



Minutes of the Land Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 9th February 2023 at 7pm at Cuxton Library

Present: Cllr Porter (Chair), Cllr Hutchfield, Cllr Reynolds & Cllr Thorley

In attendance: Mr Robin Bourner (CSRA & MVL), Mr Lee Cooksey (Cuxton '91 FC), Mr Ian Gray (CCG & CAA) – arrived 7:08 pm, Mr Tom Lane (CAA), Mr Matthew Nightingale (CAA) & Mr C. Jensen (Clerk).

There were no members of the public present.

33) Apologies for absence

Cllr Savage – prior commitment. Mr Frans Thorley – prior commitment.
It was resolved to accept these apologies.

34) Declarations of Interest (DPI, conflict of interest and personal interests) and alterations to the Register

Cllrs Porter & Reynolds – Items 6 & 10. Cllr Thorley – Item 8.

35) Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2022 - for approval

No amendments required.
It was resolved to accept these minutes a true record of the meeting.

36) Matters Arising

None.

37) Recreation Ground:

a) Teenage Village – Painting of base & Playground fence – update

The clerk has arranged a meeting with Dale Gibbs, Probation Co-ordinator on 2nd March to discuss the painting of the teenage village and the playground fence. Cllr Porter requested the clerk report back at the next LMC meeting.

b) Playground Inspection – update

The clerk advised that some items noted on the report had been attended to. The company which completed the wet pour under the swings have also replaced the basket swing. Following a request from the clerk, C91's groundsman had cemented the area by the gate leading into the playground to facilitate easier access and the groundsman would also be laying sand with grass seed in the worn areas in the Recreation ground.

c) Bike Track surface – update

The clerk confirmed he had met with a representative from Clark & Kent in December. This company had recently built a new 'Pump Track' in Snodland that had been well received. The representative advised he thought the site was suitable to be repaired and would provide a report. Cllr Porter requested the clerk update the progress at the next LMC meeting and the clerk advised he had diarised to chase for a response later this month.

38) Response from Full Council regarding Cuxton Allotment Association request re Volunteer days BBQ

Mr Gray entered the meeting at 7:08 pm and offered apologies for his late arrival.

It was resolved to accept these apologies.

The clerk advised at the recent full Council meeting on 19th January 2023, it was agreed by Councillors, although the minutes had yet to be signed off, that the Parish Council would allow BBQ's at the allotments site on volunteer days only, in recognition of the efforts of the volunteers. This agreement did not extend to general BBQ's for allotment holders when they visited the site. The clerk confirmed only the Chair, Secretary and representative of the Cuxton Allotment Association (all present at this meeting), would be allowed to operate and be responsible for the BBQ's on volunteer days. They would be in control of BBQ's at all times and arrange to clear up and remove the residue and equipment safely. Mr Gray welcomed the agreement.

39) Update regarding provision of flagpole in village

The clerk advised MHS Homes had now agreed to the Parish Council's request to site a chat bench and flagpole on their land at the bottom of James Road. It was confirmed Cllr Hutchfield and the clerk had been in discussion with one of the residents, living at an MHS property in January, who thought both were good ideas but stated the siting of the chat bench was potentially problematical and the resident would discuss with other residents to seek their views. Cllr Hutchfield had been unable to speak to the resident since that time but would arrange to visit again to garner their views. Cllr Porter requested further feedback be provided at the next LMC meeting. Cllr Thorley asked the clerk if he had contacted the headmaster as to whether they had a flagpole in the school grounds and he advised he had yet to ask but would provide an update at the next LMC.

40) Report from Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association

Mr Bourner advised work on the library garden was finished and the fruits of the volunteers' labours was awaited later this year. He had been in discussion with the library regarding the paving of the area outside the door and providing moveable seating so people could sit and admire the garden.

