

NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 19th October 2007 commencing at 10.00am in the Pavilion, Manor Field, Hartley

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. M Brown. His apology and reason for absence was duly accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Mrs Brammer a personal interest in any matter relating to the New Ash Green Village Association. Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby a personal interest in item 7.1 Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route. Cllr. Glover a prejudicial interest in item 8.1. It was AGREED that This last item would be taken at the end of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2007 were signed as a true record. PROPOSED Cllr. Mrs Brammer, SECONDED Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

4. Matters Arising (Not on the Agenda)

None.

5. Finance

5.1 Balances – The balances, as set out in Agenda A/10/07, were NOTED.

5.2 Financial Statement – The financial statement, as set out in Agenda A/10/07, was NOTED.

5.3 The payments 3.1 – 3.3, as set out in Agenda A/10/07, were AUTHORISED.

5.4 Budget for 2008/09 and 5.5 Annual contribution from each parish council – The budget, as set out in Agenda A/10/07 was discussed. Cllr. Mrs Brammer said that Ash-cum-Ridley parish council would be prepared to contribute more than the suggested annual contribution amount of £2,000 from each parish council. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby, SECONDED by Cllr. Barnett, 4 FOR, AGAINST 1 ABSTENSIONS 0 that the budget, for 2008/09, attached as an appendix 1 to these minutes and the contributions of £2,000 from each council be approved. The motion was CARRIED.

6. Land and Site Maintenance

6.1 Footpath barrier leading into Stocks Field – The Secretary reported that she had spoken to the Contractor who had confirmed that this work and the work on the South Ash boundary hedge would be carried out during November.

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

6.3 Grafitti treatment on Noticeboards – It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Barnett, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that two noticeboards would be identified, renovated and coated with the grafitti treatment. Quotations would also be sought for steel posts for the noticeboards to replace the wooden ones. The Secretary would check on the whereabouts of the Barnetts Wood sign board, believed to be in the safe keeping of Mr Munday. The board required some corrections and updating and would also be coated with the grafitti treatment.

7. Recreational Facilities

7.1 Report on the Horse Riding Route – Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby reported that the track that had been mown to separate walkers from horse riders seemed to be working. The ground was still in quite good condition for riding. A review of the horse riding route and its future would be discussed at the next Northfield Management Committee meeting.

7.2 Trim Trail on Northfield – Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby reported that she had attempted to obtain comparative quotations to the one that had been received by Playdale. This was proving difficult as the other firms she had contacted did not supply trim trial structures in wood only in metal. A draft survey for gym users to gauge their views on the provision of a trim trail had been drawn up. Mrs Oxtoby would discuss this in more detail with the Manager of Ash Green Sports Centre. Consultation was discussed and it was suggested that this was carried out via the parish council's newsletters and by letter to the Resident Societies of Caling Croft and Farm Holt.

7.3 Proposal to place a football pitch on Northfield – The Secretary reported that she had not received a reply to the Northfield Management Committee's detailed letter to the District Planning Authority of 28th September 2007 and a reminder would be sent requesting a response. Cllr. Mrs Brammer and Cllr. Glover said that the Ash members were keen to support the request from the New Ash Green Junior Football Club to mark out a junior football pitch on the area of Northfield known as the 'Play Area' for their use for the remainder of the current football season. The matter had been discussed at a meeting of Hartley Parish Council on 14th September 2007 and it had been resolved that football pitches should not be placed on Northfield as there was insufficient evidence to prove there was a local need within the area. After much discussion, Cllr. Mrs Brammer proposed that the New Ash Green Junior Football Club should be allowed, in principle, to have temporary use of the area on Northfield known as the 'Play Area' for the remainder of the current football season. The area would be used on Sundays at hours to be agreed, at no cost to the parish councils, including the marking out, clearing up and provision of temporary goal posts that would not mark the ground and would be removed after each game. The proposal was also subject to the relevant planning consent from the District Planning Authority, consultation with Farm Holt and Caling Croft Resident Societies, and any other residents as were considered necessary and approval of the parish councils, according to their constitutions. The motion was CARRIED. The Secretary was requested to write as soon as possible to the District Planning Authority to request a response to the Northfield Management Committee's letter of 28th September 2007. She was also requested to ask what their stance would be if the New Ash Green Junior Football Club were allowed temporary use of the area on Northfield known as the 'Play Area', to mark out a junior football pitch for the remainder of the current football season, as detailed above. Hartley parish council would also write separately to the New Ash Green Junior Football Club offering the club the use of an available junior football pitch on Manor Field, Hartley, for the remainder of the current football season.

