

**SHOREHAM  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

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**AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 via Zoom from 7.30pm

Present: R Blamey (in the Chair)  
S Hubble, B Jeffery, M S Parkes and Spence.

Also Present: 3 Members of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

1. Apologies for absence were given from Cllr Histed and Jeremy Tooley.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.
3. There were no disclosures of interest in respect of items included on the agenda.

4. **Clerk's Report**

- There is now only once vacant half plot available for rent on the allotments.
- The grass contractor has been asked to come and replace the fence to the right of the village hall steps and he will be coming to give a quote in the near future.
- The tennis court has been well used this year and the subscription system has been successful. So far this year an income of £470 has been received compared to a total of £45 for the previous year. As the cost of maintaining the tennis court amounts roughly to £500 per year, this means that it is now more or less self financing.

5. **Budget**

- a) An update was given on the current financial position for the Amenities cost centre (see columns 2-6 of Appendix A);
- b) The committee agreed to RECOMMEND to the Parish Council that the budget for 2021/2022 as shown in Appendix A be approved.

6. **Grasscutting**

The new grass cutting contractor was told at the start of his contract in March 2020 that, should he prove to be reliable, then the contract may be extended for 2 more years. The Clerk reported that the contractor has indeed proved very reliable and his work is of a good standard. The contractor has confirmed that should he be asked to cut the grass in 2021, the price will remain the same, apart from a slight increase for cutting the hedge in Centenary Wood. On this basis, the Committee agreed to RECOMMEND to the Parish

Council that the existing contractor be instructed once again to look after the parish grounds in 2021.

**7. Cross**

As requested at the last Amenities Meeting, the Clerk contacted Lenham Parish Council to find out the reasons why it decided to apply for a heritage listing of their cross. The driving force was their neighbourhood plan and the fact that one of its objectives was to protect its historical sites. The village of Lenham lies just outside the AONB and is not part of the Green Belt so listing the cross seemed the best way to protect it. Lenham Parish Council have not encountered any problems with English Heritage and are able to continue to maintain the Cross without asking for permission each time. If Shoreham Parish Council were to go down the same route, then entering into a listed building heritage agreement would allow for routine maintenance to be undertaken in a similar fashion.

Shoreham does already benefit from the protection of AONB legislation but, as the process of applying for a listing is straightforward, particularly as the structure/land in question is owned by the Parish Council, the committee agreed to RECOMMEND to full council that an application for a listing be made.

A member of the public also pointed out that he has contact details for the team who re-chalk the Uffington Horse each year and should Shoreham Parish Council decided to re-chalk the cross in the near the future, then he would share these details.

**8. Basketball Court**

As highlighted in the last Playground Inspection Report, the basketball court is in need of resurfacing. It requires more than a clean as the surface is breaking up in parts. This was not done at the time when the tennis court was resurfaced several years ago and it continues to deteriorate to the point where it is almost unsafe to play.

The Clerk explained that this could be done as a project, similar to the replacement of the playground. The court could be turned into a multi use games area (MUGA) with lines painted for basketball, five-a-side football and netball. Football goals with basketball nets attached could be installed at each end. The court would be resurfaced and repainted. Because of its position in a dip, there would probably not be any need to enclose it with fencing.

The cost of this project would be roughly £20,000. As many people in the village have requested that something be done with the court, the Clerk suggested that a crowd funding page could be set up to start collecting money. There are also various funding streams which could be used to apply for grants. Outdoor sports facilities have been particularly popular during COVID-19 and so some of the £10,000 received from SDC could be put towards the project. The Committee agreed to RECOMMEND to full council that a sum of £5,000 be put towards resurfacing the basketball court and transforming it into a MUGA and that the Clerk be given authorisation to proceed with grant applications and crowd funding to raise the remainder.

**9. Playground Inspection**

- a) The 2020 playground inspection report was considered. The main issues arising from the report have either already been dealt with or are currently being considered. These are:
- To install bark chippings/new surface around the play tractor as the amount of mud surrounding it was making the equipment unusable. This was done earlier this year

and although the bark chipping could be topped up, the problem has been addressed.

