



Minutes of the Land Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14th March 2024 at 7pm at Cuxton Library

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

In attendance: Mr. Robin Bourner (CSRA & MVL), Mr. Ian Gray (CAA & CCG), Mr. Frans Thorley (Cuxton '91) & Mrs. N Jackson (Clerk).

There were no members of the public present.

87) Apologies for absence

Cllr Manning and Cllr Thorley
It was resolved to accept these apologies.

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

None.

89) Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2024 - 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 as a true record of the meeting.

90) Matters Arising

Cllr Porter asked about outstanding actions from last meeting and was given an update by the clerk.

Recreation Ground and Library Gardens:

a) Pavilion / Roundel maintenance update

The clerk confirmed that Cllr Manning had cleared all of the pavilion gutters thoroughly and that the pest control attendants had signed-off the roundel and submitted an invoice, which will be reviewed by the full council. Cllrs thanked Cllr Manning for his help.

b) Courts re-development Update

The clerk explained that this project has moved forward and that a full report had been prepared for the main council meeting.

c) Extra streetlight - recreation ground / school driveway

The clerk shared a response from Medway Council about this, confirming that they consider this driveway to be outside of their remit. Committee members agreed that whilst not currently urgent, this may be more of an issue in the future if the courts are used more. Cllr Porter proposed that the clerk should

consult with a local electrical engineer about possible solutions. This was seconded by Cllr Chamberlain and agreed by unanimous vote.

It was resolved that the clerk will consult with a local electrical engineer about possible solutions

91) Report from Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association

Mr Bourner provided a written report explaining the library garden volunteers' intention to extend the bark path further through the library garden, and the plans to overhaul the garden noticeboard. In both instances, he will make a separate request for council assistance if required. He has been told that the ward councillor funds, accidentally paid to Medway Libraries, should be recoverable in April.

92) Report from Medway Valley Line representative

Mr Bourner submitted a written report and explained that permission has been granted to add engraved signs to the station planters to encourage people to visit Ranscombe Farm. He also reported that the train station footbridge is scheduled to be renovated at some point within the next 5 years but, as it isn't considered dangerous, it is not a priority according to the rail authority.

93) Report from Allotments representative

Mr Gray gave a verbal report explaining that the allotments are starting to come to life and that some repairs will be required to the standpipe. They have a small waiting list.

94) Report from Cuxton Countryside Group

Mr Gray gave a verbal report detailing extensive clearing work in Six Acre Wood, as well as the planting of 300 new saplings, comprising 13 different varieties. Councillors thanked them for their continued efforts.

95) Report from Cuxton '91

Mr Thorley provided a verbal report explaining that the weekend of 17th & 18th May is their trophy presentation weekend, so the club etc will be busy but they will ask the school for extra parking capacity to mitigate this. The recreation ground pitch is getting seeded in late May and top-dressed later in the summer.

They are holding a youth tournament in June as a fundraiser and confirmed that their New Years Day Charity matches raised £4900 for Demelza Hospice.

Following the discussion last month around their unspent grant of £750 from last year, they will be entering another grant request for £750 this year. If the amount is granted by the parish council, they will combine the two sums and use the total for this year's maintenance of the pitch in the recreation ground.

96) Events:

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

The clerk shared an update of what actions have taken place since the last meeting. Outstanding items include engraving, insurance and securing assistance with the actual lighting. Cllr Chamberlain requested to do the reading at the event. Committee members agreed this and thanked Cllr Chamberlain for volunteering.

b) Big Lunch 2024

Members of the working party confirmed that arrangements are well-underway for the event and the working party will meet again as necessary before the event.

c) Christmas Tree lighting event

Saturday 7th December has been set and secured with the musicians and the library. Committee members agreed that they would like to enlist the services of the choir again this year. The clerk will contact the choirmaster to book.

97) Steps behind Woodhurst Close

The clerk informed councillors that two of the three quotes needed for this work have now been received and a third is forthcoming.

98) Rock Snake

The clerk shared a specification for this project prepared by Cllr Nightingale and confirmed that no further communication had been received from Matt Fearn about a ward councillor contribution for this. Councillors asked the clerk to speak to Phil Filmer about it instead.

Committee members discussed and clarified that this project should only include the painted rocks, the prepared plaque (explaining the rock snake) and planting. Cllr Porter proposed that this be discussed again at the May meeting, once more is known about the funding, but also that this project should proceed regardless. This was seconded by Cllr White and agreed by unanimous vote.

It was resolved that the clerk speak to ward councillors about funding and bring this matter back to the next meeting.

99) Dog Waste Bags / Dispensers

The clerk provided an update on the usage rates of dog waste bags and details of other possible dispensers that use more cost-effective bags. Committee members agreed that they had seen no improvement in the dog waste situation and discussed purchasing one new dispenser and conducting a trial.

Cllr Porter proposed that one new dispenser and appropriate bags are purchased, and the new dispenser is installed in the village at a location suggested by the street cleaners. Cllr Chamberlain seconded this, and it was agreed by unanimous vote.

It was resolved to purchase a new waste bag dispenser and site within the village for a trial.

