

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee held on Thursday 26th January 2023 at the Dunn Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Long, Wells, Iremonger, Saunders

Also present: Jackie Cottrell – Parish Clerk
1 member of the public

00606 Cllr Long was elected temporary Chairman of the Environment Committee

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Steve Williamson – Family commitments
Bruce Simpson – Work commitments
Ansell – Work commitments

00607 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Long – Personal Interest – Assets of Community Value – The Horse & Groom pub Rushlake Green

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held on the 4th October 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

00608 **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 4th October 2022

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

The Clerk was instructed to action the tree planting for the Queen's Green Canopy as a matter of urgency and to keep the Chairman of the Parish Council up-to-date.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

TO NOTE THE INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET FOR REPAIR WORK

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

Members noted the Infrastructure Budget for the 2023/24 financial year resolved by the Full Council at the January 2023 meeting was £427 which would be available from the 1st April 2023.

To conclude the total Infrastructure Budget was £1,468.

SLR

6.1. To note the date of the next SLR meeting

Tuesday 28th March 2023 at the Bodle Street Green Village Hall at 10.45.

East Sussex Highways would be updating parish councils on the 6th February to confirm if SLR meetings would be resuming.

6.2. Clerk update on SLR action points

Cllr Long reported he had attended a site visit with a Highways steward the week previously regarding overgrown trees and hedgerows. He had also reported his concerns to a local policeman who he had seen in the village of Rushlake Green.

The Clerk was still 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. It was noted there was a new roundel at Bodle Street Green.

The Clerk required details of locations for deer crossing signs. It was noted signs were required between Rushlake Green and Bodle Street Green. Cllr Ansell would be available to erect them.

The Clerk had reported to East Sussex Highways and ESCC Bob Bowdler the poor drainage works at Marklye Lane and the Iwood Dip and had included the photographic evidence provided by Cllr Long and Cllr Saunders. East Sussex Highways confirmed a steward would attend both sites. The case had also been highlighted to the drainage team. A full update would be sent in due course.

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

- The drainage works at Marklye Lane and the Iwood Dip
- New deer crossing signs at various locations
- Overgrown trees and hedgerows
- The continual flooding in rookery lane – Cllr Wells to provide further details
- The repair work to the hole in the green on the edge of Warbleton at the top of Churches Green Lane. A concrete raised platform had been installed but was still considered dangerous. Cllr Williamson to provide photographic evidence

ASSET REGISTER

7.1. To note the updated asset register

Noted

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

- Cllr Saunders to test the new flagpole and flag
- The Clerk to contact the gentleman who maintains the Peter Croft memorial for a quote to repair some of the fencing
- The Clerk to obtain quotes for a five-bar gate where the kissing gate is located next to the Dunn Village Hall
- Finger posts

7.3. Update on parish council benches in need of oiling

Cllr Long notified Members he will oil the benches in the spring.

7.4. Speed gun update

The Clerk confirmed the parish council's insurance covers the speed gun being kept at various locations. The Chairman confirmed the speed gun was still being used regularly in its present location.

OSBORNE HOUSE CLOCK UPDATE

The Clerk reported the Osborne House clock service had now been completed and the invoice had been received for £1,244 excluding VAT which was the amount agreed at the September 2022 Full Council meeting.

It had been RESOLVED to pay for the service using funds from the Infrastructure Budget.

The invoice stated Twaites & Reed recommended the clock was serviced annually. The Clerk had updated Asset Register accordingly.

The option of an annual service would be considered at an Environment Committee meeting later in the year.

RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE SIGN UPDATE

The repair works to the Rushlake Green Village sign had been RESOLVED at the September 2022 Full Council meeting at a cost of £855.00 excluding VAT.

It had been RESOLVED to pay for the repairs using funds from the Infrastructure Budget.

AgriFactors had been informed they were the chosen contractor.

The Clerk clarified the repair works would be starting the following week.

RUSHLAKE GREEN BENCH UPDATE

It had been RESOLVED at the July 2022 Full Council meeting that two benches would be purchased to replace the existing two benches in a poor state of repair.

The Clerk reported the benches had been ordered and the expected delivery date would be at the end of February to Cllr Long's address.

It had been RESOLVED to pay for the new benches using CIL funds.

The total cost of the benches was £1,617.00 excluding VAT but including delivery.

RUSHLAKE GREEN NOTICE BOARD REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

It had been RESOLVED at the January 2023 Full Council meeting to accept the quote from Phil Signs for £325.00 excluding VAT.

It had been RESOLVED to pay for the refurbishment using CIL funds.

Phil Signs had been informed they were the chosen contractor.

The Clerk clarified to Members the parts had been ordered and the works were expected to start in several weeks' time.

OSBORNE HOUSE CAR PARK REPAIR UPDATE

It had been RESOLVED at the January 2023 Full Council meeting that Nicholls Brothers would be the chosen contractor to complete any repair works.

It had been AGREED that test holes needed to be dug in order to receive a much more accurate quote for the two options available to the parish council.

The Clerk clarified she had contacted Nicholls Brothers directly and had confirmed the conversation in writing. She was in the process of arranging a time for the test holes to be dug. The Clerk confirmed she would be on site when this took place. All Councillors would have the opportunity to join her.

The works were expected to take between 3-5 days to complete.

TO CONSIDER THE FINGER POST REVIEW

Members reviewed the finger post survey carried out by Cllr Williamson in July 2022.

The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes for two finger posts: Rookery Lane / Rushlake Green which was noted to be in poor condition. Church Hill / Hammer Lane which was noted to be rotting at the base.

00609 **RESOLVED** to instruct the Clerk to obtain quotes for the two finger posts listed above

TO AGREE THE PICNIC BENCH DESIGN TO BE PURCHASED FOR BODLE STREET GREEN VILLAGE HALL SUBJECT TO THE BSG VILLAGE HALL AGREEMENT

The Clerk confirmed that at the July 2022 Full Council meeting it had been RESOLVED to use CIL funds to purchase up to 4 benches for the Bodle Street Green Village Hall up to a maximum value of £1,600 not including £100 for the delivery cost. The picnic benches would be owned and maintained by the parish council.

Members reviewed the picnic bench designs that had been circulated by the Clerk ahead of the meeting. The committee chose two Buckhaven picnic benches in brown. It was AGREED that due to the weight of each bench there would not be a need to fix them into the ground.

The Clerk to contact Bodle Street Green Village Hall.

00610 **RESOLVED** to purchase two Buckhaven picnic benches in brown subject to the agreement of the Bodle Street Green Village Hall

ONGOING AND NEW PROJECTS

15.1. To agree a prioritised list for ongoing and new projects

The following was agreed in priority order:

- Peter Croft memorial fencing
- Replacing the kissing gate with a five-bar gate next to the Dunn Village Hall
- Finger post repair quotes

- Flagpole and new flag

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

16.1. To note the process of listing an Asset of Community Value

Noted

16.2. To agree if any assets need listing

The Chairman recommended this item was deferred to a Full Council meeting.

16.3. To recommend a time frame for the Clerk to complete any necessary work

As above.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 22nd June 2023 at the Bodle Street Green Village Hall at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 19.15