

**Meopham Parish Council
Environment & Amenities Committee Meeting
held on 14th March 2017 at 7.30 p.m.
at the Windmill, Meopham Green**

Committee Members: Cllrs Gofton (Chairman), Knott (Vice Chairman), D Bramer, Buchanan, and Howard

In attendance: Mrs N Jerram (Clerical Assistant), Ken Dare and Gillian Willsher (M&DFG)

Item 1 **To receive Apologies for Absence**

E.104 Apologies were received from Cllr Hasler (family commitments) and Cllr Wade (unwell)

Item 2 **To receive Declarations of Interest**

E.105 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 **To approve minutes of the previous meeting**

E.106 The minutes of the meeting held on 17/01/17 were approved as a correct record on a proposal by Cllr Buchanan, seconded by Cllr D Bramer and all voted in favour.

Item 4 **To consider matters arising from the above Minutes**

E.107 Cllr D Bramer asked for an update on the proposed parish office sign to be placed at the end of the driveway. Members noted that the conservation officer at GBC needs to be informed before a sign is erected.

Item 5 **Village Greens/Harvel Pond**

5.1 **Harvel Pond**

5.1.1 To note the work carried out to date by KCC Highways and the tree contractor

E108 Members noted the works carried out by KCC and the tree work completed by the tree surgeon on 27th & 28th February. Cllr Gofton commented on the positive feedback received from parishioners on the works to date to improve the pond.

Members also noted KCC will be organising another road closure for the gullies to be cleared on 22nd March 2017.

5.1.2 To note the arrangements for the silt lagoon currently sited on Harvel Green and to approve a draft update for the website / Harvel notice board in respect of the arrangements for this.

E109

Cllr Gofton confirmed the arrangements for the silt which is to be moved to a local farm when dry, in conjunction with KCC. Depending on the weather the drying out process could take several months. KCC will reinstate the green.

Members agreed that an update on the above works should be finalised with the clerk for publication on the parish council website and notice boards.

Action: Cllr Gofton/Clerk

5.1.3 Update on the current status of the fence around the pond and to agree if any further work is required

E110

Members agreed that KCC had done a good job of reinstating the old fence following the de-silting works. Plans for new fencing around the pond will be part of the grant application in progress.

5.1.4 Update on the next stage for the work at Harvel Pond

E111

Cllr D Bramer informed members that the Tesco grant application had been completed and forwarded to Kent Wildlife Trust for any comments/amendments.

Cllr Knott enquired as to the whereabouts of the two duck houses removed from the pond. Cllr D Bramer informed members that they were with a Harvel resident awaiting refurbishment.

Cllr Gofton spoke regarding a site meeting which is to be arranged w/c 20th March between the PC and KWT to discuss the next steps forward and the introduction of new plant life into the pond.

Action: Clerk

5.2 Registering of Harvel Village Greens – Update (earmark reserves to be agreed under financial matters)

E112

Cllr Gofton confirmed to members that this is work in progress. The clerk is waiting for further information and guidance from KCC.

Item 6

Rights of Way, including Footpaths Groups

6.1 Update from Meopham & Districts Footpaths Group

E113

On a proposal by Cllr Buchanan and seconded by Cllr Knott, all members agreed to suspend standing orders to allow Ken Dare from M&DFG to speak.

Ken Dare informed members the latest publication of M&DFG Spring Newsletter was available to view online with a programme of walks and further information.

Ken spoke on behalf of M&DFG in support of the improvement works being carried out at Harvel pond

Standing Orders were then reinstated.

Item 7 **Recreation Ground and Playground Equipment**

7.1 To receive an update on the wetpour treatment at Judsons play area

E114 Cllr Gofton confirmed to members that the maintenance contractor had treated the wetpour area with moss killer. The area will be checked in a couple of weeks to review if a further application is required.

7.2 To receive an update on the installation of the new bin to be installed on recreation ground

E115 Cllr Gofton confirmed that the maintenance contractor had installed the new bin on the recreation ground and had disposed of the old bin.

7.3 To discuss getting a quotation for further hedge/tree work on perimeter fence area behind the fenced in play area

E116 Discussions followed and members agreed to ask the clerk to obtain 3 quotations for the above works.
Action: Clerk

Item 8 **Youth Club – Update**

E117 Cllr Gofton confirmed that previous discussions with the Grand to link up with an organisation to provide a facility for the youth had not resulted in a satisfactory conclusion. Cllr Gofton agreed to speak to the Grand again to re-confirm that this is the case.
Action: Cllr Gofton

Item 9 **Litter Pick – Update**

9.1 To note the next litter pick date (29th April 2017)

E118 Members noted the next litter pick date. Cllr Knott reported on the success of the last litter pick with approximately 15 people participating, resulting in numerous sacks of rubbish being collected.

Cllr Gofton asked if the clerk would enquire as to whether Gravesham Borough Council would collect the sacks of rubbish following future litter picking dates.

Action: Clerk

Item 10 **Meopham Allotments – Update**

10.1 To note the appointment of a new chairman at Meopham Allotments Committee

E119 Members noted the appointment of a new Chairman. Cllr Gofton confirmed that the new chairman would be reporting to the council at the next E & A meeting in June.

Item 11 **Financial Matters**

11.1 To approve the Environment and Amenities Committee Expenditure from 17/01/2017 to 08/03/2017

E120 On a proposal from Cllr Buchanan, seconded by Cllr D Bramer, all members voted in favour of approval of the Environment and Amenities Committee expenditure.

11.2 To note the Environment and Amenities Committee Expenditure to date for the 2016/2017 financial year

E121 Members noted.

11.3 To recommend a list of earmarked reserves to Full Council for approval, subject to any amendment in respect of any works being carried out before the 31/3/2017

E122 Discussions followed and members agreed that listing earmarked reserves would be put on hold.

Members agreed that further discussion was necessary with Harvel Residents Association with regard to plans for a wider access on to Harvel Village Green for events.

Members also discussed registering some village greens with the land registry and it was agreed to wait for further guidance from KCC Legal Dept on costs involved.

Item 12 **Correspondence**

To note correspondence received

E123 Members noted correspondence.

Members discussed an email received from a resident of School Close which is to be referred to the Planning and Projects Committee for action.

Cllr Gofton thanked Ken Dare and Gillian Willsher (M&DFG) for attending the meeting.

8.45pm Ken Dare and Gillian Willsher left the meeting.

Confidential Items

Item 13 **Quotations**

13.1 To approve the quotation for Pitfield Green vegetation work and to note the schedule of work

E124 On a proposal from Cllr Gofton, seconded by Cllr Knott, all members approved the quotation and schedule of work.

Cllr Buchanan asked if the clerk would speak to GBC regarding the maintenance of this area by GBC following these works.

Action: Clerk

Meeting Closed at 8.49pm