

Meeting Notes

Community Enhancement Group

Notes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2018 from 19:30 to 21:00

Present: **Parish Councillors Joan Buller, Sue Forward, Paul Kelly, Sam Lain-Rose (Chair), Barrett Manning, Adele Sharp and Gill Smith.**

1. Apologies for Absence

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Parish Councillors Tom Burnham, John Reardon, Paddy Riordan, Elaine Symes and Resident Louise Brice.

2. Councillor Declarations

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose declared an interest in the Jubilee Field item.

3. Agreement of the Previous Group Meeting Notes

Meeting notes of 11 June 2018 were AGREED by Members.

4. Request for Poppies on Lampposts

The Members discussed the request from a resident to arrange a poppy display on lampposts, which would require a licence from Kent County Council. It was discussed and **AGREED to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that we agree to use the same 24 lampposts that we attach the Christmas Lights to, which will reduce the licence charge to £26.50 for all columns, as an initial survey had already been completed.

The Members **AGREED to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that we donate £85 to the Royal British Legion for the plastic poppies that are 450mm/18" which comes complete with two zip-lock ties to attach.

The Members also **AGREED to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that the Parish Office should be delegated to arrange the installation of the poppies on the lampposts.

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5. Surrenden Field

5.1 End of Lease Arrangements for March 2019

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose explained that in preparation for the Council relinquishing its responsibility on Surrenden Fields under the current lease that expires in March 2019, it was important to review the contracts for Surrenden Field and the Members **NOTED** the following:

- CCTV contract ends on 31 July 2018
- Play Equipment Inspection contract ends on 31 July 2018
- Premises License ends on 31 March 2019
- Mowing Contract ends on 31 March 2019
- Pavilion Water ends on 31 March 2019 (payment in April)
- Hedge Cutting ends on 31 March 2019
- Pavilion Electricity ends on 31 July 2020 – this contract is part of a wider contract for electricity, which also covers the Parish Office, this cancelation may cause a penalty fee/charge.

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose restated the Council's position on the negotiations of freehold ownership of the Field, which is that should Maidstone Borough Council not accept the final offer made by the Council, the Council would not renew its lease with Maidstone Borough Council.

5.2 Request for Football Goals

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose provided the further information obtained from Mira Martin (Community Warden) that was requested from the previous meeting. After much discussion, the Members **AGREED** that due to the uncertainty of the future responsibilities of the land, the potential additional liability of maintaining the field and the lack of resource to safeguard and store the equipment (if temporary), that this matter should be kindly rejected and until such time where circumstances change this could be reviewed.

Parish Councillor Buller wished to express, endorsed by the Members, that there is a goal on the field and that there is support for anyone who wishes to encourage young people to access facilities and utilise open spaces.

6. Jubilee Fields – Future Management Arrangement Options

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose explained that following the Council meeting where the Jubilee Field mower was discussed, there was an idea raised of taking back control and managing the site without a lease in place to the Jubilee Field Trustees.

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Parish Councillor Lain-Rose expressed a view that a Sub-Group or similar could be created under the Community Enhancement Group and the income from rental and usage of the field would come directly to the Council, but the Sub-Group or similar would coordinate the bookings.

Parish Councillor Kelly, Sharp and Forward requested that the Group obtained further information regarding the current circumstances, including the financial situation, of the Jubilee Field Trustees and Management Committee before proceeding.

Members acknowledged that should the Management Committee collapse, as it almost did a few years ago, the Council would be obligated to manage the facility directly, at least in the interim.

7. Wimpey Field

7.1 Request for a Bench

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose explained that a request from a resident had been made to the Parish Office for (1) approval of the Council to site a bench in dedication of former Councillor Spearink on the Wimpey Field and (2) whether the Council would assist with funding the bench.

After much discussion by Members it was **AGREED** that it was not the appropriate time to agree such a request, as the Council is currently in the process of legal investigation regarding the site and whilst the Members recognised the boundless efforts and contributions made by the former Councillor, it was not without the endless contributions of many other Councillors and residents. However, Members felt that it may be more appropriate to investigate a type of dedication that would include all the efforts of Councillors involved and residents (whom were volunteers) that incorporated former Councillor Spearink.

Members also **NOTED** that in general the Council supports funding requests for memorial benches, for those individuals that are sadly deceased.

7.2 Schedule of Works for 2018/19

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose requested that the discussion surrounding the Community Payback team working on the Wimpey Field should be **DEFERRED** until a meeting where Parish Councillors Burnham and Riordan are available, as the overall management of the scheme from the Parish Council perspective is due to be reviewed.

Parish Councillor Forward explained the Schedule of Works Report written by Robert Roberts and requested for the Group to recommend to the Council. Members **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the Schedule of Works Report for 2018/19. Parish Councillor Forward request that the report is updated to reflect the Groups discussion and to recirculate to Group, prior to the Council meeting for approval.

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Parish Councillor Forward requested that the Group accepted the request to replace 5 ornamental cherries and crab-apple trees, if necessary, where preventative measures fail. Members **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that should it be necessary, replacement of the 5 trees and associate costs are approved, as requested by Parish Councillor Forward.

7.3 Terms of Reference – Wimpey Field

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose introduced the Terms of Reference that was requested by the Group at the previous meeting for the Wimpey Field Steward. Parish Councillor Forward requested that the Section 3(f) was amended from “To take up any additional tasks assigned by the Community Enhancement Group as appropriate” to “Take up any additional tasks assigned by the Community Enhancement Group, by mutual agreement.” Members **ACCEPTED** the change and **AGREED** these Terms of Reference and appointed Robert Roberts as the Wimpey Field Steward.

Parish Councillor Forward expressed that the appointment of the Wimpey Field Steward is merely a pragmatic temporary arrangement with the view to forming a new Wimpey Field Sub-Group in 2019.

7. Any Other Business

There was no additional business that was requested to be discussed.

7. Confirmation of the Date of Next Meeting

Members **CONFIRMED** the next meeting of the Group would be 23 July 2018 at 19:30. The meeting will be held at Parish Office, Village Centre.