

## NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007 commencing at 10.00am in the Viewing Gallery of Ash Green Sports Centre

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. A Barnett.

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.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 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/09/07, were NOTED.

5.2 Financial Statement – The financial statement, as set out in Agenda A/09/07, was NOTED.

5.3 The payments 3.1 – 3.6, as set out in Agenda A/09/07, were AUTHORISED. PROPOSED Cllr. Brown, SECONDED Cllr. Mrs Brammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. Payment 3.7 to the Soil Association for the sum of £199.00 would be held in abeyance, as more enquiries and advice would be undertaken before joining.

6. Land and Site Maintenance

6.1 Cutting of Silage/Hay 2007 – This had now been satisfactorily completed.

6.2 Footpath barrier leading into Stocks Field – It was NOTED that the quotation had been accepted and a commencement date for the work was awaited.

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

6.4 Weedkilling and Fertilizing of the Play Area – The area had been fertilized and the application of weedkiller would be undertaken today.

6.5 Noticeboards on Northfield - Hartley parish council had been testing a product called grafitti shield on areas of the Pavilion at Manor Field. It had been suggested that this product might be used to treat the noticeboards on Northfield. It was agreed that in order to do this, the noticeboards would have to be renovated before they were treated with the grafitti shield. The Treasurer agreed to progress the matter on two of the existing boards.

7. Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route

7.1 Report on the Horse Riding Route – Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby reported that the track had been mown and the white horse shoes on the trees in the woods, warning notice on the gate posts and warning triangles on the ground had all been repainted. It was reported that the painted horse shoes on the trees had once again been obliterated.

7.2 Horse Riding Route Advisory Committee - The notes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007 had been incorrectly circulated with the agendas. The correct notes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August would be sent to members under separate cover.

7.3 Trim Trail – Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby gave members a report of a site meeting that had been held with representatives from a company called Playdale who supplied Trim Trail equipment. Ten possible items of equipment had been identified at a total cost of £5,291. They suggested that the best place to site the equipment would be along the hedge line adjacent to the southern boundary by Caling Croft/Farm Holt. They also advised that participants who were using the equipment would need to see the next item from the one they were currently using. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer, SECONDED by Cllr. Gaywood and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that:-

- The Resident Societies of Caling Croft and Farm Holt were consulted about the possibility of a Trim Trail along the southern boundary. An article would also be placed in the Parish Councils newsletters.
- Two other manufacturers were sought to ascertain what type of equipment they could supply for around £5,000.
- The possibility of obtaining grants for the project be explored.

7.3 Proposal to place a football pitch on Northfield – Cllr. Brown provided members with some background as to the request from the New Ash Green Junior Football Club for a pitch on Northfield. It was acknowledged that the sports pitches on the Sports Field in New Ash Green were overplayed and Cllr. Brown felt that as the original intention had been to supply two to three sports pitches on Northfield, that the Committee should consider allowing the Football Club to mark out and use one junior football pitch on the area of Northfield, known as the ‘Play Area’. Cllr. Gaywood considered there was no legal obligation to provide sports pitches on Northfield as the terms of the lease stated that such recreational use should be provided to satisfy local demand. Cllr. Gaywood informed the Committee that Manor Field had capacity to accommodate teams from the New Ash Green Junior Football Club and argued that the current level of demand could be satisfied from existing local facilities. Cllr. Gaywood understood that the New Ash Green Junior Football Club would only require the use of a football pitch on a temporary basis, probably one season, as works to extend the Milestone School included the provision of two sports pitches and it was understood that these would be ready for the 2008/09 season. Cllr. Gaywood felt that the Junior Football Club should be considering using alternative established playing venues with spare capacity and that various issues needed to be resolved before a decision was taken. One of those issues centred around planning and were detailed in the correspondence from the District Planning Authority. It was therefore PROPOSED by Cllr. Brown, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer that :-

An agreement in principle to the siting of a junior football pitch on the area of Northfield known as the ‘Play Area’ and subject to the following conditions:-

- Consultation with local residents – This will take place with those who might directly be affected, the residents of Caling Croft and Farm Holt. A notice would also be placed in both of the parish councils’ newsletters.
- Agreement of the parish councils of Hartley and Ash-cum-Ridley to the recommendation.
- Agreement to the provision at the agreed location from the parish councils’ insurers.
- Agreement by the local planning authority to the planning issues which have to be resolved, before any work can proceed. It was agreed at the meeting of the Northfield Management Committee that these matters be taken forward and fully discussed with the planning department as soon as was practicable.

