

HALSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2013 in THE PAVILION, STATION ROAD AT 18.00

PRESENT: Cllr. Jeff Baldwin, Chairman
Cllr. David Taylor, Chairman of Council
Cllr. Barrie Blundell
Cllr. Terry Brooker,
Cllr. Chris Ford
Cllr. Karen Grosvenor

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, 2 parishioners
The meeting convened at 18.03

1 APOLOGIES

All Members were present and signed the register.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Nil

3 ALLOTMENTS

3.1 Fencing

Clerk had met with Brian Falvey of Falvey and Brown who had provided an updated quotation. The alteration for this quotation is a reduction in the height of fencing to the end and rear of the site from 6' to 4'

The Clerk had arranged to meet with a representative from Edwards Tyrrell fencing but he had not turned up and telephone messages to another fencing company had not been returned.

Mr Falvey's quotation was £935 less than the originally accepted quotation from Pride Fencing. The company is no longer interested in carrying out the work.

It was agreed that acceptance of Mr Falvey's quotation would be put to Council at the November Parish Council meeting.

3.2 Car Parking

Mrs Ortman in the public gallery had spoken at the start of business about her concerns about safety with the Location of the car park at the end Shoreham Lane end of Beldam Haw. The Chairman stated that there were three options for the car park.

1. It would be at the end of Beldam Haw near Shoreham Lane and adjustments would be needed to the car park entrance and layout;

The Chairman proposed that the gate would be position back from the road so that cars would enter the area without stopping and the gate would then be unlocked. This would prevent any obstruction of the highway. The hedge would be cut back to improve the sight-lines. The layout of the car park would be adapted.

2. It would be positioned at the far end of Beldam Haw which would mean that four – six allotments would be withdrawn and the spaces used.

This was not viable as the loss of allotments would mean that fewer people would benefit from what was a very expensive project. Vehicles could not be parked on the overgrown wooded area at the farthest end because of the underground tunnels associated with the obsolete plumbing and cesspits. The cost to remove these would be excessive.

3. There would not be a car park and any cars would park on the highway.

Not looked on favourably by the Committee

After much discussion during which the meeting was adjourned at 6.23, 6.28, 6.34 for a parishioner to speak. the Chairman, Cllr Baldwin put to the committee that option one should be accepted as the most suitable and should be put to the full Council for resolving; carried five in favour, one abstention Cllr. Brooker.

4 POPPY SEED PLANTING/COMMEMORATION OF START OF WW1

Council had agreed that the Parish Flower Beds should contain red flowers. Cllr. Taylor proposed that the area of verge at the entrance to the Pavilion car park should be planted with poppy seeds. Cllr. Baldwin proposed that Southdene and Parkside verges and areas around the flower beds should be sown with poppy seeds.

Cllr. Blundell reminded councillors that the areas will need to be cleared of grass and cultivated prior to sowing seeds as poppy seed is very sensitive. The Clerk will contact KCC re: verges and SDC re: Southdene.

5 FOOTBALL TEAMS

The Clerk had been contacted by Mr John Chance from Orpington FC who wanted to hire the football pitch on

Sunday mornings for 12-14 games this season. Cllr. Brooker expressed his concerns about this and it was agreed that Cllrs. Brooker and Taylor would meet with Mr Chance.

Cllr. Brooker stated that the Senior Football Club's Licence fee should be increased. The Clerk advised that the Cricket Club wanted a reduction in their Licence fee.

It was suggested that there should be a meeting between the Football Club and the Cricket Club as the licence period were clashing and causing several problems.

Cllr. Baldwin suggested that the Netball Club should also be invited to this meeting.

There needs to be a separate meeting with the gentleman who wishes to lease the football pitch on Sunday mornings as from the September 2013-2014 season. This was the procedure carried out with Sevenoaks Juniors.

6 BOLLARDS SOUTHdene

It was agreed that some bollards should be replaced to limit the access for vehicles on to the green. The Clerk has done a rough calculation and the cost is approximately £45 for a bollard to be supplied and fitted. The Chairman, Cllr. Baldwin believes that councillors could do this work themselves by purchasing unseasoned tree trunks and cementing these in.

The Clerk will ascertain the cost for Dunbrik Depot to supply and install 10 bollards.

7 INFORMATION

Flooding in Knockholt Road/Halstead Lane.

The KHS steward had cleared the gullies on Tuesday 22 October and a tanker had cleared the soak-aways on Wednesday 23 October. He is looking into installing bollards on the verge which will be visible above the water therefore warning drivers where the verges are. The Clerk has suggested to the steward that another two soak-aways should be installed.

The meeting closed at 19.35