- To clean the tennis court, ensuring the surface is moss free. This was undertaken in the spring. The court was pressure washed and treated with moss killer. Volunteers have since been to remove weeds growing around the fence and clear the leaves. Permission to cut back the trees overhanging the court is currently being sought as unless these branches are removed, the shade they cause will once again lead to a build up of moss and algae on the surface in that corner of the court.
- To resurface the basketball court. This is currently being considered as per item 8 above.

b) Minor items which still needs to be addressed are:

- To repaint the goal posts;
- To re-turf the surfaces between the goals as these have now become bare;
- To paint any rusty areas on the tennis gate and metal net mechanism;
- To pressure wash the bench in the playground and to replace the missing bungs;
- To treat strimmer damage on some of the trim trail with wood preservative to prevent further rotting;
- To sand any rough edges on the trim trail equipment;
- To re-turf the surface between the parallel bars in the trim trail as this has become bare.

It was agreed to RECOMMEND to full council that a budget of £500 be allocated to these repairs.

## 10. **Salt**

It was agreed that more salt (sacks only) should be ordered for the winter and that the Allotments Association be approached to see whether it could be installed on the allotments site. This location would be more convenient for distributing to the village than at Filston Farm, where it has been kept previously. The amount of space a salt delivery would take up would be no more than 2 cubic metres and could be stored behind the hut at the top of the allotments on a pallet covered with a tarpaulin.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

- Cllr Jeffery described a donation box which he had seen in a car park in Rye and suggested that a similar box could be installed in the Filston Lane car park. It was agreed to RECOMMEND to full council that a box be purchased and installed.
- The benches for Centenary Wood have still not been collected from the National Trust. The Clerk was asked to chase up Jeremy Tooley about this.
- A member of the public reported that none of the lights appear to be working in the car park. The Clerk was asked to report this to KCC.
- A member of the public suggested that another salt bin is required for Shacklands Road as the surface coming into the village from Hungrydown is always treacherous in cold weather. The Clerk was asked to check with KCC whether they could provide one and whether or not we would need to pay for it. The Clerk asked if the member of the public who had raised the matter could identify a suitable site for the new bin and to take a photograph.

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**APPENDIX A**

	<b>Actual 2019/2020</b>	<b>Total to Oct 2020</b>	<b>Expected payments to 31/3/21</b>	<b>Projected Total</b>	<b>Budget 2020/2021</b>	<b>Amount Over/Under Budget</b>	<b>Budget 2021/2022</b>
<b>AMENITIES BUDGET 2021/2022</b>							
Allotments	5,075	641	500	1,141	1,500	359	1500
Dog Bins	1,056	990	350	1,340	1,750	410	1750
General Repairs	279	0	300	300	500	200	500
Grass cutting - Shoreham	4,760	1,870	270	2,140	4,500	2,360	3000
Playground Inspection	0	95	150	245	200	-45	200
Playground Repairs	0	792	250	1,042	500	-542	500
Recreation Ground	44	0	250	250	500	250	500
Tennis Courts	0	579	0	579	500	-79	500
Tree Inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0	1500
Centenary Wood Maintenance	222	0	250	250	500	250	500
Tree Surgery	3,580	0	500	500	1,500	1,000	1500
War Memorial/Cross Maintenance	225	129	100	229	750	521	750
Toilets	1,190	583	750	1,333	1,500	167	2000
Salt bins	0	0	150	150	250	100	250
Car Park	1,092	584	1,000	1,584	2,000	416	2000
Village Hall	350	0	500	500	2,000	1,500	2000
Village Sign	175	0	500	500	500	0	500
Lengthsman	3,210	2,090	1,500	3,590	3,550	-40	3750
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,258</b>	<b>8,353</b>	<b>7,320</b>	<b>15,673</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>23200</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
Allotments		1415					
Tennis Courts		470					
<b>Total</b>		<b>1885</b>					