

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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17th March 2008

Dear Councillor/Sports Club Representative

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee to be held on **Tuesday 25th March 2008** 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 February 2008 as a correct record. (Annexed).

4. Football at Manor Field

To receive a report from Hartley De Sales FC.

5. Cricket at Manor Field

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

6. Cricket at Longfield Hill

To receive a report from Meopham Cricket Club.

7. Financial Report

(BLUE)

To consider a financial report indicating the net position of the allotments, open spaces and Manor Field Pavilion as at 17th March 2008. (Annexed).

Background document

Net financial position as at 17th March 2008

8. Pavilion

(a) Boiler

At a meeting of the Committee held on 6th November 2008, it was resolved that alternative advice be sought from suitably qualified heating engineers on what system could be employed to replace the "Anderson" water heater located in the boiler cupboard at the Pavilion.

The Committee is requested to consider any advice received.

(b) Storage

At the previous meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee it was resolved that consideration be given to utilising the roof space in the Pavilion for additional storage.

The Committee is requested to consider the outcome of such investigations.

(c) Electric light

To confirm the Clerk's actions to make arrangements for repairs/replacement of the defective PIR unit over the entrance door of the Pavilion.

9. Manor Field

(a) Meter cupboard

At the previous meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee discussions took place on providing a more secure unit to enclose the existing electricity meter located in Manor Field located at the rear of the pond. The Committee was informed that Messrs H F & J H Glover were not willing to give consent to the construction of a brick enclosure on their strip of land at the rear of the pond and that discussions had been held with EDF Energy on relocating the meter to a more secure position inside the Pavilion. The Committee was informed that costs to undertake this work would be in excess of £6,000.

As a result the Committee resolved that, (1) a letter be written to Messrs H F & J H Glover seeking clarification over their views regarding the position of the meter cupboard, (2) investigation be carried out to establish the location of the underground cables and, (3) investigation be undertaken on the legal rights of access affecting the services.

The Committee is requested to consider any response received from Messrs H F & J H Glover and the outcome of further investigations to locate the position of underground cables and to establish legal rights of access regarding the services on Manor Field.

Background documents

<C:/hpc1/mydocuments/Old PC Backup/My Documents/Amenities and Open Spaces/Meter cupboard spec>

[Letter dated 12th November 2007 to Messrs H F & J H Glover](#)

Letter dated 12th December 2007 from Messrs H F & J H Glover

Letter dated 21st January 2008 from EDF Energy

[Letter dated 3rd March 2008 from HPC to Messrs H F & J H Glover](#)

(b) Car park

To consider inviting a quotation for the supply and distribution of road stone in the corner of the car park next to the path leading to the Pavilion, which is extremely muddy.

10. Playgrounds

(a) Woodland Avenue – playground refurbishment

At the previous meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee design schemes prepared by playground manufacturers, Kompan and Playdale, on the proposed refurbishment of Woodland Avenue playground were shown to Members. Two further playground manufacturers have since prepared schemes and these will be made available at the meeting for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee is requested to examine the schemes submitted so far and to consider how the refurbishment of the playground should be progressed.

(b) Playground operational report

(PINK)

To consider the quarterly operational report undertaken by Maria Cook on 1st February 2008. (Annexed).

Background documents

Quarterly operational report dated 1st February 2008

11. Rectory Meadow

To note a report of motorbikes activity and fires being lit in the wood at Rectory Meadow has been received by the Council. The Police and the Community Warden have been informed of the situation. The Community Warden has investigated and reports there are currently no obvious signs of such activity.

12. Hartley Wood

(YELLOW)

(a) Motorbikes

To note reports of motorbike activity in Hartley Wood have been received by the Council. The Police and the Community Warden have been informed of the situation. There appears to be three main points of access into the woods; (1) Gorsewood Road next to the railway line, (2) at the end of Beechlands Close and (3) off Hartley Bottom Road over the landfill site.

