

# PARISH COUNCIL OF DENMEAD



## MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018 IN THE BARN GREEN ROOM, THE OLD SCHOOL, DENMEAD COMMENCING AT 7:30pm

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

Also present were two members of the public, Mr Gareth Davies, Clerk to the Council and Mr Tony Daniells, Committee Clerk.

**012/19A** Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Pearson and Cllr Willoughby.

**013/19A** Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

**014/19A** Minutes of the Previous meeting: The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 were submitted for approval. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes of the Amenities Committee were accepted as an accurate record and duly signed.**

**015/19A** 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:

(a)

- Tennis Courts: The situation with the new Tennis Courts is ongoing, Cllr Langford-Smith requested that she approach WCC with regards to money from the CIL to assist the delivery of the MUSA. She continued that she had been informed by DC Brook that there is unallocated CIL available for Parish Councils to assist in these types of projects.
- Pavilion Keys: Waiting for a quote from CIA.
- Worktop in Ashling Pavilion: The work to be undertaken has been inspected and now waiting for a quote.
- Information Board: The board and the lectern have been ordered and would arrive in approximately four weeks.
- Scout Hut Lease: Cllr Langford-Smith is to replace Cllr West in discussions with the Scouts over the Lease of the Hut.
- Storage Area for Groundstaff: The contractor had stated that the Storage area would be completed in August or September when the ground is hard. Cllr Langford-Smith stated that due to the good weather the ground was hard at the moment and that the contractor is requested to bring the date forward.
- Rubbish Clearance: The rubbish from Goodman's Field had been removed and that it was now at Kidmore Field waiting for a skip. The Chairman stated that if the skip could not be provided in a reasonable time, alternatives for disposal of the rubbish should be sought. Cllr Langford-Smith informed the Committee that an address had been found and that this had been passed to the police.
- Wetlands Clearance: A contractor to clear Wetlands had arranged for September.
- Creech View Play Area: The Play Area is to be removed and budget is available to replace with a new surface. Cllr Langford-Smith voiced her concerns stating that the children's summer holidays are approaching and to avoid any accidents the equipment should be removed, she continued that she would obtain brochures and have a costed proposal for the next meeting.
- HAVI Watch: HAVI watches have arrived and training in their use was being arranged by the Head Groundsman.
- Green Beach Tree: Cllr Langford-Smith enquired to when the tree was being removed and requested that it is before October.
- Boules Court: No further update in regards to the Boules Court.

(b) **Head Groundsman Report**

The Chairman reported that the Bench at the DCA had been installed he continued that work had also been completed in regards to Ashling footpath trees, the removal of debris from the Heath Field and the five-year electrical check of the Ashling Pavilion. He continued that the Youth Room painting was on hold as staff were busy with outdoor work. He enquired on a second quote to the entrance to Goodman's field and was informed by the Clerk that this was still ongoing. He continued by enquiring whether DFC were still conducting training in the goalmouths at KGV and was informed by the Clerk that they were no longer training in the goal mouths but using other areas of Ashling Park. The Chairman raised the issue of changing room number four with regards to the spare chairs and other items. The groundsman has arranged to have these removed.  
**NOTED.**

**016/19A Public Participation (S.0.1 (c)):** At 7.40 pm the meeting recessed into open forum to allow questions and comments from members of the public. The meeting re-convened at 8.05 pm.

**017/19A The Election of Vice-Chairman to the Amenities Committee:** The Chairman requested that nominations are received for Vice Chairman of the Amenities Committee. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr Scholey is elected as Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee.**

**018/19A Correspondence :**  
Correspondence received from a resident of Great Mead: A letter was received outlining her disappointment with the Parish Council with regards to cultivation of an area adjacent to her property.  
**NOTED.**

**019/19A Matters Relating to Ashling Park/Ashling Pavilion**

- a) Pavilion Wall Damage: The Chairman reported that children had caused damage to the wall of the Pavilion by kicking a ball against it. Cllr Brown suggested that a fence is installed to deter inappropriate use of the wall. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to repair the brickwork to the Pavilion and to obtain costings to install a fence alongside the path to deter the inappropriate use of the wall.**
- b) To receive an update to receive a grant from the FA for pitches renovation: The Chairman reported on the FA pitch renovation with regards to improving the drainage of the pitches commenting that the report should be matched with Funds. The Clerk reported that the FA expected that funds in reserves would be expected to be used prior to them contributing. Cllr Langford-Smith stated that most of the reserves are to fund the Multi Use Game Area which would demonstrate that DPC are investing in sports facilities and would require the grant in order to carry out drainage of the football pitches. **It was AGREED that the Clerk to obtain clarification of restrictions of what can be done with the fields in trust.**
- c) Fire alarm alerts The Clerk explained that currently the fire alarm response time for callout is currently five minutes, due to staffing levels and the situation of not all staff living in Denmead a suggestion was made that the alarm response time is lengthened to fifteen minutes to make more staff available for callout duties. Cllr Brown stated if the time were to be lengthened to fifteen minutes there may be implications with regards to insurance and how often a call out had been necessary. The Chairman reported that the only time to his knowledge was after a power cut. Cllr West enquired if the alarms had a battery backup which would operate the alarms during a power cut. **It was AGREED that the Clerk investigate the specification on the alarm system battery backup and the implications with regards to insurance in lengthening the response time**
- d) Cllr Brown stated that there was there had been vandalism to the guttering above the window of the Pavilion. He continued that they it was on the same wall as the damage to the brickwork. The clerk stated that the damage may have been caused by youths kicking a ball against the wall. **NOTED.**

