

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th FEBRUARY 2007 AT 7.00 p.m.
AT THE HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr A Barnett (Chairman)
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mrs Oxtoby
Cllr Mrs M Solman
Cllr Mr A Tremain

In Attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Mr A Osborn (Community Warden)
Mr D Bisch (Community Warden)
3 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr J Gaywood, Cllr Mr V Sewell and Cllr C Ward.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Pond

(a) The Committee examined a report undertaken by Sharon Bayne on the “pond” located in Church Road to the north of Hartley Burial Ground. The report set out three alternative management options, which included: (1) non intervention and creation of a new pond, (2) creation of a marshland and, (3) digging out and relining the existing pond.

The Committee considered each option and favoured the creation of a marshland. The Committee felt that the wildlife would benefit from the retention a small pond, which could be created within the marshland area by introducing logs into the pond to retain the water. The Committee agreed that no works should be undertaken to the pond which would interfere with the drainage of surface water from the adjacent highway, but felt that surface water from the highway could be directed to discharge onto the marshland area which could act as a filter for the collection of silt.

The Committee felt that the project would benefit from an interpretative panel explaining the history of the pond and describing the different areas in the pond, including the different species of flora and fauna that could be expected to be found.

(b) The Community Wardens were invited to express their views on the proposal to create a marshland in the existing pond and explained how the Response Team could assist the Council with the project. The Community Warden confirmed the labour from the Response Team would be provided free of charge, but they would require a skip and other tools and equipment such as strimmers, loppers, garden forks, etc.

It was suggested that the project could be tackled in two phases. Phase one could include the clearance of any dead wood from the pond, clearance of any bramble, etc from the surrounding banks and cutting back any overhanging tree branches. Phase two could include works to enhance and improve the area by undertaking works to create the marshland, planting suitable flora as suggested in the pond report and creating a small pond within the marshland area.

The Community Wardens agreed to prepare a method statement, undertake the necessary risk assessments and provide the Council with a costed list of the equipment, tools and material required to complete the project.

RECOMMENDED: That,

(1) the Council accept the management option number 2 as detailed in the report prepared by Sharon Bayne (page 6, paragraphs 42 to 51) to create a marshland, with the inclusion of an area for a small pond within the marshland and that the work be undertaken in two phases with phase one including works to clear and tidy up the pond and its surrounding area and phase two including works to create the marshland and small pond and to enhance the area by implementing the planting scheme as set out in the aforementioned report,

(2) the Council set aside a sum upto £1,000 to meet the cost of the hire of equipment and tools, and the purchase of new plants and,

(3) the Council make an application to Kent County Council's Local Members Community Grant for the design, supply and installation of an interpretative panel

4. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 13th March 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in Hartley Library

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Signed:..... Date:.....
Chairman of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

