

## NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008 commencing at 10.00am in the Pavilion, Manor Field, Hartley

Present: Cllr. M Brown  
Cllr. A Barnett  
Cllr. Mrs Brammer  
Cllr. J Gaywood (Chairman)  
Cllr. S Glover (Arrived at 10.10am)  
Cllr. Mrs A Oxtoby

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

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

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 7.1 Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route. Cllr. Glover a prejudicial interest in item 6.4 Cutting of the field for Hay 2008.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising (Not on the Agenda)

10.1 Visual Inspection sheets – Stile leading from the Ash Road by the Black Lion Public House – This matter would be taken as item 6.6 under Land and Site Maintenance.

5. Finance

5.1 Balances – The balances, as set out in Agenda A/01/08, were NOTED.

5.2 Financial Statement – The financial statement, as set out in Agenda A/01/08, was NOTED. Cllr. Glover questioned the increase in expenditure on subscriptions. This was due to the additional subscription to the Soil Association. He also asked why there had been an increase in expenditure on herbicide treatment. This was due to more treatments being necessary

5.3 The payments 3.1 – 3.5, as set out in Agenda A/01/08, were AUTHORISED. PROPOSED Cllr. Brown SECONDED Cllr. Gaywood and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

6. Land and Site Maintenance

6.1 Footpath leading into Stocks Field – This work had now been satisfactorily completed.

6.2 Chippings on Northfield – It was NOTED that once ground conditions on the field improved, more chippings could be brought on and spread where required.

6.3 Surface water run-off from Northfield – The report, as set out in Appendix C to Agenda A/01/08 was discussed. The Chairman, Cllr. Gaywood adjourned the meeting at 10.20am to allow the owner of Oak Ridge, Church Road Hartley to speak. The meeting was reconvened at 10.30am. The Northfield Management Committee recognised and sympathised with the problems that the property owner was experiencing in terms of water-run off and sewerage and it was AGREED that the Secretary would contact the Kent Highway Services Officer, who had promised to report back with his findings on the surface water-run off issue, following the site meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The problem of sewerage was a separate issue and a letter would be sent to Thames Water to see if anything could be done to try and solve the problem. From memory, one of the Committee members recalled that whichever company was responsible for sewerage some years ago used to flush through the system on a regular basis thus avoiding blockages and the sewerage backing up. The County Councillor would be copied in to the correspondence.

6.4 Cutting of the field for hay 2008 – This item was deferred until the end of the meeting.

6.5 Wildflowers on Northfield – Cllr. Barnett put forward his idea of planting more wildflowers on Northfield. He suggested involving the local Horticultural Society who would be asked if their members were willing to plant the wildflower seeds in plugs and then plant out on to Northfield which he felt was a good way of getting local residents involved. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Barnett and SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer that the Horticultural Society in Hartley and the New Ash Green Allotment Society be approached to see if they would be willing to participate in the wildflower planting scheme. The motion was amended by Cllr. Glover, seconded by Cllr. Brown to include the Primary Schools in both parishes, including Milestone School, as well as the Horticultural Society in Hartley and the New Ash Green Allotment Society. Authorisation was given for up to **£100** to be spent on the scheme. This amendment was CARRIED. Cllr. Barnett would go back to the Horticultural Society and contact the New Ash Green Allotment Society.

6.6 Stile leading from the Ash Road by the Black Lion Public House – It was AGREED that a quotation be accepted from TD Munday for **£30** for a step to be placed on the bottom of the stile to make it easier to cross.

7. Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route, Trim Trail and Junior Football Pitch

7.1 Report on the Horse Riding Route – It was NOTED that a meeting of the Advisory Committee would take place on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The route had been closed to members on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008 in order to preserve the ground. An email had been received over the Christmas holiday to say that there was evidence that some riders had been deviating from the route and riding on the ‘Play Area’ and other parts of the field.

7.2 Trim Trail on Northfield – The analysis of the consultation exercise on the Trim Trail was discussed. In addition to the comments listed, the Secretary read out a letter received from Farm Holt Residents Society outlining their concerns. The Committee felt that the negative responses outweighed the positive and on balance it was not worth spending the money on supplying the equipment necessary to provide a trim trail. The matter would be left in abeyance until some time in the future. PROPOSED Cllr. Gaywood, SECONDED Cllr. Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

7.3 Proposal to place a football pitch on Northfield – The analysis of the consultation exercise on the provision of a temporary junior football pitch on Northfield was discussed. In addition to the comments listed, the Secretary read out a letter received from Farm Holt Residents Society outlining their concerns. To help with their discussion, the Secretary suggested that members refer to item 7.4 and the latest email from the District Council’s Planning Team Manager which related to the planning status. It would appear from the details set out in the email, that providing any football posts were only erected for each match and removed afterwards there would be no breach of the planning conditions. Cllr. Gaywood was concerned that the email seemed to indicate that planning consent was still required for a football pitch to be established on the ‘Play Area’ and if so, permission to allow football on this area should not be permitted before the matter was clarified. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Brown, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby that the proposal for the New Ash Green Junior Football Club to have a temporary junior football pitch on the area of Northfield known as the ‘Play Area’ be allowed. FOR 5 AGAINST 0 ABSTENSIONS 1.