41) Report from Medway valley Line representative

Mr Bourner advised murals had been painted at local stations which had enhanced the areas. Cllr Hutchfield advised these murals had been painted by local schools. Mr Bourner advised he was considering fabricating a sign denoting 'For Ranscombe' to be placed under the Cuxton sign at the railway station to advise and encourage more visitors. As authorisation from Network Rail would be required, he would seek this. No information had yet been received from ARC, (Network Rail), regarding the possible commercial refurbishment of the station building at Cuxton.

Cllr Reynolds suggested a sign denoting 'To the shops' be added near Tar Tank Lane to assist orientation within the village. Mr Gray advised it would be Medway Council's responsibility, as the sign would be sited on a public footpath and he would contact them to determine the feasibility for such a sign being sited.

Mr Bourner asked if Mr Gray was responsible for the replacement of the 'Kissing Gate' and he confirmed Cuxton Countryside Group had paid for the item via the Co-operative Community Fund.

42) Report from Allotments representative

Mr Gray had already provided a report to the Committee which had been circulated by the clerk. He advised plot holders had started to return and he had arranged a meeting with the clerk to determine the plot holders who had yet to make rental payments. Mr Lane asked to whom representations should be made if the CAA wanted to level an area within the existing gated section so crushed stone material could be laid in the existing car park area. Mr Gray confirmed the landowners' permission would need to be sought and Cllr Hutchfield suggested the clerk contact the owner to request permission. Mr Gray confirmed, following Mr Lane's question, that no new polytunnels were allowed to be erected on plots as per the terms of the rental contract. Mr Lane advised he wanted to reduce plastic use on the allotments and Mr Gray stated that more wood chippings would assist that goal. Mr Cooksey asked if all allotments had been rented and Mr Gray confirmed there was a waiting list.

43) Report from Cuxton Countryside Group

Mr Gray had already provided a report to the Committee which had been circulated by the clerk. Mr Gray advised the CCG had cleared vegetation and pruned branches overhanging the school drive as requested by the Parish Council. The clerk had requested Qualitrees provide a quotation for the works required to the remaining trees as detailed in the recent report commissioned by the school.

44) Report from Cuxton '91

Mr Cooksey advised the weather had affected the maintenance of the pitches and confirmed that seeding and verti draining had been scheduled to be undertaken in May. Mr Cooksey advised that representatives of Cuxton '91 would be the subject of filming by the Kent Football Association (Kent FA) as a good example of a grassroots club.

45) Events:

a) Big Lunch

It was confirmed there were availability issues for the agreed date, so it was proposed to move the event to Sunday 18th June 2023, subject to confirmation that the sound man was available. Cllr Hutchfield advised the Cuxton Open Gardens event, scheduled for that weekend was now to take place in 2024. Cllr Porter confirmed the Big Lunch steering committee was comprised of: Cllr Porter; Cllr Thorley; Mr Bourner; Mr Thorley and the clerk.

b) Coronation

Cllr Porter advised a steering committee had been established and included: Cllr Porter; Cllr Thorley; Cllr White and the clerk and a meeting had been arranged for Thursday 23rd February to discuss this further.

46) Correspondence

The clerk advised correspondence had been received regarding rat issues which had been passed to the CAA to investigate and report back to the next LMC. Mr Lane stated Medway Norse's representative had difficulty locating plots when he visited but Mr Gray advised he had been given the most up-to-date map relating to the allotments.

47) Information Exchange

Cllr Thorley had been approached by a resident to ask whether a plaque could be added to the Beacon pole to detail the occasions when it was lit and for what purpose. Cllr Thorley will speak to the resident to determine how this could be achieved.

Mr Lane noticed, on a recent visit to the area, that the Beacon basket was rusty and needed attention. Following discussions, Cllr Thorley asked if photographs could be provided so she could refer back to the manufacturer. Mr Bourner advised he would arrange this.

48) Members Future Agenda Items

None

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Next Meeting 9th March 2023

Signed *Julie Porter* Chairman

On the *9th* day of *March* 2023