

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** meeting held at the Parish Council Office, Lower Green Road, Pembury on **Tuesday 1 December 2020** at 3:00pm.



Councillors Present:

Cllr S Sharp (Chair)
Cllr A Gaukroger
Cllr N Stratton

Cllr P Gillan (Vice-Chair)
Cllr C Snow
Cllr M Weaver

Also in attendance:

Helen Munro (Clerk)

OS20/39. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** There were none.

OS20/40. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were none.

OS20/41. **MINUTES.** The minutes from the committee meeting held on 28 September 2020 were duly approved and the Chair would sign a physical copy as an accurate record at the next opportunity.

OS20/42. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** The Chair noted the Christmas Lights Display on the Village Green which had been well received by residents.

OS20/43. **CLERK'S REPORT.** The following report was **noted**:

- a. Telephone Box on the Village Green – the planning application was refused so the public telephone will remain in use. BT have confirmed that the phone box will be cleaned in their 2021 schedule. It was agreed that the Parish Office should ask for the box to be refurbished as well as cleaned.
- b. The Coppice - the area is being regularly monitored by staff. Currently the area appears to be less problematic.
- c. Memorial Bench locations – this is ongoing.
- d. Lower Green Recreation Ground – Playground quotes – quoted had been received and the decision to appoint a contractor was made by delegated decision.
- e. Budget 2021/22 – this is to be considered by Full Council at their next meeting.
- f. Old Coach Road Pond – clearance work to the pond has been undertaken.

OS20/44. **OPEN SESSION.** There were no members of the public present.

OS20/45. **PEMBURY BURIAL GROUNDS.**

- a. Quotes for signage were considered. It was **RESOLVED** that Option 1, costing £600 plus VAT, be approved.
- b. Costs for materials only for a notice board made by a local resident were considered. Labour costs would be free of charge. It was **RESOLVED** that this be approved.
- c. A request to plant a memorial magnolia tree in Section 4 was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that this be permitted. The Parish Office to agree the final location ensuring it does not have any impact on surrounding graves.

OS20/46. **LOWER GREEN RECREATION GROUND.**

- a. Quotes for work to a wildflower meadow area were considered. It was **RESOLVED** that the contractor be appointed to do the work.
- b. A verbal update was reported about the path in the Recreation Ground. The areas was being regularly monitored and cleared. A more permanent solution was being considered.

OS20/47. **COMMUNITY GARDENING.**

- a. An update was reported on progress. The volunteer group continued to work on clearing various areas in the village. A licence request to Kent County Council was progressing and is expected to be completed shortly. The KCC officer indicated that the licence fee would be waived.
- b. Suggestions for planters at the Chemist Corner and village gateway at Bo Peep Corner were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk also apply for a larger planter on the corner of the area. It was agreed that the area by the Gateway to the east of the village be cleared initially.
- c. An application for grant funding was considered but it was reported that this may not now be available.

OS20/48. **TREES.** The Visual Tree Assessment and related quotes for approval were considered. It was **RESOLVED** that the contractor be appointed to undertake the high priority work shortly. Medium priority work would be undertaken in the next financial year.

OS20/49. **QUOTES FOR GROUNDS EQUIPMENT.** Quotes for new equipment for the Grounds Team were considered. It was **RESOLVED** that Supplier A be appointed to supply the equipment.

OS20/50. **LITTER PICK.** Holding a litter pick was discussed, however there were continued concerns about the risks involved in holding such an event during the current restrictions. It was **RESOLVED** that consideration of holding another litter pick and of joining in with the national Great British Spring Clean be added to the Full Council agenda in January 2021.

Cllr Gillan agreed to post onto a local Facebook group encouraging residents to collect litter in their own areas.

OS20/51. **NEW PROJECTS.**

- a. Floral display on the Village Green – this item was deferred and would be discussed again at the next Committee meeting.
- b. Pembury Rocks and NHS display – a verbal report was given. It was suggested that this be sited near the church rather than on the Village Green. Cllr Weaver would circulate her design ideas to the committee. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Weaver ask residents to bring their painted rocks to a central location for the Parish Council to store while the project progressed.
- c. Graffiti Wall – after discussion it was agreed to defer this item.

OS20/52. **RISKS.** No new risks had been identified.

OS20/53. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS OR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.** The following items were raised:

- An update on the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council CCTV camera on the Village Green was reported. Further updates would be shared on progress.
- A query about clearance and planting at the Camden planter was discussed.
- A query about the new footpath map was raised. Further work was being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Groups.

OS20/54. **MEETING DATES.**

- a. To note next meeting - 8 March 2021 at 3pm.

- b. An additional committee meeting would be added in October 2021.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 16:25

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman