

# PARISH COUNCIL OF DENMEAD



## MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2016 IN THE BARN GREEN ROOM, THE OLD SCHOOL, DENMEAD COMMENCING AT 7:30pm

Cllr I Brown	(P)	Cllr F Hull	(P)
Cllr A Huntington	(P)	Cllr N Lander-Brinkley	(P)
Cllr P Langford-Smith	(P)	Cllr S Nienaltowski (Chairman)	(P)
Cllr K Scholey	(P)	Cllr G West	(P)
Cllr M Willoughby	(P)		

Also present – Mr Tony Daniells, Clerk to the Council.

**066/17A** Apologies: There were no apologies for absence.

**067/17A** Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

**068/17A** Minutes of the Previous meeting: The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 2 November 2016 were submitted for approval. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes of the Amenities Committee be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed.**

**069/17A** Matters arising and Outstanding matters from Previous Minutes:

Minute reference 040/17A: It was reported that Helen Jackson had volunteered to remain as a member of the Working Party set up to look at the feasibility of providing a boules court in Denmead. No other matters were raised.

**070/17A** Public Participation (S.0.1 (c)): There was no requirement for a Public Session.

**071/17A** Correspondence:

- a) Letter from Mr O'Halloran: A request to pave an area of open space land to provide hardstanding for car parking was considered. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the request was refused and that paving slabs and bins already on DPC open space were removed by the end of January 2017.**
- b) Zurich Insurance: An email had been received from the Council's insurance company accepting a claim for damage to a patio from a Council owned tree. The Council was advised to treat the stump to prevent any regrowth. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the liability and to treat the stump by grinding or by chemical treatment.**
- c) Funding from Sport England: Details of funding streams available in 2017 had been received. The Council had four projects that it was looking to fund, and three of these in the Ashling Park could be combined to submit a larger bid for funding. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Clerk would factor this new funding into his research at the start of 2017, and seek advice from those who had been successful in their bids.**
- d) Tree related subsidence: A letter and report had been received detailing a subsidence claim from a householder in The Smithy. The damage was alleged to have been caused by clay shrinkage with a DPC owned tree identified as the cause. The map supplied with the report was for a different address and did not identify the tree(s) affecting the property. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to request more information to identify the tree implicated in the claim, and then to inspect the tree with a site visit and report back to Amenities Committee on suggested action.**
- e) Removal of BT telephone booths: BT was consulting on their proposal to remove the remaining two phone booths from Denmead due to infrequent use. Opinions differed with some Councillors agreeing that if the phone booths were commercially unviable then they should be removed, with others resisting the removal of the last phone booth from the village. **It was RESOLVED by a majority that the phone booth at Forest Mead could be removed and to investigate if the phone booth at Park Road could be replaced with a red phone box.**

**072/17A** Landscape Working Party:

- a) The Clerk referred members to the notes of the last LWP meeting held on 22 November 2016. He summarised some of the items in the notes. **It was AGREED that the Clerk would summarise salient points from the meetings before Committee received them. Any actions or recommendations to the parent committee would be as separate items on the agenda.**
- b) The notes from the Landscape Working Party meeting held on 22 November 2016 were received.

- (c) LWP had made two recommendations to the Amenities Committee
- i. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the quote of £1,500 to clear the undergrowth and maintain the shrubberies along Forest Road.**
  - ii. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Groundstaff were permitted to reline part of the pond in the Rookwood Nature Reserve.**

**073/17A Matters relating to Ashling Park:**

Shower Controls: The Committee were asked to consider replacing shower controls in the Pavilion on a like for like basis or to replace them with a different specification. The latter were cheaper to purchase but would involve cost for a small modification to the pipework. **It was RESOLVED by a majority to replace the shower controls with units of the same specification.**

**074/17A Open Spaces**

- (a) Goodman Fields:
- i. Footbridge: a quote to install a footbridge to link the middle and back fields had been received. **Provided the sleepers to be used were new and not recycled, it was RESOLVED by a majority to accept the quote and to install the footbridge.**
  - ii. Moles: The presence of moles in the fields was noticeable. Moles had been removed in 2009 when the field was used by the Striders, but they no longer used the fields for jogging. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that moles were natural inhabitants found in the countryside and no action would be taken.**
- (b) Use of Kidmore Field: The organiser of a proposed Summer Ball had advised the Clerk that they were unable to commit to the date in June due to the cost of staging this. The field could now be booked to the Scouts for a camp. **NOTED.**

**075/17A Hedge at Kidmore Lane Car Park:**

- a) Cllr Langford-Smith reported that the old hedge to the front of the car park had been removed. The Groundstaff would check and remove any remaining bramble roots and add some manure to the soil. Once completed, the new hedging would be planted. **NOTED.**

**076/17A Denmead Daycare**

The Chairman asked for views on his report following a meeting with Daycare. In the discussion, Councillors questioned the use of the Youth Room and agreed that it could be used if not needed by the youth but that it should be left as found. This differed from that recorded in the report. The business rating of the youth room was questioned and letters from the Valuation Office would suggest that the room was not zero rated. The purpose of the youth room was explained. Another view was that if the facility was available for commercial hire, then the youth room should also be available. The Chairman proposed that the report was accepted. **It was RESOLVED by a majority to reject the report.** In understanding the reason for rejection, it was agreed that the youth room should be left as it was found after use by Daycare otherwise it changed the lease agreement. The Chairman would take this up with Daycare at the next quarterly review.

**077/17A Vandalism:** The Clerk reported that

- i. An abandoned car had been removed. Broken glass would be cleared by the Groundstaff,
- ii. Gas canisters had been found underneath the play house in the Ashling Park

The Clerk was asked to confirm the procedure for removal of abandoned vehicles.

Cllr Willoughby declared a personal interest in item i as he overlooked the car park from where he lived.

**078/17A Scout Group Lease**

There would be no update of the Lease agreement for the Scouts use of Kidmore Field until other higher priority work had been completed.

**079/17A Sponsorship of Roundabouts in Forest Road and flower beds around the village.**

Cllr Langford-Smith gave a verbal update and advised that she had met with officers from both HCC & WCC and that the roundabouts would be given priority for maintenance with this being carried out nine times a year. This would make them more attractive to sponsors. She would now work with the Market Towns Development Officer to attract sponsorship. **NOTED.**

**080/17A Forestry Commission Liaison Group:** The next Liaison meeting with the Forestry Commission would be held on 23 January 2017 and the date was **NOTED**.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.47pm. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, 8 February 2017.