



**Minutes of the Land Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm at Cuxton Library**

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

**In attendance:** Mr. Robin Bourner (CSRA & MVL), Mr. Ian Gray (CAA & CCG) & Mrs. N Jackson (Clerk).

There were three members of the public present.

**104) Apologies for absence**

Cllr Porter and Mr Thorley

*It was resolved to accept these apologies.*

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

Cllr Thorley – Item 15

Cllr Vye – Item 17

**106) Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - for approval**

No amendments were required. Cllr White 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.*

**107) Matters Arising**

None

**108) Recreation Ground and Library Gardens:**

**a) Litter Bin Inserts**

The clerk explained that new inserts for the litter bins in the recreation ground were required. Cllr Chamberlain proposed that 4 new inserts were ordered. This was seconded by Cllr Thorley and agreed by unanimous vote.

*It was resolved to order 4 litter bin inserts.*

**b) Playground Gate**

The clerk explained that the playground gate had fallen off again and confirmed that there is no legal requirement to have a gate. Councillors agreed to reinstate a gate for safety reasons but wanted more information about gate material/weight options. Cllr Thorley proposed that the clerk investigate and bring further details back to a later meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Chamberlain and agreed by unanimous vote.

**c) Playground Frog**

The clerk explained that the repairs had been attempted, but were unsuccessful, and that the hole had been safely capped-off by the playground inspectors. She presented options for parts replacement / full unit replacement and explained the surfacing ramifications of changing the item to a different type of item altogether.

Cllr Thorley wanted to know what the installation costs would be and asked the clerk to clarify these points before deciding a general course of action. This was seconded by Cllr Manning and agreed by unanimous vote.

*It was resolved to establish installation costs from Wicksteed.*

**d) Pavilion / Roundel Update**

The clerk provided 3 quotes to upgrade the pavilion alarm, to include connection to an app that provides status notifications.

Cllr Manning proposed that the quote from Logic Alarms was accepted. This was seconded by Cllr White and agreed by unanimous vote.

*It was resolved to accept the quote from Logic Alarms to replace the alarm control in the pavilion.*

**e) Courts redevelopment Update**

The clerk explained that the Courts survey was being processed and should be ready in time for the Big Lunch. She also explained that further quotes had arrived for automated gates etc, but these would come to a future meeting.

**f) Street Lighting Update**

The clerk explained that she had spoken to a local electrical engineer, about lighting the recreation ground / school driveway, who recommended low-level bollard-style lighting, but explained that the bulk of the costs for this would be in the trench work needed. This update for information purposes only.

**109) Report from Cuxton Sports and Recreation Association**

Mr Bourner provided a verbal report of his assistance with bramble clearance in the recreation ground, and tree clearance in the woodland. He also explained that establishing the library garden is now complete and this area will now only require maintenance. He also mentioned the possibility of getting a picnic bench installed in the triangle of woodland, near the memorial garden, and suitable materials for this bench.

**110) Report from Medway Valley Line representative**

Mr Bourner summarised his progress with possible repairs to the train station and the barrel arch at White Leaves Rise. Mr Bourner was also presented with a certificate for all the assistance that Friends of Cuxton Station has provided to the local community Rail Partnership. The clerk will share this.

**111) Report from Allotments representative**

Mr Gray gave a written report about the allotments. He detailed a recent incident of a water leak and explained several repairs that had been occurring within the last week. He gave a special mention to one plot-holder, Mr Tye, who had been very active in the recent repairs.

**112) Report from Cuxton Countryside Group**

Mr Gray gave a written report covering another recent workday for the Parish Council arborists, working in Six Acre wood. He explained the progress of the Ash dieback removal and clarified that several more days of work will be scheduled when possible.

He confirmed that large trees will gradually be removed as part of the ongoing woodland management, with smaller, 'scrub' trees planted for extra stability on slopes. Additionally, many trees will be 'topped' rather than removed to prevent damaging the wildlife habitat too greatly.

Mr Gray confirmed that the recently planted saplings appear to have established well and he clarified that the new trees are all of shorter species.

He confirmed that the CCG will be continuing to create 'dead hedges' with the fallen /felled wood, as well as supplying some to a local charitable organisation called Octopus. (Mr Gray will be asking them about purchasing furniture created from this wood).

