

NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 2nd March 2007 in the Viewing Gallery of Ash Green Sports Centre

Present: Cllr A Barnett
Cllr. M Brown (Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs C Clark
Cllr. J Gaywood
Cllr. Mrs M Solman

In Attendance: Mrs J Redman
Mrs J Hoad
4 members of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence
Cllr Glover (working). His apology and reason for absence was duly accepted.
2. Declarations of Interest
Cllrs. Brown and Mrs Clark a personal interest in any matter relating to the New Ash Green Village Association. Cllr. Mrs Solman a personal interest in item 7 Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2007
The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2007 were signed as a true record.
4. Matters Arising (Not on the Agenda)
None.
5. Finance
 - 5.1 Balances – The balances as set out in Agenda A/03/07 were NOTED.
 - 5.2 Financial Statement – The financial statement as set out in Agenda A/03/07 was NOTED.
 - 5.3 Payments – The payments, 3.1-3.5, as set out in Agenda A/01/07 were AUTHORISED. An additional payment to ABC Fencing for the supply and installation of the wooden posts for the Horse Riding Route for the sum of **£340** was also AUTHORISED. PROPOSED Cllr. Brown SECONDED Cllr. Mrs Solman and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
6. Land and Site Maintenance
 - 6.1 Footpath leading from the Ash Road entrance to Northfield – It was NOTED that the PROW Officer had been to look at SD302 and had reported back to say that the vegetation appeared to be in a satisfactory condition at the present time.
 - 6.2 Cutting of Silage/Hay 2007 – The Secretary reported that only one expression of interest had been received, from Messrs. HF and JH Glover. After discussion, it was AGREED that a specification for the work be drawn up and sent to Messrs. HF and JH Glover and request that if they were interested in providing a quotation for the work, that it was received in time for discussion at the next Northfield Management Committee meeting.
 - 6.3 Heavy Roll of the Meadow 2007 – Two written quotations had been received from Messrs. HF and JH Glover for **£400** and David Gunn for **£570**. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Barnett, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Solman and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the quotation of **£400** from Messrs, HF and JH Glover be accepted. A request would be made for the work to be carried out before the end of March 2007.

6.4 Condition of the footpaths at the kissing gates on Northfield – It was reported that condition of the footpaths at the kissing gates on Northfield had been judged to be very muddy and slippery. It had been considered necessary, for reasons of health and safety, to sanction that wood chippings be spread around the kissing gates by TD Munday. This work had now been carried out and was proving successful. The footpath leading from the Black Lion public house to Courtfield had not been done.

6.5 Footpath barrier leading into Stocks Field – It had been discovered that the work to install a footpath barrier at this point had not been undertaken by the Contractor and the Secretary had written to him to find out why. A letter had been received by him stating that he had not undertaken the work for a variety of reasons, but mainly due to the fact that the work would not be cost effective for him to undertake. Further quotations would be sought from other contractors in time for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route

7.1 – The notes of the Horse Riding Route Advisory Committee held on 1st February 2007 were NOTED. Permission was given for the Advisory Group to go ahead and print the information packs for the Open Days on 17th and 18th March 2007. PROPOSED Cllr. Mrs Solman, SECONDED by Cllr. Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. Thanks were recorded to Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby and Mrs Brudenell for their assistance.

7.2 Advisory Group members, Declaration of Interests – The letter from the Policy Advisor at the Standards Board was discussed. Advice had been sought from the Standards Board following conflicting advice from KAPC and the Monitoring Officer on the declaring of interests by independent Advisory Group members. Cllr. Brown said that it was his personal view that all independent members should voluntarily declare any interests.

7.3 Letter from the New Ash Green Village Association relating to the Horse Riding Route dated 17th January 2007 – It was NOTED that a legal opinion had been sought from NALC relating to the terms of the consent as set out in the letter from the New Ash Green Village Association. That opinion was still awaited. Members discussed the letter from the New Ash Green Village Association and felt it to be ‘unreasonable’ in the way that the consent had been granted for the provision and a letter would be sent to them to that effect. Courtesy letters would also be sent to the Chairmen of Farm Holt and Caling Croft Resident societies informing them about the Horse Riding Route and when it would be opened.

7.4 Proposed Fun Run on Northfield – Members considered the request for a Fun Run to be held on Northfield, contained in correspondence from Mrs H Smith. The proposal was welcomed and a letter would be sent to Mrs Smith outlining the Committee’s consent to such an activity taking place on Northfield. Mrs Smith would be asked to provide reasonable notice of the date for the Fun Run, together with a copy of the Risk Assessment.

8. Boundaries

8.1 Boundary between Courtfield and Northfield – A revised quotation had been sought from the original contractors for the stock fencing to include a single strand of barbed wire. A quotation had also been requested for an additional 35 metres of stock fencing to be erected alongside the log barrier. The height of the posts in the specification had increased to 7’ to take account of the single strand of barbed wire that would be erected on top of the stock fencing. The revised quotations were as follows:-

TD Munday **£562.50**

Green Acre Landscapes **£663.62**

After discussion it was AGREED that, following further negotiation between the two Landowners and discussion over the shared cost, that the cheaper quotation from TD Munday be accepted.

8.2 Western boundary – A quotation had been received from TD Munday for the repair of the chestnut paling fence along the Ash Road boundary totalling **£107.00**. It was AGREED that this quotation be accepted. Members were also asked to consider at a future date replacing the whole section with post and rail and a specification would be drawn up and quotations sought. PROPOSED Cllr. Gaywood, SECONDED Cllr. Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

8.3 Hedge along the Ash Road Boundary – It was reported that Hartley parish council had asked Kent Highways to cut the top of the hedge but they had refused as it was not a Health and Safety issue. The side of the hedge where it was encroaching on to the pathway had been trimmed back. The Northfield Management Committee had been asked to consider including this section of hedge with any future hedge cutting work. It was AGREED that the Northfield Management Committee asked Kent Highways to re-consider and cut the top of the hedge, as in the opinion of the Committee the condition of the hedge had deteriorated because it had not been topped. Failing this, a contractor/s would be asked to quote. It was also suggested that advice should be sought of a specialist contractor to see what areas of the hedge required re-planting.

9. Barnetts Wood and New House Shaw

9.1 Log Barrier New House Shaw – It was NOTED that the work to create the log barrier had now been completed. Since completion however at least 3 posts had been removed and would need replacing. After discussion it was AGREED that the Contractor be asked to consider replacing the missing posts and at the same time concrete them into the ground. Email correspondence between the owner of Cavan and Hartley parish council concerning the positioning of the log barrier were discussed. It was AGREED that a site meeting be held between the owner of Cavan and representatives from the Northfield Management Committee to resolve the problem.

9.2 Quantitative Risk Assessment on New House Shaw – Two quotations had now been received as follows, for work to carry out a Quantitative tree Risk Assessment on New House Shaw.

Quaife Woodlands	£700
Andy Ball Specialist Tree Services	£585

It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Brown, SECONDED by Cllr. Gaywood and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the quotation of Andy Ball Specialist Tree Services be accepted in the sum **£585**.

9.3 Cutting of the grass in Barnetts Wood – The Committee were asked to consider increasing the number of cuts of the grass in Barnetts Wood from one to two. The first cut would take place at the end of May beginning of June with a second to follow in mid August. This would be at a cost of **£300** for the additional cut. PROPOSED Cllr. Gaywood, SECONDED Cllr. Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

9.4 Proposal by the New Ash Green Village Association to create a BMX track in Barnetts Wood – Members discussed the proposal by the New Ash Green Village Association in detail. A letter would be written to the New Ash Green Village Association setting out the reasons why the Committee felt the creation of a BMX track at this location to be totally inappropriate. The reasons would include:-

Health and Safety, child protection issues, insurance and erosion of the woodland area.

9.5 To consider planting more trees on Northfield – Cllr. Gaywood asked members to consider a long term plan to plant more trees on Northfield with a view to enhancing the area and create a parkland. He suggested that advice was sought from the Forestry Commission as to how this might be achieved.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 Visual Inspection Sheets – The visual inspection sheets for December and January 2007 were available for members to view and were NOTED. Mr Munday would be reminded to pursue the repair of the fence along the Church road boundary from Ship Cottage to the entrance gate.

10.2 EDF Energy – A meeting between the Co-Chairmen of the Northfield Management Committee and the Chairman of the New Ash Green Village Association to discuss the advice that had been received from NALC was being pursued.

10.3 EDF Energy – It was NOTED that Cllr. Barnett had asked that any work to lay the cabling underground should be done after the end of July 2007.

10.4 Sewer work on Northfield – It was NOTED that the Secretary would obtain a copy of the report on the work that was recently carried out on the sewer run along the southern boundary of Northfield.

11. Single Payment and Environmental Stewardship Scheme

11.1 ELS/HLS Scheme – Cllr. Barnett reported that it was likely the DEFRA grant received for 2006 would be in the region of £500. He was still in correspondence with them over the disputed total acreage and it was hoped that this matter would be sorted out as soon as possible, as it was important so that payments could be correct in the future. Cllr. Barnett was thanked by members for his efforts in dealing with the very complicated system under the Single Payment Scheme.

12. Correspondence and date of next meeting

No correspondence. The date of the next meeting was set for **Friday 13th April 2007 in the Pavilion, Manor Field, Hartley, commencing at 10.00am.**

13. Any other business

None.

Meeting closed at 11.55am

