

# PARISH COUNCIL OF DENMEAD



## MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2018 IN THE BARN GREEN ROOM, THE OLD SCHOOL, DENMEAD COMMENCING AT 7:30pm

Cllr K Andreoli (Chairman)	(P)	Cllr I Brown	(P)
Cllr N Lander-Brinkley	(P)	Cllr P Langford-Smith	(P)
Cllr E Marks		Cllr K Scholey	(P)
Cllr G West		Cllr M Willoughby	(P)

Also present –four members of the public and Mr Tony Daniells, Committee Clerk.

**067/18A** Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Marks and West.

**068/18A** Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

**069/18A** Minutes of the Previous meeting: The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 17 January 2018 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.**

**070/18A** Matters arising and Outstanding matters from Previous Minutes:

The Chairman considered each item in the list of outstanding matters and the following comments were made:

- Cllr Scholey was supplied with keys to the Pavilion which he had offered to get 12 further keys cut.
- Rangers would be able to paint out the youth room on wet weekends. Use of low VOC paints would be used. The youth had requested using a wall for a mural but no details were available
- Guidance on pond safety were received. Council had fenced the pond to reduce risk. Signs should be placed around the pond to warn of deep water/silt
- Quotes were being requested to replace the pavilion kitchen worktops.

Other outstanding matters were either included on the agenda or there was no further update to give. The status report from the Head Groundsman was reviewed. The Clerk gave an update on obtaining replacement mobile phones.

The Clerk was asked that when hedges along Forest Road were cut, they were all cut to the same height.

The Clerk was asked to confirm that no nesting birds would be disturbed when cutting hedges in March

**071/18A** Public Participation (S.0.1 (c)): At 7.47 pm the meeting recessed into open forum to allow questions and comments from members of the public. The meeting re-convened at 8.07 pm.

The Committee agreed that agenda item 9d), Heath Field and item 9b), Kidmore Field would be taken as the next items of business

**072/18A** Heath Field

(a) The Clerk introduced this item. A 2 in 1 gate was available to replace the gate at the maintenance entrance and so allow pedestrian access. Whilst some Councillors considered this supported the strategy to open the field for more use by residents others did not wish to incur cost until the report from the Working Party was available and the uses of the Field were known. **It was RESOLVED not to install a 2 in 1 gate with three votes for and three against with the Chairman using his casting vote to maintain the status quo that no change to the gate was made.**

(b) Cllr Langford-Smith asked for a skip to be hired to allow the Heath Field to be cleared of debris such as brick rubble, and cut down ivy. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to hire a skip to tidy up Heath Field.**

**073/18A** Kidmore Field

(a) Letter from Denmead Scouts: The Scouts had requested use of Kidmore Field to hold a car boot sale to raise funds to support Scouts attending the World Scout Jamboree in 2019. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to support this request, that the fee was waived and to remind the Scouts that they could apply for a grant to help fund those Scouts attending the Jamboree.**

- (b) Landscape Working Area: The Head Groundsman had met with Terry from the Ville Bowmen to look at how a work area could be provided with no impact to the Bowmen. Three options had been suggested. Option 1 would impact on the shooting distances needed by the Bowmen. Options 2 & 3 met the needs of both parties with option 2 favoured. Options 2 & 3 both utilised some of the car parking and the loss of this parking was a concern to Councillors. The need for a working area was recognised. In a few years time, land from planning gain may allow other options to be explored. **It was AGREED that Cllr Langford-Smith would meet onsite with the Head Groundsman and Terry to understand the need and impact.**

Support for a second storage container for use by the Ville Bowmen had been previously agreed by Council but Fields in Trust should be asked to agree this, and a second storage container for DPC use.

**074/18A** Correspondence

- (a) An email was received from a resident of Rookwood thanking the ground staff for their management of the Nature Reserve and how their efforts were appreciated. **NOTED.**
- (b) Emails from residents requesting that the fence at Heath Field be retained were discussed at Full Council but the emails were acknowledged by this Committee

**075/18A** Scale of Charges

- (a) Councillors first considered the rationale behind the charging for use of Council owned land. Fees had originally been set by comparison with charges set by other local councils. A summary of income and expenditure by area was given. Consideration should be given to consistent charging for use by commercial, non commercial and charity users. It was proposed to increase fees by 3% but subject to further investigations. **This proposal was amended and it was RESOLVED to defer an increase of 3% until the next meeting of this Committee when a full table of charges for all users was to be available for agreement.**
- (b) Cultivation Plots: **It was RESOLVED by a majority to increase cultivation plot fees by £1 to £26 a year.**

**076/18A** Matters Relating to Ashling Park/Ashling Pavilion

- (a) Additional Storage: Fields in Trust had approved the siting of a storage container in Ashling Park. **It was unanimously resolved to purchase a 20 feet FG grade container at a cost of £2,050 and recover the cost by a charge on the Pavilion hirer of £10 a week.**
- (b) Vertidrainage: The Committee briefly considered alternatives to vertidrainage. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to carry out vertidrainage of the football pitches and accept the quote from Kestrel.**
- (c) Tree Works: The tree survey had identified decay in two trees in Ashling Park that required climbing to determine the full extent of the faults. Following an inspection by a tree surgeon, further works had been identified which was to reduce or remove decaying limbs overhanging a footpath. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the recommendation for works to the trees and submit an application to WCC for works to protected trees, and to ask the Council's contractor for a quote for the works.**
- (d) Ashling Pavilion 5 year Electrical Check: **It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the quote from Mayo Electrical Contractors and carry out an electrical installation check for the Ashling Pavilion.**

**077/18A** Landscaping

- a) Goodman Fields
- i. The Committee received an email from Hants and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) on what to include on a wildlife information board. A visit had given a snapshot of what could be seen at the time of the visit. The email concluded with an offer to develop the information board together. **It was AGREED to take up the offer with Cllr Lander-Brinkley taking the lead.**
  - ii. Cllr Scholey considered that the area by the stream could be made more attractive if the area and stream banks were maintained, similar to that at Bridge Green. Further picnic tables could then be installed there to encourage use. **It was AGREED that the Head Groundsman should maintain this area to the same standard at Bridge Green and that further picnic tables could be purchased from any budget surplus at year end.**
  - iii. It was asked if the Council's preferred supplier could suggest a way to repair the entrance to Goodman Fields and to get a quote for this work. It was also asked if the weeds at the entrance could be removed.
- b) Harvest Field
- It was asked that the two sacks by the entrance gate were removed and that a restrictor was installed

there. The fence to the side of the gate towards Forest Road should be checked for soundness.

c) **Play Area Inspections**

Annual play area inspections had been completed by Andy Figgins and his reports were awaited. A verbal summary had indicated that the play area at Creech View had reached its end of life. **NOTED.**

d) **Tree Works:** A surveyors report had implicated Council trees in a subsidence claim. DPC maintained these trees in compliance with a similar report some years ago. Further investigations were being made to determine the cause of the subsidence. **It was AGREED to await further correspondence on the matter and to keep DPC's insurers informed.**

e) **Swings on Bridge Green:** Two young residents had offered to fund a swing on Bridge Green. Council were grateful for the offer but did not wish to establish a play area at this location when similar facilities were available at The Barn. **It was AGREED that the Clerk would write a letter to this effect.**

f) **Village Memorial:** The suggestions for a new war memorial on The Green had previously been accepted. Indicative drawing from the Scouts were not to hand. **It was AGREED that Cllrs Langford-Smith and Andreoli would meet with the Scouts to take this forward.**

g) **Water Bowser:** The specification and prices for water bowsers were received. A new bowser would allow all DPC trees and planters to be watered by the ground staff. The cost of a bowser had been budgeted for. **It was RESOLVED to purchase a 650 ltr bowser at a cost of £2,795.**

**078/18A Landscape Team Staffing Arrangements**

Recent interviews for the post of Ranger/Groundsman had resulted in two candidates being offered the role but both turning down the offer. The Head Groundsman had suggested employing two part time Rangers to work alternate weeks of 20 hours a week to cover weekend sports and gate locking, and an additional full time groundsman. The benefit of separating the Ranger duties from the Groundstaff was accepted. The need for an additional groundsman was not understood as there were currently two teams of two, but the matter could be discussed again if necessary. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to advertise to recruit two Rangers to work 20 hours on alternate weeks.**

**079/18A Landscape Staff Training**

**It was unanimously RESOLVED to support attendance at a Basic Tree Survey and Inspection course at a cost of £155.**

**080/18A Vandalism:** One incident of vandalism had been reported of a youth undoing the bolts on the skatepark ramps.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.38pm. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, 11 April 2018

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

Four members of the Public

Amenities Committee – 28 February 2018

A resident of Ashling Gardens asked

- For clarification of the decision making process between Amenities Committee and Full Council.
- Reiterated a request from the War Memorial Hall Management Committee to be given a lease of the Heath Field
- Asked for the costs to maintain Heath Field over the past 10 years
- Asked how correspondence was received by Councillors
- Questioned why the Valuation Report for Heath Field did not appear under Correspondence on agendas
- Asked for clarification over an item on the agenda relating to a side pedestrian access to Heath Field

The resident was given an answer at the meeting to all of her questions.

Two members of Ville Bowmen thanked the Council for helping with charges whilst they built up the club and for promoting the club with an article in Denmead Scene. They also offered to clarify any matters relating to the groundstaff working area.