8. Boundaries

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

8.2 Hedge along the South Ash Boundary – Item discussed under 6.1.

9. Barnetts Wood and New House Shaw

9.1 Quantative Tree Risk Assessment on New House Shaw – Despite a reminder to the Contractor to submit the report, it was still awaited.

9.2 Maintenance programme for Barnetts Wood – Three quotations had been sought and two received. The quotations were for the first stage of a pruning programme which would include primarily all of the oak trees (around 2,200), being most in need of some remedial treatment. All pruning between the rows to be mulched or given a similar treatment. This would be followed by the next 800 trees which in the judgement of the successful contractor are most in need of some pruning or shaping during this first year. The second stage the following year will entail the completion of the pruning programme, however the Northfield Management Committee felt that a review after the first year would be advisable in order to assess the situation and consider whether the wood would benefit from thinning. Because of this, the Northfield Management Committee were not requesting quotes for the second stage at this point, but would wish the contractor to bear that in mind and any advice they could offer

would be welcome.

It was the aim of the two parish councils under the guidance of the Northfield Management Committee to create a woodland in which people can roam without obstruction and enjoy the flora and fauna as it develops as the wood matures.

The trees are as follows:

40% English Oak
20% Ash
10% Silver Birch
5% Wild Cherry
5% Hornbeam
5% Small Leaved Lime
5% Beech
5% Field Maple
5% Woody Shrubs

Independent Woodland Management £1,950

Connick Tree Care London Ltd £5,995

Quaife Woodlands did not quote, confirming that this was not the type of work that they undertook.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the quotation for **£1,950** from Independent Woodland Management be accepted.

9.4 Free Trees Scheme – 25 free hedging plants would be ordered by Ash-cum-Ridley parish council for planting on Northfield. Cllr. Barnett informed the meeting that he had three trees, two oak and one walnut which he would donate to Northfield. The trees required stakes and labour to plant them totalling around £45. Before the trees were planted, the matter would be referred back to the Committee for agreement as to their siting. PROPOSED Cllr. Gaywood, SECONDED Cllr. Mrs Brammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 Visual Inspection Sheets – The visual inspection sheet for September 2007 was available for members to view and was NOTED. The Secretary said that she had received reports that some young people had been ‘camping’ on Northfield over two recent weekends. The Contractor had found evidence of a camp with empty bottles, cans and smoking residue. A fire had been lit and a rolled up tent left on the field. The rubbish had been removed and the matter reported to the local PCSO’s for New Ash Green and Hartley and the Hartley Warden. The Youth Worker had been asked if he could help in identifying the group who were using the field.

10.2 Flying of Model Aircraft on Northfield – The Secretary reported that two incidents had been reported to the Northfield Management Committee recently concerning the flying of model aircraft on Northfield. Both incidents occurred when horses were being ridden on the horse riding route and the matter has been referred to the local PCSO’s for Hartley and New Ash Green and the Hartley Warden, who had the matter in hand.

10.3 Bollard to be placed outside the entrance gate to Church Road – The Secretary reported that she had sought a quotation for a galvanised steel bollard to reinforce the Church Road entrance. The cost was **£282.00**, plus a delivery charge of £50. The matter was deferred until the next Northfield Management Committee meeting in order for a quotation to be sought for its installation.

10.4 EDF Energy – Members discussed the correspondence relating to the laying of the overhead cables underground on Northfield, as set out in Appendix D to Agenda A/10/07, which was duly NOTED. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Gaywood, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that an annual rent of £20 per year (subject to a review every 5 years) would be acceptable.

11. Single Payment and Environmental Stewardship Scheme

11.1 Single Payment Scheme – It was NOTED that there was nothing further to report from the last meeting.

11.2 Soil Association Application – The application had been submitted and the contract would be signed.

12. Correspondence and date of next meeting

There was not correspondence to report. The date of the next meeting was set for **Friday 30th November 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. Item 8.1 on the agenda was then discussed.

8.1 Boundary between Courtfield and Northfield - The Secretary reported that she had spoken to the Contractor who had confirmed that this work and the work would be carried out during November.

Meeting closed 11.58 am