

*Shoreham Parish Council
Amenities & Services Committee Minutes for 23rd June 2021*

SHOREHAM

Parish Clerk:

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PARISH

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COUNCIL

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DRAFT AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 23rd June 2021 via Zoom from 7.30pm

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

Also Present: 4 Members of the public

Clerk: Sarah Moon

There were no questions from members of the public.

1. Roy Blamey was elected as Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Histed and co-opted member Jeremy Tooley.
3. The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on 17th March 2021 were signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman as an accurate record.
4. There were no disclosures of interest in respect of items included on the agenda.

5. **Clerk's Report**

- Work has begun on the replacement gates at the cross. Posts have been installed and once set, the gates will be hung.
- Following the PC's application to list the Cross, English Heritage have recommended that it be 'scheduled', a type of listing used for memorials rather than buildings. This is currently undergoing consultation by various government departments and a decision is awaited.
- The trees overhanging the tennis court and the rear of a high Street back garden will be cut back 16th July. If any evidence of nesting birds is found, then work will stop immediately.
- Several people have renewed their tennis subscriptions. The scheme started about a year ago and has proved to be a success with many people taking out annual memberships and play on the court increasing significantly.
- An email has been received from a local resident who is unhappy with the view entering the village from the A225. The 30mph sign is not straight and the concrete footpath sign and dog bin are covered in overgrown vegetation. The Clerk was asked to contact KCC to straighten the sign. A taller footpath sign is visible.
- Having debated the idea of installing several flower troughs on Station Road to prevent parking and act as passing places, the Clerk contacted KCC to check whether we would be permitted to do this. It was confirmed that such planters are not allowed as they could pose a safety risk.

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6. Playground

The playground inspection report was considered and the following actions recommended:

- To apply a timber treatment to the trim trail
- To sand any rough edges on the wooden trim trail equipment.
- To replace any rotten fence posts
- To ask The Play Inspection Company for clarification on the wires sticking out of the basket swing and, if necessary check with Creative Play as to whether the swing is still under guarantee.
- To install a new bench in the playground, using the money donated by the Golfing Society.
- To replace the missing bungs in the bench
- To top up bark chippings under the play tractor and to put some under the bench too.

It was agreed in the first instance that the Clerk approach Ralph Abbott to see if he would be willing to carry out any of these jobs.

It was agreed to recommend a budget of £600 for this work, excluding the new bench for which funds have already been set aside.

7. Transfer of Land from Sevenoaks District Council to Shoreham Parish Council

Forge Way

Previous members of the Parish Council had maintained that the grass area outside Forge Cottage belonged to Shoreham Parish Council with the lower half being owned by West Kent Housing Association. Indeed, Shoreham Parish Council have always assumed responsibility and paid for the maintenance of this land. When the current residents of Forge Cottage approached WKHA to seek permission to plant a tree however, they were informed that entire grassed area from the High Street to the Forge Cottage gate was in fact the property of Sevenoaks District Council.

SDC will shortly be looking to dispose of some of their assets and have asked whether SPC would like to take on ownership of this piece of land. At present it is not known whether there would be any cost involved in the transfer but the residents of Forge Cottage have offered to help out if this is the case. The fact that SPC budget for the maintenance of this land each year, would mean there would be very little cost involved going forward. It was therefore RESOLVED to recommend to full council that SPC should take on ownership of this land from SDC.

Mildmay Place

As part of their asset disposal, SDC have also asked whether SPC would like to take ownership of the grass area outside Mildmay Place. In order to protect this land for the future, it was RESOLVED to recommend to full council that ownership be transferred from SDC to SPC.

8. Allotments

- a) An allotment plot holder requested that the issue of whether to allow fruit trees on individual plots be reconsidered, specifically small fruit trees in pots placed on a hard surface such as a patio slab to prevent the trees taking root.

The committee stated that when this issue first arose some years ago, one of the outcomes of the discussion was to set aside two plots at the back of the allotment for a community orchard. Several fruit trees have since been planted there. There was however, no appetite

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to allow fruit trees on individual plots. Even if the trees are in pots, these pots and hard standings need to be cleared away once that plot is relinquished. Unfortunately, most people do not clear their plots when they give them up and this is left to the working parties, therefore presence of such trees would just incur more work for the volunteers. It was therefore RESOLVED not to allow fruit trees to be planted on individual plots.

- b) The same plot holder also asked whether the committee would officially allow low type fencing on plots to secure crops against certain animals/pests. The plot holder pointed out that some plot holders have already done this but others fear being reprimanded if they do the same. The committee agreed that the following clause in the Tenancy Agreement be upheld and that the Clerk write to the Chair of the AA requesting that he remind plot holders with fences of the rules and request that fences be removed.

‘Not erect any buildings or fences other than a storage box to a maximum height of 1 metre and not exceeding 3 cu. Metres’

- c) Update from the Allotments Association

- There is now a total of 58 plot holders on the allotments and, for the first time in a long while, there is a waiting list.
- The Clerk has collected £275 in maintenance charges and will be transferring this to the AA bank account following the authorisation of the schedule of payments at July's PC meeting.
- There is a dead cherry tree on the allotments. The Clerk was asked whether SL Tree Care could take this down when they come to do the work on the Recreation Ground. As it is dead and therefore potentially dangerous, no permission should be required for this.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20th October 2021

The meeting closed at 21.04

Sarah Moon, Parish Clerk

The Clerk was asked to speak to KCC to see if the footpath leading from Copthall to Fackenden Lane can be made into an official path with a footpath sign. As more and more visitors/walkers are coming to the area, people have been seen walking along the A225 on this stretch as they are unaware that a safe alternative exists.