL GROUND AND COURT MEADOW GREEN

a) Request from residents to reconsider the ban of dogs on Court Meadow Green agreed at the August 2016 meeting of this Committee.

A resident was present and wished to address the meeting regarding this issue. Chair permitted this and the item was dealt with as the first in section 2 of the agenda. Key points regarding discussions regarding the ban were as follows: -

- Area was popular with nearby residents for family activities and for dog walking.
- Dog walking is an important social activity, particularly for the elderly who may be reluctant to cross the busy High Street to use the Millennium Green.
- Clerk reported that 3 emails objecting to the ban had been received and circulated to Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee. Agenda for this meeting had been sent to the three complainants.
- Complaint was raised last year by our grass cutting contractor that fouling in this area was making their work somewhat unpleasant.

RESOLVED that the ban be temporarily lifted with immediate effect to allow dogs on Court Meadow Green provided they are kept on their lead and their owners take responsibility to remove any fouling they may leave. Cllr. Richardson has kindly offered to monitor this area and report if fouling problems occur. Situation to be reviewed at the 22nd August meeting of this Committee and decision made regarding the ban, which may be reinstated before this date if fouling still occurs. **CLERK** to note, arrange for temporary sign and advise by Facebook/Twitter.

5. URGENT ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED ON BEHALF OF OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Communications and Social Media Committee – Authorise order and Issue cheque for OneDrive subscription.

RESOLVED that cheque for £816.08 (£688.40 plus VAT) be signed, payable to the Computer Studio. This is to be funded from the Communications and Social Media budget for Councillor surgeries.

6. RECEIVE DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE

22nd August 2017 at 19:30 in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall.

7. REPORT DETAILS OF ITEMS AND ISSUES FOR INVESTIGATION, FURTHER ACTION OR FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Cllr. Hardy is to provide Clerk with the documentation required for a “Messy Church Sports Day” in the Rec.
- Cllr. Watson Smith had attended the recent “Wealdlink” meeting at Groombridge. Clerk to enquire of Wealdlink regarding the timetable display for the Village that was mentioned at this meeting.
- Annual Newsletter is almost ready for publication. Cllr. Hardy to please confirm to **CLERK** when final version is ready to publish, 200 copies required to distribution to Parish businesses and other public places.

The Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 20:35.

8. PUBLIC FORUM None.

Agreed as a true record and adopted at the 22nd August 2017 meeting of this Committee

.....Chair..... Date

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