Gorsewood Road: The new kissing gate located on the public right of way to the north of the subway is proving to be ineffective. This kissing gate is fitted with a RADAR padlock which is a padlock operable by means of a universal key. These types of keys are available to disabled persons and may be used to unlock the gate to allow access for wheelchairs or other disability vehicles such as electric scooters. The kissing gate is regularly being unlocked and left open, which allows unrestricted access under the subway for motorbikes.

Reports have been received of motorbikes being lifted over the fence at the end of Gorsewood Road to the south of the railway line and of motorbikes being manoeuvred through the kissing gate enclosure.

The Committee may wish to consider installing fencing and suitable gating further into the woods beyond the entrance to the subway, between the railway line and land owned by Dulce Domum. The Committee should be aware that the owners of Dulce Domum have claimed rights of vehicular access from their land to Gorsewood Road, so any new fencing or gates would need to accommodate these claimed rights.

Beechlands Close: The landowners of the area of woodland off Beechlands Close have refused consent to erect a motorbike inhibitor on their land.

The Committee may wish to consider the provision of a motorbike barrier on highway land at the end of Beechlands Close.

Hartley Bottom Road: Southwark Council is aware of motorbike incursions over the land fill site and at a meeting held on 4th February 2008 gave assurances action would be taken to prevent motorbike access off Hartley Bottom Road.

The Committee is requested to consider what measures could be taken to prevent access by motorbikes into Hartley Wood.

(b) Foul water discharge

To consider a report on a problem of foul water discharging in Hartley Wood, which has been ongoing since 2001.

Background document

Letter dated 15th February 2008 from a resident of Gorse Way.

(c) Network Rail

At the last meeting of the Committee, discussions took place on the recent embankment clearance undertaken by Network Rail. It was resolved that, a letter be written to Network Rail expressing the Council's serious concerns about the recent works to clear the railway embankments and cuttings of trees and vegetation from Longfield Station to Longfield Hill and beyond and that the letter be copied to the tree officer at Sevenoaks District Council, the local member of Kent County Council and the local Member of Parliament.

The Committee is requested to consider any response received by Network Rail.

13. Gorse Wood

To receive a report on recent anti social activity in Gorse Wood. The Council has been informed of fly tipping and motorbike activity in the woods.

The Committee may wish to consider making arrangements for a visit from Clean Kent to remove the fly tipping from the woods and to consider inviting quotations for the installation of new metal fencing and kissing gates at the two entrances to Gorse Wood off Gorsewood Road and next to Down Ampney.

14. Foxborough Wood

At the meeting of the Council held on 6th November 2007, it was resolved to seek quotations to undertake a land survey of Foxborough Wood to mark the extent of the land owned by the Parish Council.

The Committee is requested to consider any quotations received.

Background document

Letter dated 20th November 2007 to various land surveyors

Letter dated 21st December 2007 to land surveyor

15. Longfield Hill

(a) To consider a request from the 1st Longfield Guides to use the recreation ground at Longfield Hill to practice fire lighting and cooking on fires.

Background document

E mail dated 10th March 2008 from 1st Longfield Guides

(b) To authorise the payment of £750.00 to Baylis for planting new hedging plants at Longfield Hill.

16. Allotments

To consider seeking a quotation for the pruning of trees on the allotments behind the recycling centre.

17. Lay-by

To confirm the Clerk's action to make arrangements for a damaged and dangerous tree branch to one of the Cypress trees located in the lay-by to be cut down. The branch was damaged during the high winds on 12th March 2008. The branch was cut down on 14th March and the estimated cost of the emergency is likely to be £180.

18. 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 on 5th February 2008 **(WHITE)**
2. Financial report as at 17th March 2008 indicating the net position of the allotments, open spaces and Manor Field Pavilion. **(BLUE)**
3. Quarterly operational report dated 1st February 2008 **(PINK)**
4. Letter dated 15th February 2008 from a resident of Gorse Way – foul water discharge into Hartley Wood. **(YELLOW)**

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

