

NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 27th July 2007 in the Pavilion Manor Field Hartley

Present: Cllr A Barnett
Cllr. M Brown
Cllr. Mrs Brammer
Cllr. J Gaywood (Chairman)
Cllr. S Glover
Cllr. Mrs A Oxtoby

In Attendance: Mrs J Redman
3 members of the Public

Cllr. Mrs Brammer was welcomed back to the Northfield meeting as a member of the Management Committee.

1. Apologies for Absence

The Treasurer, Mrs Hoad.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Brown and Mrs Brammer a personal interest in any matter relating to the New Ash Green Village Association. Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby a personal interest in item 7 Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route. Cllr. Glover a prejudicial interest in items 6.1 Cutting of the Silage/Hay 2007 and 8.1 Boundary fence between Courtfield, Cavan and Northfield. With the agreement of members present, these two items were left until the end of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 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/07/07, were NOTED.

5.2 Financial Statement – The financial statement, as set out in Agenda A/07/07, was NOTED.

5.3 The payments 3.1 – 3.9, as set out in Agenda A/07/07, were AUTHORISED. An additional item, a payment to RAMSAK for the sum of £95 for the annual subscription was also included in the list of payments. PROPOSED Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby, SECONDED Cllr. Gaywood and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

5.4 Internal audit summary report – The Internal Audit Summary report was NOTED.

5.5 Signatories – The three signatories to the accounts held by Northfield Management Committee, Cllrs. Barnett, Brown and Gaywood were AGREED.

6. Land and Site Maintenance

6.1 Cutting of Silage/Hay 2007 – This item would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

6.2 Footpath barrier leading into Stocks Field – It was NOTED that the quotation to purchase and install the footpath barrier at this location has been accepted.

6.3 Ragwort removal – The process to remove ragwort from certain areas of Northfield was ongoing.

6.4 Replacement Dog Bin – It was NOTED that the dog bin had been delivered and would be erected.

6.5 Weedkilling and Fertilizing of the Play Area – It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Oxtoby, SECONDED by Cllr. Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the quotations to supply and spread fertilizer at a cost of **£70** from Westcut Mowing and **£288** from Complete Weed Management Ltd to weedkill to kill off the clover be accepted.

7. Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route

7.1 Report on the Horse Riding Route – Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby reported that the ride had to close recently because of more vandalism. The lock was ‘superglued’ and had to be replaced, however the ride had now re-opened. In a further effort to stop the ride the white horseshoe markers on the trees had been painted over. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that, due to the vandalism and the fact that the ride had to close, the Northfield Management Committee would extend the trial period for the ride for the remainder of the year (weather and ground conditions permitting). During this time, the Horse Riding Route Advisory Committee would continue to meet and at the end of the trial period consultation would take place with the residents of Ash and Hartley as well as the riders as to its future. A mechanism would be put in place so that members of the ride could be contacted as soon as possible if the ride had to close.

7.2 Trim Trail – Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby suggested that the provision of a Trim Trail on Northfield was discussed again. She reported on some initial research that she had undertaken on the subject and it was AGREED that Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby came back to the next meeting with proposals for discussion.

7.3 Fun Run on Northfield – It was NOTED that this event would not be taking place this year.

8. Boundaries

8.1 Boundary between Courtfield and Northfield – This item would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

8.2 Hedge along the Ash Road Boundary – It was NOTED that a letter had been written to the Highway Authority concerning the cutting of the hedge. A ‘holding’ reply had been received to say that the matter would be investigated.

8.3 Hedge along the South Ash Boundary – It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby, SECONDED by Cllr. Barnett and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the quotation received from TD Munday for **£120** to tidy up the hedge and clear the area between the post and rail fencing and the original boundary and to remove any brambles so that proper maintenance both sides of the fence can be effected be accepted.

9. Barnetts Wood and New House Shaw

9.1 Log Barrier New House Shaw – It was reported that the log barrier was continuing to be dismantled and that there were concerns over its current stability, safety and potential fire risk over the summer holidays. There were also reports that broken glass and bottles had been found in this area. Cllr. Barnett was of the opinion that the log barrier was working and that work had been undertaken recently to tidy it up. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Gaywood SECONDED by Cllr. Brown and CARRIED that the barrier would be closely monitored between now and the next meeting and then to take some action should it prove necessary to do so. It was also suggested that the PCSO’s and the Hartley Warden be asked to patrol that area of Northfield as often as possible and arrange for Mr Munday to do an extra litter pick if required.

9.2 To consider planting more trees on Northfield – It was NOTED that a letter had been sent to the Forestry Commission seeking more advice and information.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 Visual Inspection Sheets – The visual inspection sheets for May/June 2007 were available for members to view and was NOTED.

10.2 EDF Energy – It was NOTED that EDF Energy had confirmed that they were agreeable to enter into a sub-lease, however they had asked that when the land was valued, the District Valuer took into consideration the cost to EDF Energy for taking down the network when fixing the rent. The Village Association’s Solicitor has asked if EDF Energy can indicate the likely costs that will be incurred. A plan showing the location of the land and cable rights to acquired and rights of access was also NOTED.

11. Single Payment and Environmental Stewardship Scheme

11.1 Single Payment Scheme – Cllr. Barnett reported that as the submission for the Entry Level Scheme had been successful it would mean a future income of around £788 per year. The Committee were now eligible to participate in the next which would be to apply for Organic Level Status.

In order to do this, the Committee would have to be registered with the Soil Association at a cost of £233 for the first six months and £425 annually after this. Cllr. Glover felt that there were disadvantages if the Committee chose to apply for Organic Status as it would mean that they would not be allowed to spray for ragwort or weeds, fertilize and the area may become un-farmable. It might also prevent future use of the land for certain facilities. Cllr. Mrs Brammer felt that what Cllr. Glover had said should be taken into consideration and suggested that the matter should be deferred until the next meeting for further discussion. After further debate, it was PROPOSED by Cllr. Barnett, SECONDED by Cllr. Brown that the Northfield Management Committee apply to the Soil Association to register the land for Organic Status at a cost of £233 for the first six months and £425 annually after this. FOR 3 AGAINST 1 ABSTENSIONS 2.

12. Correspondence and date of next meeting

12.1 NOTED. The date of the next meeting was set for **Friday 14th September 2007 commencing at 10.00am in the Viewing Gallery of Ash Green Sports Centre**

13. Any other business

None.

At this point, Cllr. Glover left the meeting and the following business was transacted

6.1 Cutting of the Silage/Hay 2007 – It was reported that the field had not yet been cut. The Contractor did not take off a silage crop and the cutting of the hay crop had been delayed due to the weather conditions.

8.1 Boundary fence between Courtfield, Cavan and Northfield – The letters received from the owners of Courtfield and Cavan in connection with the erection of the boundary fence were NOTED. Their assent to the work being carried out was on the condition that there should be a double strand of British Standard barbed wire used as opposed to a single strand. The Northfield Management Committee, at their meeting held on 2nd March 2007, had RESOLVED that, providing the adjacent landowners agreed to share ½ the costs of the fence between them, that the quotation for £562.50 from TD Munday was accepted. The addition of a double strand of barbed wire was felt to be minimal and it was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer, SECONDED by Cllr. Barnett FOR 4 AGAINST 0 ABSTENSIONS 1 that the Secretary was authorised to spend up to £50 for the extra cost of the barbed wire.

Meeting closed at 11.25 am