

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on Tuesday 4th October 2022 at the Dunn Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Thompson, Long, Wells, Iremonger, Saunders, Simpson and Ansell

Also present: Jackie Cottrell – Parish Clerk
11 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Steve Williamson – Family commitments

00571 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NONE

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held on the 19th July 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

00572 RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 19th July 2022

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman of the Parish Council addressed the public to clarify the resolution made on agenda item 11.2. Urban Grass Cutting Options at the Full Council meeting held on the 29th September. He apologised for allowing the debate on agenda item 11.1 – feedback for the RURAL grass cutting trial- to stray into the next item. He reiterated the Parish Council had RESOLVED to submit positive feedback on item 11.1. However, some confusion had arisen as to what was being discussed regarding 11.2. As a result, a motion was put forward by Cllr Thompson regarding RURAL verges which was rejected by the Council. The 3 options offered by ESCC were then considered. The Parish Council RESOLVED option 1 which was the least number of cuts available. In summary a motion was defeated for RURAL verges but this did NOT relate to an item on the agenda. ESCC have confirmed their decision process for continuing with RURAL verges and at some point they would consult with parish councils. One MOP sought clarification regarding a failed motion and was reassured by the Chairman of the Parish Council there would be no implications for future discussions regarding RURAL verges.

Another MOP stated verge issues were very important and reiterated community engagement was vital when making future decisions.

The Chairman of the Environment Committee reassured the MOP that future decisions needed to reflect public opinion and agreed the parish

council needed to improve on this and base their decisions on evidence collected. The parish council would be working hard to ensure that would happen. The evidence would be based on the hard work of eight members of the community who had worked hard collecting data.

The MOP agreed with her comments but reiterated that public opinion also needed to be considered and questioned how that information would be provided to the public. The Chairman of the Environment Committee stated she would be urging ESCC to ensure any reports published would be in the public domain. She also requested MOP to write to ESCC with their opinions of the scheme.

The parish council would publish the reports on their website and notice boards.

The Chairman of the parish council finished by stating that roadside verges were owned by ESCC and the parish council were a consultee. He stated there was a lot of information on the parish council website and lots of detailed information on verges were on the ESCC website.

TO NOTE THE INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET FOR REPAIR WORK

The Clerk reported that there was £1,041 left to spend from the £2022/23 infrastructure budget.

Members noted the Environment Committee would need to consider a budget requirement for the 2023/24 financial year for the next F&GP Committee meeting.

It was noted that projects were moving forward now the Clerk had been allocated extra hours.

SLR

6.1. To note the date of the next SLR meeting – Tuesday 25th October 2022

Cllr Long and Cllr Wells confirmed their attendance.

6.2. To agree any items to be added to the next SLR agenda

It was agreed to add the following items to the SLR agenda:

- The Iwood Dip – incomplete works. Cllr Wells to submit details to the Clerk.
- The Trolliloes Road bridge repair – substandard drainage works. Wood and brick debris had been left in the river. Cllr Long to submit details to the Clerk.
- Request for an additional Deer Crossing sign on the bodle street road. Cllr Long to submit details to the Clerk.
- Request for early feedback regarding the success of the Rural Verges Trial.
- Hole in the green on the edge of Warbleton at the top of Churches Green Lane. There was currently a stick and a bollard in the hole. Cllr Ansell to submit a picture to the Clerk.
- Request for white lines to be re-painted at the Osborne House car park to differentiate between the road and the pavement. This was

a dangerous hazard to anyone attempting to cross the road at that point. Cllr Long to submit pictures to the Clerk.

6.3. Clerk update of the SLR action points

The Clerk reported the following updates:

- Cllr Long was still in the process of arranging a meeting with ESCC regarding overgrown trees and hedgerows.
- The Clerk was in the process of organising a meeting with Ian Johnson at East Sussex Highways to go through the results of the speed surveys. This was item 4 on the Clerks list of priorities. Items 1, 2 & 3 had been resolved or were in progress.
- The Clerk was still awaiting information from Ian Johnson regarding the cost to the parish council of painted roundels. Once this information had been received the location and number of roundels would be an item on a future Full Council agenda.
- Cllr Thompson needed to provide the Clerk with location details for an additional deer crossing sign.
- It had been agreed Speed Indication Devices would not be given further consideration until the results of the speed surveys had been understood and the data published. Members had noted the cost of each SID was expensive.

6.4. Roundel update

As above.

6.5. Speed survey results update

As above.

ASSET REGISTER

7.1. To note the updated asset register

Noted

Cllr Long to investigate the current usage of the speed gun and other possible locations. The Clerk to confirm if the parish council's insurance covers more than one location.