Mr Gray has now taken over the role of Tree Officer and will be conducting the tree surveys from now.

A member of the public asked about an infected tree in their garden, Mr Gray offered to get a price for removal from the arborists next time they were on site.

**113) Report from Cuxton '91**

No report provided as Mr Thorley had given his apologies.

**114) Events:**

**a) 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary D-Day celebrations, beacon lighting event**

The clerk confirmed that Mr Hutchfield had agreed to engrave the beacon post and that members of the Wheel of Cuxton would be helping with the fire lighting. Cllr Chamberlain asked about clearing the undergrowth and Mr Gray explained that they are leaving that area for the moment as it is an important nesting area for butterflies.

**b) Big Lunch 2024**

Cllr Thorley explained that this was all progressing well, but they were hoping to advertise for more helpers as none had come forward yet. The clerk will add further details to CPC social media channels.

**115) Fallen tree incidents**

The clerk provided details of two incidents relating to property damage.

**a) February incident**

Following a discussion about the specifics of this incident, committee members made a recommendation.

**b) March incident**

Following a discussion about the specifics of this incident committee members made a recommendation.

Cllr Thorley's view was that both recommendations should be presented to Main Council for final review, as she felt that such significant decisions should be made by more than 4 councillors.

The clerk expressed concern that this would add to the timeframe for residents, given that the next meetings' agenda had already been finalised. Cllr Thorley agreed and asked the clerk to speak to the chairman of the council to ensure that this matter was urgently added to the forthcoming Main Council agenda.

Cllr Thorley's proposals were seconded by Cllr Manning and agreed by unanimous vote.

*It was resolved to review these recommendations at the next Main Council meeting.*

#### **116) Six Acre Wood Management Update**

This section had been covered in depth under the report from the Cuxton Countryside Group.

#### **117) Steps behind Woodhurst Close**

The clerk presented three quotes for reinstatement of the steps from Woodhurst Close. Councillors discussed that these steps are not on Parish Council land and that Crown Estates will not sell them this strip of land for anything less than best consideration. They therefore concluded that they couldn't justify significant spending on this project.

Mr Grey suggested that the Cuxton Countryside Group could extend the handrails as a measure simply to ensure the Parish Council's duty of care for woodland users.

Cllr Manning proposed to reject the quotes on these grounds and to have the CCG extend the handrails as discussed. This was seconded by Cllr White and agreed by unanimous decision.

*It was resolved to reject the quotations and ask the Cuxton Countryside Group to extend the handrails.*

#### **118) Rock Snake**

With the funding for this project secured, Mr Bourner volunteered to start work on this, getting to grips with the current condition of the stones and working up a layout.

#### **119) Dog Waste Bags / Dispensers**

The clerk provided the locations suggested by the street cleaners for the dog waste bag trial. Cllr Manning proposed that the existing waste bag dispenser location, at the bottom of Tar Tank Lane, would be a better place for the trial. Cllr Vye seconded this motion and it was agreed by unanimous vote.

*It was resolved to mount the new dispenser on the existing dispenser stand, at the bottom of Tar Tank Lane, for the trial.*

#### **120) Allotment grant & maintenance/ fencing**

The clerk explained that the allotment grant for 22/23 and end of year figures had been processed, but that she still hadn't received a response from one of the

fencing companies. Cllr Thorley offered to chase this.

### **121) Correspondence**

#### **a) Request for a Rowan Tree on Tar Tank Lane**

The clerk shared a request from a member of the public about replanting a Rowan tree on Tar Tank Lane. Committee members discussed it and confirmed that due to the pipeline, they cannot plant any additional trees along this stretch. The clerk will revert to the resident to inform them.

#### **b) Cuxton Open Garden Request**

Cllr Thorley presented a revised request from the Cuxton Open Gardens Group. The committee members reviewed the content and decided to accept their revised proposal and terms. The clerk will notify them.

### **122) Information Exchange**

None.

### **123) Members Future Agenda Items**

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

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.23pm.**

**Next meeting: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 7pm**

Signed ***Tracy Thorley*** Chairman

On the ***12th*** day of ***July*** ***2024***