



Notes of the informal virtual meeting of the **Members of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held on **Monday 12 July 2021** at 3:00pm. All decisions are made under temporary delegated authority of the Clerk.

Councillors Present:

Cllr P Gillan (Chair)
Cllr K Brooks

Cllr C Snow (Vice-Chair)
Cllr S Sharp

Apologies

Cllr A Partridge

Cllr M Weaver

Also in attendance:

Helen Munro (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllrs Partridge and Weaver gave their apologies which were accepted.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were none.
3. **MINUTES.** The minutes from the committee meeting held on 8 March 2021 were noted and would be approved at the next formal meeting of the committee.
4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** There were none.
5. **CLERK'S REPORT.** The following report was **noted**:
 - a. Burial Ground Notice board – Work is progressing and should be completed shortly.
 - b. Burial Ground – personal items – The relatives have been asked to remove the personal items from around the grave previously discussed. Astro turf will be removed in early September and the area re-seeded.
 - c. Tree Work – Approved high priority work has been completed and medium priority work to be scheduled in later this year.
 - d. Beech Tree at the Allotments – The contractor has been appointed and is liaising with Kent County Council about the road closure required.
 - e. Community Gardening – Bo Peep Gateway – Work to improve the area directly in front of the gateway will be trialled over the coming months. A floral display has been put on hold for the time being.

6. **OPEN SESSION.** There were no members of the public present.

7. **LOWER GREEN RECREATION GROUND.**

a. Some residents had commented about limited public tennis court availability and a subsequent meeting with the tennis coach was reported. After much discussion, it was agreed that clear blocks of time be allocated for general public use. It was suggested that public use could be as follows and would be discussed with the tennis coach:

- Monday to Friday - between 11am and 4pm and after 6pm
- Saturday – after 11am
- Sunday – all day

Information about the demographics for the current bookings would be requested so the Committee had a clearer understanding of the bookings. It was also agreed to confirm the general public use times in the PVN and on a banner on the courts once they were agreed.

- b. A request to refurbish the tennis courts was received and discussed. An indicative quote had also been provided. It was agreed that Cllr Gillan would do some research on the appropriate level of work for a public court. This would be considered further and added to the committee's wish list for the 2022-23 budget.
- c. A request to refurbish the skate park area had been raised at the recent Full Council meeting. A guide design suitable for the space available was shared and discussed. There were some concerns about a potential increase in anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that it be recommended to Full Council for further guidance with details of the investigations already undertaken.
- d. A request for football goals for informal use to be erected was discussed. It was not possible to arrange this in Lower Green Recreation Ground. However, goals remained in situ at Woodside Playing Field all year.
- e. Options to reduce the mud on the path at the bottom of the recreation ground were discussed. After much discussion, a suggestion of a boardwalk was raised. Cllr Gillan agreed to undertake further research into a similar project at Hilbert Park nearby.

8. **PEMBURY BURIAL GROUNDS.** A request to reduce the height of holly trees affecting their property was discussed. It was agreed to approve the works and a planning application would be submitted to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

9. **ALLOTMENTS.**
- a. Quotes for works to update the water supply and taps was still awaited. This would be added to the wish list for the budget for 2022-23.
 - b. A request for volunteers to help with allotment inspections was made. It was agreed that committee members would all help on a rolling rota.
10. **BIODIVERSITY.** How to manage Council land to help improve biodiversity was discussed. The suggested ways to improve biodiversity at each site were agreed.
11. **LITTER PICK.** The suggestion to arrange a community litter pick was discussed. A date is awaited from the Rapid Relief Team who would support the event once again. It is likely to be in October. An advert would be included in the next edition of the PVN.
12. **NEW PROJECTS.**
- a. Pembury Rocks – the item was discussed, and it was agreed not to progress it further.
 - b. Planting a Tree for the Platinum Jubilee – an update was received. The favoured option was to create a small, wooded area in the Pembury Burial Ground and to erect a plaque to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.
13. **RISKS.** No new risks had been identified.
14. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS OR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.** Cllr Weaver was thanked for her work on the Camden Planter.
15. **MEETING DATES.** The following meetings were agreed and would be held in the Parish Office meeting room.
- a. 20 September 2021 at 3pm – budget meeting
 - b. 18 October 2021 at 3pm

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 16:23.