



Minutes of the Land Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 8th February 2024 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), Cllr Thorley, Cllr Nightingale, Cllr Jensen & Mrs. N Jackson (Clerk).

There was one member of the public present.

71) Apologies for absence

None

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

Cllr Vye – Item 8

73) Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2023 - for approval

No amendments were required. Cllr Porter proposed the minutes be accepted without amendment. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Chamberlain. All Councillors voted in favour.

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

74) Matters Arising

None

75) Recreation Ground and Library Gardens:

a) Pavilion / Roundel maintenance update – For information

The clerk confirmed that all of the outstanding pavilion / roundel repairs had been completed but mentioned that the pavilion gutters required attendance. Cllr Manning offered to come and look at this .

b) Courts re-development Update

Cllr Jensen had attended this committee meeting to explain her progress with this project and request to use some of the clerk's time to move this project on. It was agreed to discuss that at the next full council meeting.

c) Memorial bench request

The clerk provided a copy of the response given to the enquirer. It was noted that no reply had been received since this response was originally sent several months ago. The committee agreed that they would defer the item until further correspondence was received.

d) Disabled access request

The clerk provided a copy of correspondence received from a parishioner about disability access to the recreation ground. It was noted that the frontage of the park was scruffy and poorly laid out but that overhauling this had been part of the now defunct pavilion project. It was agreed that gate access and motorbikes using the recreation ground are continuing issues that need to be resolved, particularly if the courts are refurbished, so it was suggested that disability access should be factored into those conversations when they occur, during the courts' renovation project.

It was also recommended that the clerk invite the parishioner to a meeting / share their ideas for how the PC could make the recreation ground more accessible.

e) CCTV signage options

The clerk shared several options for CCTV signage and the councillors agreed on the number and type of signage to be purchased, as well as the locations for these. Clerk to arrange purchase and placement of these signs.

f) Extra street light

Cllr Manning wanted to enquire about street lighting for the school / recreation ground drive. The clerk confirmed that she has placed the enquiry and will notify councillors of the outcome.

76) Report from Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association

Mr Bourner provided a verbal report of the recent maintenance work conducted in the recreation ground, remembrance garden, as well as progress at the library gardens, including the effect of the fallen wall, the removal of the Christmas tree and the noticeboard. He also mentioned that ward councillor funds provided for the library garden had been paid to the Medway libraries department and were being tracked down with the help of the Cuxton librarians.

77) Report from Medway Valley Line representative

Mr Bourner explained that he is still trying to get a water butt and Ranscombe signage for the station, but that progress is slow. He also confirmed that Medway Valley line will not give permission to progress with these items personally for safety reasons.

78) Report from Allotments representative

Mr Gray had provided a written report. He additionally mentioned that two sections of chestnut fencing needed to be replaced. The clerk will obtain three quotes for the work, alongside additional fencing required for the recreation ground bonfire area.

Mr Gray also confirmed that he had not applied for the maintenance grant for last year as the figures had not been finalised but that he would need to do so soon. It was agreed that the clerk will establish the details of any surplus for last year, in order to make the grant.

79) Report from Cuxton Countryside Group

Mr Gray had provided a written report including the recent work of both CCG and Qualitrees in Six Acre wood following the recent storms. He detailed

some repair work needed to 3 panels of a resident's fence, confirming that this was a result of trees fallen from the parish council's land.

He gave an account of the types of work the volunteers do and an update on a recent work day, where a request was made for extra help and 15 new people volunteered.

Councillors thanked Mr Gray, and the Cuxton Countryside Group volunteers for their tireless efforts, agreeing that we were all very fortunate to have them.

80) Report from Cuxton '91

Mr Thorley provided a verbal report mentioning the work on the recreation ground pitches and informing councillors that they had not yet been able to spend the grant money given to them in April. It was discussed that Cuxton 91 will prepare a proposal and send it to the clerk in time for consideration alongside this year's grant requests.

81) Events:

a) 80th anniversary D-Day celebrations, beacon lighting event

The clerk shared some detail from the official guide and the beginnings of a task list. It was confirmed that the working party should meet to discuss this in more detail, but that some basic information should start to go out in monthly newsletters.

b) Big Lunch 2024

It was confirmed that the big lunch working party was scheduled to meet on Monday 12th February and will begin preparing for this year's event.

c) Christmas Tree lighting event - Date

Saturday 7th December was proposed, and Mr Gray is going to confirm if the musicians can attend on that date.

82) Steps behind Woodhurst Close – update

The clerk asked if any councillors had received confirmation from Medway council about helping with the steps, explaining that the existing steps are not actually on Parish Council land. Councillors confirmed that they had not heard from Medway Council but felt it was their duty to ensure that the steps were safe and referred to the letter from Crown Estates solicitors as justification that they could proceed with the project.

The clerk confirmed that no quotes had been received as yet.

Mr Thorley suggested asking Boundary Fencing to quote. The clerk will approach them.

83) Dog Waste Bags Orders

The clerk provided details of the increasing costs / usage rates of the dog waste bags, confirming that they are the cheapest ones that fit our dispensers. It was agreed that these costs warrant further attention, and the clerk was asked to investigate other possible dispensers that use cheaper bags. It was also agreed to put a note in the newsletter about usage rates.

84) Correspondence

a) Crown Estate / Woodhurst Close trees

The clerk provided a letter from a resident of Woodhurst Close and asked for an answer to their question. Mr Gray provided this answer, the clerk will respond.

b) Double yellow lines

The clerk provided a letter from a resident and asked for their opinion about the matters contained within. The key points of a response were provided. The clerk will respond.

c) Cuxton Open Gardens

The clerk provided a letter from a voluntary group in the village and asked for an answer to their question. An answer was provided, although some clarification is needed. The clerk to respond.

d) Flood risk management

The clerk shared a copy of the latest consultation from Medway Council for information.

85) Information Exchange

Cllr Nightingale will liaise with Mr Gray regarding the tree planting scheme.

The resident in attendance asked why no one was told about the road works and Cllrs confirmed that they had asked Medway Council the same question and been told that all recent works are classed as emergency works, so they do not need to / can't notify in advance.

86) Members Future Agenda Items

- **Tree Planting Scheme / Flowering Cherry Tree**
- **E-bike scheme**
- **Communication with the Wheel of Cuxton**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:58pm.

Next meeting: Thursday 14th March 2024, 7pm

Signed Julie Porter

Chairman

On the 14th day of March 2024