The Clerk to ensure this is a future agenda item.

7.2. To note the items in need of repair work or investigation

Cllr Long confirmed that Stone House had donated the flagpole to the Horse & Groom pub and they in turn had donated it to the parish council. The pub had confirmed they were happy for the flagpole to remain in its current position.

It was AGREED the flagpole would be an agended item for the Full Council meeting in January where a new location on The Green would be considered. Cllr Saunders agreed to store and test the new flagpole. Cllr Long offered to remove the flagpole if the Council Resolved the new location.

It was AGREED the kissing gate would be replaced with a five-bar gate.

7.3. Update on parish council benches in need of oiling

Cllr Saunders would provide Cllr Long with 4 litres of Danish oil at no cost to the parish council.

URBAN GRASS CUTTING

8.1. To note the feedback to be submitted to ESCC regarding the 2022 rural grass cutting trial

It was RESOLVED at the September Full Council meeting that positive feedback would be submitted to ESCC.

Noted.

8.2. To note the PC option chosen for the urban grass cutting service for 2023

Option 1 – Standard was RESOLVED at the September Full Council meeting. This was two cuts over the course of the year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the parish council. Urban grass would be managed for safety purposes only.

Urban grass cutting options have no relation to the rural grass cutting trial. The outcome of the rural grass cutting trial would be decided by ESCC at Lead Member in December.

Noted.

OSBORNE HOUSE CLOCK UPDATE

It was RESOLVED at the September Full Council meeting to accept the quote from Twaites & Reed for a basic one-off service costing £1,244.00 plus VAT. The funds would be taken from the infrastructure budget.

Twaites & Reed had received confirmation that the parish council wish to proceed with their quote. They had responded to say it would be unlikely that work would be completed before December but they would be contacting the Clerk with a date.

RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE SIGN UPDATE

It was RESOLVED at the September Full Council meeting to accept the Agrifactors quote to re-paint the village sign and to replace the rotten post and reset the new post at a cost of £855 plus VAT. The funds would be taken from the infrastructure budget.

Agrifactors had received confirmation that the parish council wish to proceed with their quote and they would be contacting the Clerk with a date.

OSBORNE HOUSE CAR PARK REPAIR UPDATE

The Clerk clarified that a site visit had taken place with a contractor, 4 councillors and herself to agree on a quote specification and to go through the various options available. It was AGREED the repair works were a high priority, there was significant subsidence on the highest used part of the car park. The primary users were elderly.

One of the Councillors present at the site visit clearly explained to all Members what would be involved with the repair. There was concern that the parish council did not know what lay beneath the car park surface although it was noted the last repair works had lasted 25 years. The Clerk to send the quote specification to all members of the Environment committee.

RUSHLAKE GREEN NOTICE BOARD REFURBISHMENT QUOTES

12.1. To review, consider and agree a quotation for refurbishment of the notice board

The Clerk clarified that all companies had been sent the same specification and 3 quotes had been received. The Clerk to confirm the notice board legs would be painted the same colour as the notice board.

00573 **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Phil Signs subject to the legs being painted with a suitable treatment to ensure the longevity of the item.

TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF YEARLY MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A detailed discussion took place. Councillors discussed the effectiveness of sub committees, the clerks time, the length of meetings, the discipline required to halt further long debates if an item has already been recommended by a sub-committee, the possibility of further delegated authority for sub-committees and ideas to discourage the same item appearing on different committee agendas.

It was **AGREED** to continue to hold meetings four times a year and to review the item again in May.

00574 **RESOLVED** to continue to hold 4 meetings a year. To be reviewed in May 2023

TO AGREE THE BENCH DESIGN TO BE PURCHASED FOR RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

The Clerk confirmed at the July Full Council meeting it had been **RESOLVED** to use CIL funds to spend up to a maximum of £2000 plus £100 for delivery of two new benches for Rushlake Green Village Green.

The Environment Committee would decide on the final design.

Cllr Long provided pictures of three different bench designs which were reviewed. Bench number 1 was **AGREED** on.

00575 **RESOLVED** bench design number 1 at a cost per bench of £654.00 excluding VAT.

TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET FOR 2023/24

A detailed discussion took place based on the list of asset register repairs whilst being mindful of the current economical climate. It was AGREED a budget of £2,500 would be recommended.

00576 **RESOLVED** to recommend to the F&GP Committee a £2500 budget for infrastructure for the 2023/24 financial year.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10th November to be confirmed.

Meeting closed 20.28