



Minutes of the Land Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14th September 2023 at 7pm at Cuxton Library

Present: Cllr Porter (Chair), Cllr Chamberlain, Cllr Manning, Cllr Vye & Cllr White.

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

There were three members of the public present.

39) Apologies for absence

Mr Thorley arrived at 19:02 and apologised for his lateness. Mr Cooksey did not provide an apology for his absence. However, as the requirement was for one representative from Cuxton 91 to attend Land Management Committee meetings and Mr Thorley was in attendance, Mr Cooksey's absence was accepted.

It was resolved to accept the apology for lateness and the absence, as one member of Cuxton 91 attended the meeting.

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

Cllr Porter – Item 5b

Cllr Vye – Item 8

41) Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2023 - for approval

No amendments required. Cllr Manning proposed the minutes be accepted without amendment. This proposal was seconded by Cllr White. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

It was resolved to accept these minutes a true record of the meeting.

42) Matters Arising

None.

43) Recreation Ground:

a) Teenage Village – Painting of base & Playground fence – quotations to be considered

The clerk provided copies of quotations received. Following discussion, Cllr Vye stated there was no specific mention of washing down the paintwork before the work commenced, which, in his experience, he would have expected to be stated on the quotations. The clerk was asked to revert to

Medway Norse to request further detail of the preparation work to be undertaken and report back. The clerk advised, if and when approved, the work would not be scheduled to commence until at least March/April 2024. Cllr Chamberlain proposed the matter be deferred to the next Land Management meeting for further discussion. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Vye. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

b) Bike Track Surface and maintenance – update

The clerk provided attendees with the report received following the latest quarterly maintenance inspection by the contractor on 7th August. The contractor was to provide a quotation to the clerk to supply bulbs for planting in the bike track area to be considered at the next meeting. Mr Bourner confirmed a resident, who was a construction specialist, had advised he would be willing to assist with resurfacing the bike track. Cllr Porter asked Mr Bourner if the resident could provide an estimate of the cost for further discussion.

c) Roundel update following prevention visit

The clerk updated all attendees regarding the recent visits by the contractor and although the situation was being monitored, there was no evidence of recent activity. The clerk confirmed further preventative work was required to be undertaken to the roundel but he would liaise with Cuxton 91 once the monitoring period had ended. As it was Cuxton 91's intention to move items from the roundel to the container unit, Mr Thorley asked if further shelving, at Cuxton 91's expense, could be installed in the container. Councillors had no objections as it would make the area tidier at no expense to the Council.

d) Update regarding provision of cableway in Recreation ground

The clerk advised he had received two quotations for the cableway with a third awaited before providing these for discussion. The clerk confirmed that should the Parish Council decide to pursue the provision of a cableway, Bush Road residents in the vicinity of the Recreation Ground would need to be canvassed for their opinions as they could be affected by noise and disruption when the equipment was in use. The clerk stated as the structure would be sited near to the oil pipeline running underneath the Recreation Ground, the Parish Council would need agreement from Exolum, which might be chargeable.

e) Courts re-development

Following discussion, Mr Thorley advised Cuxton 91 might be better placed to obtain funding for the re-development of the courts if they were leased to them. Councillors needed to decide their requirements for the use of the courts. This matter to be referred to the next full council meeting for discussion.

44) Report from Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association

The clerk had provided a report to all attendees received from Mr Bournier. Mr Bournier asked if the Parish Council would purchase sixteen bags of bark for use as pathways in the library garden and for the memorial bench area in Six Acre Wood. Following discussion, Councillor Porter proposed the clerk order sixteen bags of bark for the purpose as stated. Councillor Manning seconded the proposal. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

It was resolved the clerk would order sixteen bags of bark as stated for the use by volunteers in the library garden and by the memorial bench in Six Acre Wood.

45) Report from Medway Valley Line representative

The clerk had provided a report to all attendees received from Mr Bournier. No comments were noted.

46) Report from Cuxton Allotments Association representative - including further discussion: Allotment rent review for year 2023/4 and update from Allotment Association AGM

The clerk had provided a report to all attendees received from Mr Gray. Mr Gray provided an explanation regarding the allotment fees. Following discussion, Cllr Porter proposed the allotment fees remain at the same level as the previous year, £5.50 per rod with an additional water charge of £1.00 per rod and this matter be referred to full Council for approval. Cllr Chamberlain seconded this proposal. All Councillors, with the exception of Cllr Vye, who abstained as he had already declared an interest in this matter, voted in favour of the proposal.

It was resolved the proposal not to increase the allotment fees for year 2023/2024 be referred to the next full council meeting for discussion and a decision to be made.

Mr Gray confirmed correspondence had been received requesting a plot holder keep hens on his plot for a trial period. Mr Gray advised of an adverse experience with hens in the past hence why the allotment contract specifically excluded livestock. However, Mr Gray had spoken to the plot holder at length and asked the Council to consider this specific request. He confirmed requests from other plot holders would not be considered during the trial period. Following discussion, Cllr Chamberlain proposed the plot holder be given a 6-month trial to keep 13 hens on his plot. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Porter. All Councillors, with the exception of Cllr Vye, who abstained as he had already declared an interest in this matter, voted in favour of the proposal.

It was resolved the proposal was approved for the plot holder to keep 13 hens on his plot for a 6-month trial period. Mr Gray to notify the plot holder. The trial period to be monitored by the Allotment Association representative and Mr Gray to provide updates to Council regarding the progress of the trial.

Mr Gray advised one of the CAA volunteers had cleared the area by the upper gate and it was now accessible, however the structure needed repair. The

CAA had requested help from volunteers to assist with the integrity of the structure and also to add a lock to the gate.

47) Report from Cuxton Countryside Group

The clerk had provided a report to all attendees received from Mr Gray. Cllr Chamberlain suggested a consultant be instructed to consider management of the footpaths and areas around the village. Mr Gray confirmed a 5-year plan, commissioned by the Parish Council and managed by the CCG, was in force. He advised he would provide a copy to Cllr Chamberlain and the clerk. Mr Gray confirmed CCG had 17km of paths to look after within Cuxton. Mr Gray confirmed the CCG would waive their annual donation of £350 from the Parish Council as they felt it would be better used towards remedial work in respect of ash dieback. Mr Gray confirmed CCG would be replacing marker posts over the winter period, where required.

48) Report from Cuxton '91

Mr Thorley advised all teams had started to compete in the new season and C91 had welcomed an over 30's ladies' team and other younger teams to their club. Mr Thorley advised Cuxton 91 was to be featured in a national magazine, 'Football Focus'.

49) Steps behind Woodhurst Close - update

The clerk confirmed following the last LMC meeting in July, an email was sent to the Ward Councillors to ask them to arrange for help from Medway Council to replace/repair the steps behind Woodhurst Close. The Ward Councillors confirmed this week they would move this forward as soon as they were able. Cllr Chamberlain reiterated that steps should be installed, however Mr Gray advised if steps were installed, the Parish Council would be liable for any accidents that might befall residents.

50) Events

a) Christmas Tree lighting event – update

The clerk advised he had asked volunteers if they could attend on Sunday 26th November to put the lights on the tree and was awaiting responses. He advised he was to invite all the stallholders who attended last year to confirm they wanted to take part in this years' celebrations. Cllr White confirmed the scouts would require a stall. The clerk advised Council needed to decide what format the carols and music should take, and this would be referred to full Council for discussion.

b) Firework Celebrations – discussion regarding request bonfire is provided and quotation for cost of clearing up

The clerk confirmed he had received the appropriate documentation from the Wheel of Cuxton regarding the event but had yet to check the contents. The clerk expressed his concerns the bonfire area was not cordoned off following

last years event which caused an issue when it had snowed heavily in December. The Wheel of Cuxton representatives, who had attended the meeting, questioned why the area needed to be cleared of debris if it was also fenced off. Following discussion, the Wheel of Cuxton representatives confirmed they would erect the fence as soon as practicable after this years' event. Cllr Porter proposed this matter be referred to the next full council meeting for discussion. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Chamberlain. All Councillors present voted in favour of the motion. The Wheel of Cuxton representatives asked if Medway Council Highways, on the evening of 4th November, could agree that Bush Road (from James Road junction), Charles Drive and James Road became one-way to ease traffic issues. Cllr Porter asked the clerk to refer this request to Medway Council Highways department.

51) Review of Big Lunch 2023

The clerk provided Councillors with a list of expenditure and advised some invoices still remained outstanding, but when these had been paid, the event would still fall within the allocated budget of £2,000.

52) 80th anniversary D-Day celebrations, Thursday 6th June 2024 - update

The clerk advised he had sent an email to Cllrs Porter and Manning and Mr Thorley last week with the updated guidance details he had received from KALC regarding the celebrations. Cllr Porter advised a meeting would be arranged to discuss this celebration.

53) Correspondence

None.

54) Information Exchange

None.

55) Members Future Items

Cableway
Courts
Steps behind Woodhurst Close - update
Christmas tree lighting
Fireworks
Painting of playground fence – updated quotations with further specification
Planting of bulbs in the vicinity of the bike track – quotation to be considered

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20pm. Next Meeting 12th October 2023

Signed *Julie Porter* Chairman

On the *12th* day of *October* *2023*