

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8EL

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12th July 2007

Dear Councillor/Sports Club Representative

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee to be held on **Wednesday 18th July 2007** commencing at **7.30 p.m.** at **Hartley Library, Ash Road.**

Yours sincerely

Julie Hoad
Proper Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interests

To receive Members' declarations of interests.

3. Minutes

(WHITE)

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee held on 5th June 2007 as a correct record. (Annexed).

4. Cricket at Manor Field

To receive a report from New Ash Green and Hartley Cricket Club.

The Committee is requested to consider the proposed siting of a practice net following a meeting held at Manor Field on 21st June 2007 with representatives from the Cricket Club and Cllrs Barnett, Granger and Sewell.

5. Cricket at Longfield Hill

To receive a report from Meopham Cricket Club.

At the last meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee it was resolved to request a breakdown of the estimated costs to provide an electrical supply to the container at Longfield Hill. Meopham CC has provided this information and informs the Committee that the cost of providing a housing for the new electrical head, including ducting, would be £1,340. The cost of providing the new electrical supply would be £486.

6. Financial Report

(CREAM)

To consider a financial report indicating the net position of the allotments, open spaces and Manor Field Pavilion as at 12th July 2007. (Annexed).

7. Pond

(PINK)

(a) To receive a report on the recent work undertaken at the pond.

(b) The Council resolved at its meeting held on 11th June 2007 to approve the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee's recommendation that, "the Council

investigate taking adverse possession of the pond and surrounding banks where the ownership is unknown”.

The Committee is requested to note a letter dated 15th June 2007, and enclosures, from the Land Registry and to note that the Martin Tolhurst Partnership has been requested to submit a professional fee quotation to advise the Council on progressing the claim. (Annexed).

8. Hartley Wood

(a) The Committee is requested to note that the treework on land by Hartley Parish Council in Hartley Wood identified in a recent quantified risk assessment was completed on 15th June 2007. Three dead cherry trees located immediately adjacent to Pippins, Gorsewood Road were brought to the Clerk's attention and pursuant to financial regulation 3.3, the contractor was instructed to fell the tree dead trees to the ground at an additional cost of £ 425.53.

The Committee is requested to confirm the Clerk's actions.

(b) Following the treework undertaken on land owned by the Parish Council in Hartley Wood, the Council's insurers have confirmed in an e mail dated 5th July 2007 that the work undertaken is acceptable and that the wood is covered by the Public Liability section of the policy. All cover is subject to the standard Policy terms, conditions, exclusions and the Limit of Indemnity of £5,000,000.

The Council's insurers suggest that the Parish Council erect a sign stating that it is only responsible for the maintenance of the woodland under its ownership.

(c) At a meeting held on 11th June 2007 the Council approved a recommendation relating to the provision of a motorbike inhibitor at the entrance to the Hartley Wood off Beechlands Close. Enquiries over the ownership of the land upon which the inhibitor is to be sited has confirmed that the owner is not the proprietor of Gorsewood Farm, but is owned by four individuals none of whom live locally. It is intended to contact the landowners to enquire whether they would have any objection to the installation of a motorbike inhibitor.

Southwark Council has been informed of the continuing motorbike problem in Hartley Wood and the land fill site. Southwark Council has confirmed it is aware of the problem and are looking into methods to try and prevent further incursions

The Committee is requested to note the report.

(d) To consider seeking quotations for a quantified risk assessment on the land owned by the Council in Hartley Wood. The last inspection was carried out in October 2006.

9. Gorse Wood

(a) To receive and note a letter dated 6th June 2007 from Kent County Council confirming that footpath from Caxton Close to Gorsewood Road has been designated as a public right of way. (Annexed). **(YELLOW)**

(b) To consider the arboricultural risk assessment at Gorse Wood undertaken by Quaife Woodlands during June 2007. (Annexed) **(GREEN)**

10. Pavilion

(a) To consider quotations for the external redecoration of the Pavilion.

(b) To consider a quotation for the sum of £220 from South Eastern Plumbers to remove the steel boxing around the gas emergency control valve and to supply and install control valve housing with lockable door, including correct labelling for valve and cross bonding to pipe.

11. Manor Field

(a) To consider quotations, as set out below, received in respect of the cutting of the hedge located along the northern boundary of Manor Field:

B Ballard for the sum of £350 plus VAT to cut top and one side of the hedge

J C Brooker for the sum of £430 plus VAT to cut top and side of hedge, including self sown trees and bushes. Hedge to be cut with tapered side on Manor Field face of hedge.

12. Rectory Meadow

(a) To consider a quotation for the renovation of the noticeboard located on the entrance to Rectory Meadow next to Bramblefield Close.

(b) Pursuant to financial regulation the Clerk has been arrangements for damaged and hanging tree branches to be removed at a cost of £ **** The Committee is requested to confirm the Clerk's actions.

(c) To consider the appointment of consultant to undertake a botanical study of Rectory Meadow.

(d) To consider the purchase of a power scythe, thus enabling Rectory Meadow to be cut in the areas which are currently inaccessible with ordinary grass cutting equipment. The North West Kent Countryside Project has advised that the Council would be able to apply for a grant, in the region of £4,000, from Awards for All, which would secure the purchase of a power scythe. The North West Kent Countryside Project has offered to store the power scythe and suggested that in return the Project would be allowed to use the scythe on other sites and also charge the Parish Council a discounted rate for their time when cutting Rectory Meadow.

13. Lay by

To consider seeking quotations for the removal of the logs from the rear of the lay-by. The Committee is requested to consider an alternative means of retaining the earth: upright chestnut poles concreted into the ground.

14. Date of next meeting

List of circulated documents

Copies of all documents listed below are available for inspection in the Parish Office

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee held 5th June 2007 **(WHITE)**
2. Financial report indicating the net position of the allotments, open spaces and Manor Field Pavilion. **(CREAM)**
3. Letter dated 18th June 2007 from Land registry **(PINK)**
4. Land Registry Practice Guide 5 – Adverse possession of unregistered land and transitional provisions for registered land in the Land Registration Act 2002. **(PINK)**
5. Letter dated 6th June 2007 from Kent County Council – Claimed footpath from Caxton Close to Gorsewood Road **(YELLOW)**
6. Arboricultural Risk Assessment at Gorse Wood, June 2007. **(GREEN)**

Committee Membership

Cllr Barnett
Cllr Gaywood (ex officio)
Cllr Granger
Cllr Mrs Oxtoby

Cllr Mrs P Cole
Cllr Graeme
Cllr Harris (ex officio)
Cllr Sewell