FOR 3 ABSTENSIONS 0 AGAINST 1 and therefore the motion was CARRIED.

## 8. Boundaries

8.1 Boundary between Courtfield and Northfield – The Secretary was awaiting confirmation from the Contractor as to the cost of a double strand of British Standard barbed wire as opposed to a single strand. As soon as that had been ascertained the work could commence.

8.2 Hedge along the Ash Road Boundary – It was NOTED that a letter had been received from Kent Highway Services indicating that they would be cutting the hedge as had been requested.

8.3 Hedge along the South Ash Boundary – It was NOTED that the quotation to undertake the tidying up of the hedge and the clearance of the area between the post and rail fencing and the original boundary and to remove any brambles, had been accepted and a commencement date for the work was awaited.

9. Barnetts Wood and New House Shaw

9.1 Log Barrier New House Shaw – It was reported that the log barrier appeared to be in a satisfactory condition.

9.2 Quantative Tree Risk Assessment on New House Shaw – The Secretary reported that the Contractor would be in a position to have his report completed in time for the next Northfield Management Committee meeting.

9.3 Maintenance programme for Barnetts Wood – Following advice from Independent Woodland Management, Cllr. Barnett had suggested implementing a maintenance programme for Barnetts Wood. He would like to see the work started during the autumn/winter of 2007/08. The Programme would entail pruning 3000 trees (2000 oak and up to 1000 other varieties) to improve their shape at an estimated cost of £1,500 or 50p per tree. Next year it was suggested that the pruning be continued and the trees spaced, (i.e. some removed to make room for the others). After discussion it was AGREED that a further two quotations be sought whilst at the same time, informing the Forestry Commission of what the Committee were proposing to see if they had any comments. PROPOSED Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby, SECONDED Cllr. Mrs Brammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

9.4 Cutting of Barnetts Wood – It was NOTED that Independent Woodland Management would be undertaking a second cut of the woodland in September.

10. Health and Safety

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

10.2 Damage to the field gate at the Church Road entrance and removal of stolen car – It was reported that the gate leading on to Northfield from Church Road was damaged just after the August Bank Holiday weekend. The gate was rammed and a small red salon car was left abandoned on Northfield close to Caling Croft. The matter was reported to the police and the PCSO's from New Ash Green and Warden from Hartley attended the scene. A crime report was completed and arrangements were made for the car (which had been stolen from New Ash Green) to be towed away for forensic tests. Arrangements were put in place immediately for the gate to be repaired as best it could until such time as a new one was put in place. It was further reported that the gate had now been replaced.

10.3 Bollard to be placed outside the entrance gate to Church Road – In view of the above incident, members were asked to consider placing a bollard outside of the entrance gate to Church Road. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby that quotations be sought up to £500 for the purchase of a suitable bollard to prevent further illegal incursions on to Northfield. FOR 3 AGAINST 1 ABSTENSIONS 0 and CARRIED.

10.4 EDF Energy – There was nothing further to report since the last meeting.

11. Single Payment and Environmental Stewardship Scheme

11.1 Single Payment Scheme – It was NOTED that the modulation figure of £19.79 had been received which was an adjustment of the final figure.

11.2 Soil Association Application – The matter had been dealt with under item 5 Financial report item 3.7.

12. Correspondence and date of next meeting

12.1 NOTED. The date of the next meeting was set for **Friday 19th October 2007 commencing at 10.00am in the Pavilion, Manor Field, Hartley**

13. Any other business

None.

Meeting closed at 11.10am