



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

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

In attendance: Mr Robin Bourner (CSRA & MVL), Mr Ian Gray (CCG & CAA), Mr Matthew Nightingale (CAA), Mr Frans Thorley (Cuxton '91) & Mr C. Jensen (Clerk).

There were no members of the public present.

49) Apologies for absence

Cllr Reynolds – illness. Mr Lee Cooksey (Cuxton '91) – prior commitment.
It was resolved to accept these apologies.

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

Cllr Porter – Item 9.

51) Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2023 - for approval

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

52) Matters Arising

Mr Bourner had previously provided Cllr Thorley with a video showing the level of rust on the beacon, which she forwarded to the manufacturer, Black Forge. In their response, Black Forge confirmed the construction of the beacon was substantial and advised inevitably paintwork on beacons would rust. However, they recommended heat resistant paint was applied to ensure longer life between lightings. Cllr Hutchfield recommended this action was taken after the beacon was next lit, which was approved. Cllr Thorley had been unable to speak to the resident who had enquired whether a plaque could be added to the pole denoting the dates and times the beacon was lit and Cllr Porter advised she would contact the resident.

53) Recreation Ground:

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

The clerk advised he had met with a Probation representative on Thursday 2nd March and confirmed the project was within their remit. The areas to be painted would initially be sandblasted and the Parish Council was required to provide paint and materials. Cllr Porter asked when the works would be

undertaken but as the clerk had been requested to send photographs for further consideration, no date had been finalised.

b) Bike Track Surface – update

The clerk confirmed he had been advised a proposal had been drafted by Clark & Kent regarding repairs to the bike track but needed to be signed off by the directors before being sent to the Parish Council. This document had not yet been received.

54) Update regarding provision of flagpole in village

The clerk confirmed he had again spoken to an MHS Homes resident who lived near the proposed site of the flagpole and had been advised other MHS residents, who lived near the site, had also given their approval for a flagpole to be erected. MHS Homes had advised they would provide a draft legal agreement but this was still awaited. Following discussion, a recommendation was to be made to full Council to purchase and install a 7-metre fibreglass flagpole with a sewn Union flag at a total cost of £2,168.65 + VAT.

55) Report from Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association

Mr Bourner confirmed the planting of the library garden was complete. Mr Bourner had requested confirmation from the library that ward improvement fund monies paid by Cllr Fearn for the purchase of plastic seating in the library garden, had been received. Cllr Hutchfield stated Cllr Fearn had confirmed to her the monies had been paid and Mr Bourner advised he would seek further clarification.

56) Report from Medway Valley Line representative

Mr Bourner advised he had cleaned out the planters and had planted seeds which should produce blooms later this year. Having advised Network Rail that the bridge connecting the platforms was rusty, Mr Bourner had received confirmation from Network Rail via Sustran the matter would be placed on the next maintenance schedule for works to be undertaken between 2024-2029. Cllr Hutchfield advised that Network Rail used the car park to site vehicles when remedial works were undertaken on the railway line and although it would be of benefit, Mr Bourner thought it unlikely Network Rail would re-open the facility as a station car park for commuters' use.

57) Report from Allotments representative

Mr Gray advised he and the clerk had checked the payments received for allotment holders' rent and the clerk had sent reminders to those who had not yet paid. Mr Gray confirmed a representative from Medway Norse had visited the site recently and had re-baited the boxes and confirmed the rodent situation was deemed acceptable for this time of year.

Cllr Hutchfield, Mr Gray and the clerk recently met with an allotment holder, on site, who had made complaints concerning rodent activity on his plot. No recent rodent activity was seen and following discussion, the plot holder confirmed he was satisfied the contract with Medway Norse was still in force. The clerk had since issued notes of the meeting to all parties. Mr Gray advised the allotments secretary had arranged a visit to Sissinghurst Castle Garden on Sunday 30th April.

58) Report from Cuxton Countryside Group

Mr Gray had contacted Medway Council regarding signage being erected in Tar Tank Lane denoting the direction of the shops. A response was awaited. The CCG held its' AGM in February and Mr Gray stated they would not be requesting their annual maintenance grant of £350 from the Parish Council. They had also not requested the grant monies from the previous year thus making a saving to the Parish Council of £700.

Coppicing and deadheading had taken place in Millennium Wood and a barrier of trees had been formed so the area would not be exposed after the removal of diseased trees.

Following receipt of the recent report commissioned by the school, Mr Gray advised Qualitrees had visited to provide a quotation to re-shape and cut the trees in the school drive that CCG could not attend to.

59) Report from Cuxton '91

Mr Thorley advised Cuxton '91 was thriving especially the women's and veteran's sections and two new teams were expected to commence playing next season. Walking football was also being considered by the club. He advised Cuxton '91 currently pay an annual fee to Cuxton Social Club for the use of the pitch and changing facilities but the signing of a 10-year lease was under consideration which would reduce the annual fee paid to the Social Club. Cuxton '91 would then have responsibility for the pitch maintenance.

60) Events:

a) Big Lunch

Cllr Porter advised the working party comprised of: Cllr Porter; Cllr Thorley; Mr. Bourner; Mr. Thorley and the clerk. She confirmed two meetings had been held and planning for the event was ahead of schedule. The clerk advised an item had been added to the agenda of the next full Council meeting to discuss which group(s) should benefit from the monies collected at the gate.

b) Coronation

Cllr Porter advised the working party comprised of: Cllrs Porter; Thorley; White and the clerk and a meeting had been held. Information regarding Medway Councils' street party requirements had been publicised but due to the 'Big Lunch' being held on 18th June, the Parish Council was not arranging a further event to celebrate the coronation.

61) Correspondence

The clerk advised that correspondence received regarding the allotments had been the subject of the recent meeting held and had been considered under minute reference 57).

62) Information Exchange

None

63) Members Future Agenda Items

None

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting 18th May 2023

Signed *Julie Porter* Chairman

On the *18th* day of *May* *2023*