**020/19A Landscaping**

a) Goodman Fields:

- (i) The Chairman reported on the fly tipping at Goodman's Field, he commented on the use of a camera in order to record video images for evidence Cllr Langford-Smith explained the Regulations with regards to CCTV explaining that it may be difficult to implement. Cllr Brown stated that an option that was available was to lock the gate overnight, **NOTED.**

b) Kidmore Field:

- (i) There were no matters raised in regards to Kidmore Field.

c) Harvest Field:

- (ii) There were no matters raised in regards to the Harvest Field.

d) Heath Field:

- (iii) The Clerk reported that the tree at 1 Ashling Gardens had been requested to be cut back by the resident. He continued that a tree surgeon had reported that if the desired work was undertaken it could cause a lean which would make the tree in danger of collapse. Cllr Langford-Smith stated that to mitigate risk the tree should be removed. **It was RESOLVED by a majority that the tree is removed from the border with 1 Ashling Gardens at the Heath Field.**

e) Trees:

- (i) Opinion of tree surgeon on trees that may cause structural damage: The Clerk stated that he had received a report from a specialist tree surgeon outlining the many factors involved in completing such a survey and the difficulty in predicting any damage to property caused by trees. **It was AGREED that due to the complexity of the survey, damage to property caused by trees should be dealt with according to each individual case.**

- (ii) Information from insurance company with recommended distances of tree species from property. Cllr Langford-Smith stated that the report received should be passed on to Groundstaff so that the distances can be taken into consideration when planting. **NOTED.**

- (iii) 27 The Smithy: Cllr Brown stated that he had investigated the trees and commented that removal would leave a gap at the roadside and expose the side of the house. He proposed that when these were removed more trees should be planted in their place. **It was RESOLVED that the work which the insurance company had requested is carried out and the area replaced with more suitable trees.**

- (iv) 33 The Willows: **It was unanimously RESOLVED to submit an application for works to a protected tree to reduce the crown by 3 metres all round.**

- (v) 7 The Willows: **It was unanimously RESOLVED to submit an application for works to a protected tree to reduce the crown by 3 metres all round.**

f) Village Memorial: The Chairman reported that she had sourced 100 poppies for the War Memorial and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary to commemorate the end of the Great War. She continued that she had been advised of the availability of the Ypres poppies and after further investigation she had contacted the organiser of the Ypres ceremony who offered her 105 poppies for the cost of delivery at 45p a mile for 150 miles plus a donation to Combat Stress this was resolved at full council and details had been given to the Clerk for delivery. **NOTED.**

g) Licence to cultivate: Cllr Langford-Smith questioned the licence to cultivate pertaining the section on height commenting that nothing is allowed to grow over 0.6 metres unless specifically authorised by DPC. The Clerk stated that the origin of the licence was to keep the open space of Denmead. **It was AGREED that the height remains at 0.6 metres on the licence to cultivate.**

**021/19A Vandalism:** The Clerk stated that there were two incidents of vandalism. Glass on the basketball courts and that the and that slimming world had damaged council property **It was unanimously RESOLVED to contact the local Slimming World agent to inform her of DPC's displeasure.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.14pm. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## **Public Participation**

A resident of Great Mead stated her concern that an area of Council Land which she has cultivated. For 32 years and has had no issues. In 1991 she stated that she had advice training and equipment from WCC in order to maintain this area. She continued that in in 2016, the Council had cut back her hedges killing many different species of wildlife. At the time she had sent a letter enquiring why the hedge could not be cut in winter, who had the specialist knowledge and where was the bio diversity report for DPC. She continued that the growth of hedges in the Greenway are not being maintained correctly, stating that adjacent Parish Councils have the same area to maintain with the same resources and these are kept. She was concerned that the overgrown brambles were a police matter.

She continued that she had been offered a license to cultivate she had sought legal advice and had been informed by the solicitor that this was an unfair contract.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018, an unknown male came and began to cut the hedges, when she asked the man to stop he shouted at her and called her a very unpleasant name. The police were called with regards to this. She continued that 9 days later another part of the Greenways was cleared although she does not know who cut this area.

The resident was informed that she was offered a licence to cultivate which she had refused. A licence to cultivate had been given to another resident.

The Chairman stated that a letter in reply would be drafted and forwarded to the resident.