

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at Pembury Parish Council offices on **Monday 26 June 2023** at 3pm.



Councillors Present:

Cllr P Gillan (Chair)
Cllr M Barrett
Cllr M Weaver

Cllr C Snow (Vice-Chair)
Cllr S Harris

Apologies:

Cllr D Reilly

Cllr J Webster

Officers present:

Helen Munro (Clerk)

Others in Attendance

Cllr N Stratton

23/096. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Reilly and Webster. The reasons given were accepted.

23/097. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr Barrett declared an interest in item 23/102 as he was an allotment tenant.

23/098. **MINUTES.** The minutes from the committee meeting held on Monday 27 February 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

23/099. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** There were none.

23/100. **CLERK'S REPORT.** The following report was **noted**:

- a. Tennis Court Refurbishment. Work to the courts has been completed. There are some minor snagging issues and a date for these to be rectified is being arranged.
- b. Fruit Tree Avenue. The grant was successfully applied for. There was limited stock of suitable bare rooted trees. Therefore, this has been delayed until late August / early September when stock will be replenished. Trees to be planted in the autumn.
- c. Wildflower Meadow Improvements. The grant was successfully applied for. Work to be undertake in the autumn.
- d. Dog Bins. No progress has been made.
- e. Floral Displays. A load test for street columns needed for expansion to the hanging baskets has been successfully passed. The load test lasts for 3 years.

- f. Trees in the Coppice. Gathering residents' views about tree planting has begun.
- g. War Memorial. It was not possible to add the repointing the paving slabs into the grant for the War Memorial Clean. This has been added to a further grant application.
- h. Event on Recreation Ground. An unauthorised event had been held in the recreation ground at the weekend. A significant amount of rubbish had been left for staff to deal with. A letter would be sent to the organisers of the event asking them to request permission in future and to be responsible for the rubbish generated.

23/101. **OPEN SESSION.** There was no one to speak.

23/102. **ALLOTMENTS.**

- a. The purchase of a communal shredder was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that this would not be progressed due to the cost and logistics of organising and using a communal shredder.
- b. A request to use an allotment plot to grow on saplings for later planting around the parish was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with this. It was agreed that these trees must be removed from the allotment site and replanted elsewhere when they reach a certain height.

23/103. **BURIAL.** A report recommending a change to the fee for the Transfer of grave ownership was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to change the fee structure and a new fee of £45 was approved for simple transfer of grave ownership.

23/104. **BURIAL GROUND.** Correspondence regarding the homeless man parking in the burial ground was noted and discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to liaise with the Community Warden to help with the situation and undertake steps to help the person find suitable accommodation.

23/105. **OLD CHURCH.**

- a. Remedial action required to the tarmac path was noted.
- b. The specification was discussed, and it was agreed that the tarmac option was not appropriate in the setting. It was agreed that further research be undertaken into removal of the old tarmac and replacing with paving slabs. It was also agreed to investigate the use of type 1/road plannings as an alternative if paving slabs was too expensive.
- c. Quotes obtained for 4 options were discussed. Further quotes would be sought for paving slabs or type 1/road plannings and presented at the next committee meeting.

- 23/106. **WAR MEMORIAL.** Cleaning the stone plaque in front of the war memorial was considered. It was **RESOLVED** that staff clean it first before considering external contractors.
- 23/107. **LOWER GREEN RECREATION GROUND.**
- a. A request from a resident to install a public toilet in the Recreation Ground was considered. There were considerable concerns about the cost and ongoing maintenance implications. Future consideration of remodelling the pavilion to provide a community café and toilet was an option.
 - b. Damage to single point swing was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** not to progress with its replacement at this time. It was agreed that work to obtain a climbing frame under the section 106 agreement should be progressed instead.
 - c. The Tennis Coach had requested permission to play music for Cardio Tennis. It was **RESOLVED** that this would not be permitted due to concerns of nuisance to residents.
 - d. Quotes for removal and disposal of the garage were discussed. As there was asbestos in the roof of the garage, a specialist contractor would be needed. It was **RESOLVED** to approve Contractor B, Asbestos Gone for £1,400.
- 23/108. **COMMUNITY LITTER PICK.**
- a. A suggested date of 30 September at 10:30am would be suggested to Full Council.
 - b. Refreshments would not be served. Volunteers would be requested at the next Full Council meeting.
- 23/109. **REPLACEMENT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT.** Quotes for battery operated hedge cutter, power backpack and quick charger were considered. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the equipment from Contractor B, Kidmans for £1,017.00.
- 23/110. **COFFEE VAN.** A request to allow a coffee van to trade from the Village Green was considered. There was concern about litter and competition with existing businesses in the centre of the village. It was **RESOLVED** not to allow trading from the village green.
- 23/111. **RISKS.** No new risks had been identified.
- 23/112. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS OR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.** There was concern about food waste being disposed of in the

planter by the bus stop near the Camden Arms. It was agreed that the Clerk would report this to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

A report of a damaged fence by the footpath adjacent to Lower Green Recreation Ground was discussed. It was agreed that this would be reported to TWBC to ascertain if anything could be done about the fence.

23/113. **MEETING DATES.** The date of **25 September 2023** for the next Open Spaces meeting was noted.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 16:36pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman