

**The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee of
Upchurch Parish Council held in the Committee Room, Upchurch Village
Hall on Wednesday 15th January 2020**

Present: Cllr Tyrone Ripley (Chairman), Cllr John Arnold, Cllr Gerry Lewin, Cllr Janet Marshall and Cllr Gary Rosewell; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

90. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Pam Denny (holiday) and Cllr Peter Masson (holiday); apologies accepted.

91. Declarations of Interests

None were declared

Public Time

No members of the public were present

92. Paddock and Recreation Ground

i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley reported that the No Dog Fouling sign is missing from the Paddock.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Community Warden for another sign.

Cllr Denny had sent a report to the Committee that all was good in The Paddock and Recreation Ground and that the hedges have been cut back really well. The removal of the bush on Oak Lane side of the Recreation Ground is excellent

Cllr Ripley informed Members that a request for a memorial bench has been received and the details of the memorial benches with up to date prices have been sent. The family have asked if it can be in The Paddock.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that a bench can be put in The Paddock.

Cllr Lewin said the number of benches in The Paddock must not become a maintenance burden.

ITEM FOR FULL COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Cllr Ripley said that the Upchurch Horticultural Society want to use the Paddock on Saturday 9 May for their annual plant sale.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to permit the Society to use The Paddock.

ii. Play area inspection report

Councillors considered the play area inspection report which also included a quotation from Wicksteed for the repairs.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain a further quotation.

93. Allotments

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £450 + £90 VAT from Mr S Bearup to remove the overgrown brush and scrub land at the allotments.

94. Burial Ground and Churchyard

i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley said Cllr Denny has reported that the lid of the green bin in the burial ground has become unhinged. She was unable to click it back and hopes someone a bit stronger will be able to sort it out.

ii. Burial Ground and Churchyard Regulations

Cllr Marshall informed Members that she has drafted a letter to send to the owners of the burial plots concerning non-compliance with the regulations. If inappropriate items are removed they will need to be put somewhere.

Cllr Ripley said that the Council has amended its policy and the Burial Ground should be monitored to ensure there is nothing out of character.

Cllr Ripley said people should be given time to remove inappropriate items.

Cllr Marshall said kerb stones, foot stones, edgings and chippings are not permitted but some plots have chippings enclosed within a border.

95. Highways and Street lighting

Cllr Ripley reported that the street light opposite Bradshaw Close had been vandalised and repaired on 11 December, it is now not working again. It needs to be ascertained whether the light has been vandalized or if there is a fault.

Cllr Arnold said he will investigate the matter.

Cllr Arnold said the lighting contractor has agreed to honour the quotation for the upgrade of the street lights.

Cllr Ripley reported that Swale Borough Council has been approached regarding a loan and it needs to be ascertained whether borrowing approval still needs to be obtained.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KALC for advice.

Cllr Arnold asked for an update on the bollards in Chaffes Lane.

The Clerk reported the contractor has asked the Council does the survey and marks underground services.

Cllr Arnold said that this is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure the safety of its employees. The Parish Council has previously requested bollards from the KCC Highways Steward and this was arranged by the Highways Steward.

The Clerk said that she has also been in contact with KCC.

ACTION: Clerk to pursue the matter with KCC Highways.

96. Footpaths

Cllr Rosewell reported that, following the issues with bottles being smashed on the footpath, the Golf Course has moved the recycling bin to nearer the club house.

Cllr Rosewell thanked Cllr Denny for liaising with the Golf Course and also the Golf Course for its prompt action.

97. Environment

Cllr Ripley said details have been received regarding the South, South East in Bloom competition 2020.

Cllr Marshall said the parish should stick with the Best Kept Garden Competition.

Cllr Lewin said Upchurch remains tremendously proud of the Best Kept Garden Competition and would not want to do anything else.

Cllr Ripley said one of the Tikspacs has been installed at the Recreation Ground near Chaffes Lane. The second one needs to be somewhere practical and where it can be seen to show the Parish Council is doing something to combat dog fouling in the village.

Cllr Lewin said it could be at the end of The Street where people walk through to Street Farm or at the track to Holywell Lane opposite Bradshaw Close.

Cllr Rosewell said it needs to be where the foot footpaths are that people walk, especially on a route that children walk to school.

Cllr Arnold said the Tikspacs need to be serviced.
ACTION: Clerk to ask the Village Caretaker.

98. Any other matter arising
No further matters were raised.

99. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th February 2020 at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.01pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
Dated this 6th day of February 2020