

*Shoreham Parish Council
Amenities & Services Committee Minutes for 17th March 2021*

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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PARISH

COUNCIL

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AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 17th March 2021 via Zoom from 7.30pm

Present: R Blamey (in the Chair)
J Histed, Brian Jeffery, M S Parkes, L Spence and J Tooley

Also Present: 7 Members of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

There were no questions from members of the public.

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on 20th January 2021 were signed by the Clerk on behalf of 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**
 - The Clerk informed the committee of a new initiative between an organisation called Space Hive and KCC - Crowd Fund Kent. The initiative has been set up to allow voluntary organisations in Kent to crowd fund for community projects. Space Hive provide the crowd funding platform, administration support and advice whilst KCC have allocated a pot of money to match fund the projects. The initiative could be used to fundraise for a MUGA in the village or could be used by the WTT to raise funds to restore the barn. Parish Councils are not eligible for funding but if a local group could be found, who could raise the funds for the MUGA, then this would be fine. The Clerk attended a Zoom session, which launched the scheme, and promised to forward on the slides and recording both to the committee and to several members of the public.
 - Fifteen more trees have been planted in the Centenary Wood (a mixture of crab apple, wild pear, hornbeam, hazel and rowan).
 - The broken gate posts at the Cross will be fixed on Thursday 18th March.
 - The tennis court will re-open 29th March 2021 in accordance with government guidelines.
 - The grass cutting contract will commence this month.
 - The lengthsmen's wages will increase from April 2021 in alignment with the National Minimum Living Wage.

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5. Samuel Palmer Trail

Sarah Newman, a co-creator of the Samuel Palmer walking trail, gave a short talk on the project, which has been funded by the Darenth Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme. Another of the co-creators, Victoria Threllfell, had previously conducted guided walks around area. Although very well known in the art world, Samuel Palmer remains relatively unknown outside this circle, despite his extensive and influential works. The trail will guide walkers around the landscape which inspired many of his works stopping at various points of interest along the way. The trail has been designed for use on a smart phone although leaflets will also be available. The trail aims to encourage people to arrive by train and also helps to promote places to eat and drink along the way.

In order to align with the app and to guide walkers around the trail, several way marker signs will be installed. Some of these will be installed on private property but the DVLP has asked the Parish Council for permission to install them at the following locations:

1. Under the Darenth Way sign on the bridge;
2. On the back of a bench on the Village Green (or possibly a new post);
3. On a post in Mill Lane near the telegraph pole;
4. Way marker discs on fence at Shoreham Cross and potential post and disc on terrace at entrance to Shoreham Cross.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to full council that permission for these way markers be granted subject to the one on the bridge being moved further down. It was felt that as the bridge is a focal point in the village and is a listed structure, it would not be appropriate to affix a disc here but that it could be attached to the pole near the war memorial instead. The land at Mill Lane does not belong to the PC and therefore permission needs to be sought from the landowner (KCC).

The committee also requested that a piece reminding walkers of the countryside code be included at the start of the walk.

6. Rubbish

Consideration was given to establishing a volunteer network for clearing rubbish from the roadside verges on the various approaches to the village. A member of the public already does this and the PC has provided him with a litter picker, hi-vis vest and black sacks. He does an amazing job but this is an on-going problem and it would therefore be a good idea to set up a rota.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write an article in the Gazette asking for volunteers in order to establish the level of interest. If volunteers agree to sponsor a road, they will be provided with all the necessary equipment. The scheme should cover country lanes throughout the whole village, not just the roads approaching the village.

It was RESOLVED to assign a budget of £250 to be used to purchase litter pickers and other equipment for people as and when they come forward. It should be made clear to volunteers that the equipment is being loaned and should be returned if they are no longer able to help out.

7. Car Parking

- a) The possibility of installing motion sensitive lighting at the car park in order to prevent the lights being on all night was considered. The Clerk stated that she had been in touch with PSR Lighting, the company who recently fixed the lights, and they confirmed they had no way of doing this. An alternative would be to set a timer to switch off the lights at midnight

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and come back on at 5.30am but the lighting does act as deterrent for anti-social behaviour. It was suggested that there could be other companies who may be able to install a motion sensor and Richard Boyle and the Clerk agreed to do some research regarding this.

- b) Some time ago, the Golf Club had mentioned offering to increase parking capacity for the village/station. Cllr Histed confirmed that he was due to have a meeting with the Golf Club about the footpath and would ask whether this offer was still a possibility.
- c) The installation of flower troughs at certain pinch points on Station Road in attempt to prevent parking and create passing bays was discussed. Certain members of the committee felt this was a good idea whilst others did not. The Clerk was asked to speak to KCC Highways in the first instance to determine whether installing these troughs would be permitted and depending on the reply, to bring to a future meeting for further discussion.

8. Tree Surgery

- a) The quote received in regard to tree surgery work required to be undertaken in order to protect the tennis court surface from further erosion was considered and it was RESOLVED to recommend to full council that the quote of £490 be approved.
- b) The quote received in regard to tree surgery work required to be undertaken on the eastern side of the recreation ground was considered and it was RESOLVED to recommend to full council that the quote of £70 be approved.

9. Allotments

The following update regarding the allotments was given by Jeremy Tooley, joint Chair of the Allotments Association.

- The allotments have remained open throughout lockdown. Local rules such as not allowing members into the hut, keeping the gates closed at all times, not bringing non members on site and avoiding socialising have been introduced in an attempt to protect members.
- It is hoped that, in accordance with government guidelines, the allotments will once again soon be fully operational although a decision as to when above restrictions will be lifted has yet to be made by the AA.
- No working parties are being organised at present although individuals are continuing to mow and trim communal areas.
- £140 was raised this year from selling Christmas trees and these will now continue to be sold on an annual basis.
- A plant sale is usually held in May. This may not be permitted this year but it is hoped that something similar could be arranged.
- There are currently 3 half plots available for rent.
- Rents remain the same for 2021. If the Parish Council wishes to increase rents, one year's notice must be given. The committee RESOLVED to recommend to full council not to increase the rents for 2022.
- The Allotments Association AGM will be held on Wednesday 6th May 2021 via Zoom.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th June 2021

Sarah Moon, Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 21.46