Cllr. Gaywood was of the opinion that any concerns raised by the residents living closest to the amenity in New Ash Green should not be ignored and that the wording of a resolution made at a meeting of Hartley parish council in October 2007 be checked before a final decision was taken. He therefore PROPOSED that the wording of the resolution, made at a meeting of Hartley parish council in October 2007 be checked to see what it said before any provision was allowed. This motion found no seconder.

7.4 Planning status re Northfield and the siting of a temporary football pitch – The correspondence from the District Council’s Planning Team Manager, as discussed above, was NOTED.

7.5 Legal determination from NALC – This was NOTED.

7.6 Meeting with the New Ash Green Village Association – In view of the discussions in 7.3 above, this matter was, for the time being, left in abeyance.

## 8. Boundaries

8.1 Boundary between Courtfield and Northfield – Cllr. Barnett reported on the site meeting held with representatives from the Northfield Management Committee, and the adjacent landowners from Courtfield and Cavan, it was agreed that in order to erect the stock fence along this section of boundary, it would be necessary to adjust the position of the end of the dead hedge, which would involve an additional cost to the Northfield Management Committee of about £75-£100.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Barnett, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that up to **£100** be spent on carrying out this additional work.

8.2 Hedge along the South Ash Boundary – This Secretary would check on the timescale for this work to be done.

## 9. Barnetts Wood and New House Shaw

9.1 Quantative Tree Risk Assessment on New House Shaw – The Secretary reported that the Quantative Tree Risk Assessment report had still not been received, despite many attempts to contact the Contractor, including a letter which gave a deadline for receipt of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Glover, SECONDED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer that one further letter be sent giving a deadline of 14 days from receipt of the letter to send in the report, and that if that deadline was not met, to proceed with sending out invitations to quote for work again. This motion was CARRIED.

9.2 Maintenance programme for Barnetts Wood – It was NOTED that this work had still to be completed.

9.3 Free Trees Scheme – It was NOTED that the free trees would be planted when weather conditions prevailed.

## 10. Health and Safety

10.1 Visual Inspection Sheets – The visual inspection sheet for December 2007 was available for members to view and was NOTED.

10.2 Bollard to be placed outside the entrance gate to Church Road – The Secretary reported that as advised she had gone back to the Village Association Greenland Workforce and asked them to revise their quotation on the costs of providing the materials and labour to install the bollard, which was based on the one installed at Manor Field, Hartley. She had found two suppliers who could supply a suitable bollard at the costs set out below:-

Marshalls	£282 + £50 delivery charge	= £332.00
Barriers Direct	£285.11 (no delivery charge)	= £285.11
Installation Greenland Workforce		= £150.00

It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Glover, SECONDED by Cllr. Brown and CARRIED that the bollard be purchased by Barriers Direct and installed by the Greenland Workforce at a total cost of **£435.11**.

10.3 EDF Energy – It was NOTED that the Village Association's solicitor had received confirmation that EDF Energy had agreed to delete the clauses that were required and these would be replaced by EDF to 'construct and maintain' the building. The New Ash Green Village Association have confirmed that they will only give their full consent after they have seen and approved the plans for the building.

## 11. Single Payment and Environmental Stewardship Scheme and Soil Association

11.1 Single Payment Scheme – It was NOTED that a payment of £922 had been received.

11.2 Environmental Stewardship Scheme – It was NOTED that although the Management Committee had been advised that they would paid £394 under the scheme this had still not been received.

11.3 Soil Association Application – It was NOTED that a Compliance Form had been received to confirm our compliance with the Soil Association Standards for the coming year. A certificate of registration had also been issued in the name of the Northfield Management Committee. The complete copy of the Soil Association Standards Book has now been received and is kept in the Parish Office of Ash-cum-Ridley parish council. The Compliance form required completion, including the production of a conversion plan.

12. Correspondence and date of next meeting

Items 12.1- 12.2 were NOTED. The date of the next meeting was set for **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 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.**

**The following item, deferred from earlier in the meeting was then discussed.**

6.4 Cutting of the field for hay 2008 – The Committee discussed how they should progress the cutting of the field for a hay crop this year. Members spoke of the difficulty in finding a contractor who was willing to carry out the work and that the arrangement for Messrs. HF and JH Glover to cut the field in 2007 had been in the main satisfactory. It was thought that a clause in the specification had provided for a long term contract to be offered for a minimum period of three years, providing both parties were content after Year 1. If this was the case the Contractor would be asked to continue, with a proviso that it was reviewed and that any incremental increase would not be above the rate of inflation. PROPOSED by Cllr. Brown, SECONDED by Cllr. Barnett and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. If this was not the case, the Secretary was asked to report back to the Committee.

Meeting closed 11.58am