

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL PROJECTS WORKING GROUP
HELD ON 4th AUGUST 2005 AT 8.00 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY**

Present : Cllr Mr C Alford
Cllr Mr A Barnett
Cllr Mr J Gaywood (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby
Cllr Mr B Ramsay
Cllr Mr A Tremain

In attendance : Mrs H Gilder (Assistant Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mr A Tremain declared a personal and prejudicial interest under minute item 6 in respect of Gorse Wood, as his private residence is located adjacent to the wood and withdrew from the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the New Burial Ground Working Group held on 5th July 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: That, the Terms of Reference of the Special Projects Working Group as approved by the Council at its meeting on 11th July 2005 be received and noted.

5. Sale of Land at Manor Field

The Group considered two letters from Messrs H.F & J. H Glover dated 21st July 2005.

The Group also received a report on the history of the negotiations with Messrs Glover in relation to the proposed purchase by the Council of two strips of land bordering Manor Field, since March 2004.

RESOLVED: That, a letter be sent to Messrs H.F & J.H Glover to advise them that:

- (a) The Working Group is prepared to recommend the Council to purchase the two strips of land, including the access way to the field, in the sum of £10,000, subject to confirmation from the District Valuer.
- (b) This offer is not connected with the plans to access the new burial ground, but is for the general welfare of Manor Field as a whole, and in particular to enable the Council to discharge its responsibilities in maintaining the outer perimeter fence, for which it is understood that the Council is responsible.
- (c) As part of the purchase arrangements the Council would be prepared to grant the Company rights of way in perpetuity along the western strip of land to enable it to continue to use the adjoining land in its ownership for its present purpose.

- (d) The Council accepts that it is responsible for the maintenance and good repair of the access gate to Manor Field and that due to the gate's dangerous condition is arranging for its replacement with a new gate which will incorporate improved emergency and public access facilities.
- (e) Details of the proposals for the new gate will be made available once they have been agreed by the Council and,
- (f) The Working Group requires a response to its offer referred to at (a) above, within 28 days of the date of the Clerk's letter giving details of this decision.

6. Gorse Wood

At the meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee on 2nd June 2005 it was recommended that the 'terms of reference of the New Burial Ground Working Group (since renamed the Special Projects Working Group) be extended to investigate the problems associated with the misuse of Gorse Wood and that the Group be invited to report back its findings to the Council' This recommendation was ratified by the Council at its meeting on 13th June 2005.

The Group agreed that the main problem in Gorse Wood was fly tipping and expressed serious concerns over the costs involved in the regular clearance of the wood.

Cllr Barnett reported that he and the Assistant Clerk had recently met with the Probation Service to discuss the possibility of the clearance work being undertaken by offenders serving community sentences.

The Probation Service confirmed that the clearance work was a project that they would be willing to take on at no cost to the Council other than the cost of the provision of skips and toilet facilities.

Cllr Barnett reported that the Probation Service were only available for work on a Thursday and the Group agreed that it would be of more benefit to have one side of the wood cleared on the first visit and the other side cleared on the second with the skip being delivered in the morning and taken away in the evening of the same day. The same would apply for the portable toilet.

RECOMMENDED: That,

- (1) The Probation Service be requested to carry out the required clearance work over two days and that the Council be requested to make available the sum of up to £400.00 for the cost of the skip and portable toilet hire whilst the work is being undertaken and
- (2) The Clerk be requested to write to West Kent Housing Association to inform them that the Council is concerned about the problems associated with the misuse of Gorse Wood and to invite them to enter into discussions with the Parish Council with a view to resolving some of these issues and to invite their suggestions as to how the area could be improved.

7. Date of the next meeting

To be arranged

The meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

