

RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Held at 1pm on Friday 1st October 2021 at River Methodist Church

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Atkins, Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Gunzi, Cllr. Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Jones

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. TRIBUTE TO GARY WATERS

Following the tragic circumstances of Gary Waters, owner of GW Landscaping, his colleagues have asked to plant a liquid amber tree in the Recreation Ground in his memory. It was agreed that the Parish Council provide a bench with commemorative plaque next to the tree. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson will investigate different types of bench and circulate details. GW Landscaping will also complete a planting project on the bank below Lewisham Road. This was a personal project which Gary had been working on. It was agreed that the Parish Council will provide two plaques, one on the bench and one on the bank. It was suggested that a location close to the Jubilee tree would be an appropriate location for the new tree.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING / MATTERS ARISING

All items on the agenda.

5. BOUNDARY TREES AND HEDGE

a) Proposal to reduce width of hedge along the Northwest boundary

It was agreed that the hedge on the Northwest boundary will be reduced in width so that future cutting can take place from front to back of the hedge. The contractors will also get behind the hedge to cut it away from fences (as requested by householders in Mannering Close). As the cutting will leave an access gap behind the hedge, Chairman will ask all householders along the boundary line if they want the same degree of cut back behind their properties.

b) Lime Trees on Lewisham Road boundary

Following an email from three households on Lewisham Road complaining about the height of the lime trees opposite their properties (as well as leaves and pollen), Clerk has contacted the Tree Consultant for updated advice and will respond in writing.

It was noted that some of the trees need cutting to maintain the clearance height from the footpath and highway. Chairman will speak to the contractors.

c) Any other issues

Stumps from trees that have died remain on the Lewisham Road bank.

6. FLINT HOUSE

a) Lease

A five-year lease has been agreed with Alaine Ltd. for use of the Upper Floor of Flint House (formerly known as the Clubhouse) as office space.

b) Change of Use (Planning)

Following a mistake in advertising by Dover District Council Planning Department, confirmation of permission for change of use is still awaited.

Building Regulation approval for works on the Lower Floor has been received.

Next week, Cllr. Taylor will be contacting building contractors who expressed an interest in tendering for the work on the Lower Floor

c) Storage of Items on the Lower Floor

There is no space available at the Whitfield storage facility. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson has found a source of containers for rental. This would allow items to be stored on-site while building works on the Lower Floor take place. Chairman and Cllr. Eyre-Jackson will investigate potential locations for a 20ft container in the Recreation Ground.

7. HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS

a) Tennis Club Path

The tennis club has been informed of the decision made at the last meeting about the path. No response received.

b) Any other issues

- i) The step next to the table tennis table still needs to be repaired. Chairman will speak to John Hill.
- ii) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that the notice board near the Crabble Lane gate is not shutting properly and water is getting in.

8. ANY OPERATIONAL, SPORTS USE OR FACILITIES ITEMS

a) Dogs in the Lower End of the Grounds

It was noted that DDC will be asked to formally remove the roadway, from Lower Road to the car park from the Public Space Protection Order, the next time it is renewed.

b) Any other issues

- i) Works to refurbish the cottage as a coffee shop will take place over the winter. Possibly beginning in October/November.
- ii) Chairman has asked DDC to repaint the lines in the car park.
- iii) It was noted that some paving slab artworks are still in the store awaiting placement. It was agreed that suitable location needs to be found.
- iv) The Wellbeing Roadshow will need to provide generators for any power requirements. Even if the outside powerpoint is installed before the event, the distance is too great. They should be advised to bring generators.

9. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter regarding the nighttime locking of the grounds has been received from a resident in Crabble Lane, objecting to it. Clerk is to respond in writing.

10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Summer Fete will be held on the same bank holiday weekend as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Meeting closed at 2.25pm