

NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 28th March 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. Mrs A Oxtoby

In Attendance: Mrs J Redman
Mrs J Hoad
2 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 any matter relating to the Horse Riding Route.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2008 were signed as a true record. The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2008 were approved at the meeting held on 7th March 2008.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Financial Report

5.1 Balances – The balances, as set out in Agenda A/03/08 were NOTED.

5.2 Financial Statement – The financial statement, as at 19th March 2008 was NOTED.

5.3 The payment listed 3.1 in the financial statement to TD Munday for the sum of **£60.00** for the weekly inspection during March 2008 and an additional two payments (as follows) were authorised. Sevenoaks District Council for dog bin emptying for January - March 2008 **£91.00+ VAT.**

Independent Woodland Management for work carried out in Barnetts Wood including flail cutting and strimming **£676.00 + VAT.** PROPOSED Cllr. Gaywood, SECONDED Cllr. Brown and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.**

5.4 Audit Commission – A letter had been received from the Audit Commission confirming the name of the Auditor who had been appointed to carry out the audit of the Northfield Management Committees Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008.

6. Land and Site Maintenance

6.1 Surface water run-off from Northfield – It was reported that following the Northfield Management Committee meeting held on 25th January 2008, the Highways Officer was contacted and asked for a timescale for receipt of his report which he had agreed to compile and forward on to the Northfield Management Committee. The Secretary was informed that he was researching in to the history of the soakaway at Oak Lodge and once he had received that information he would be able to progress his report, but could give no timescale as to how long that might be. Both the occupants of Oak Lodge and The Poplars were informed of this by letter on the 30th January 2008. The Secretary had subsequently made contact with the Highways Officer again to see if any further progress has been made but to date nothing had been heard. She would keep pursuing the matter.

6.2 Cutting of the field for hay 2008 – Following the Northfield Management Committee meeting held on 25th January 2008, the Secretary checked to see if there was a clause in the specification which provided for a long term contract to be offered for a minimum period of three years, providing both parties were content after Year 1. As this was the case, the Contractor would be invited to continue, subject to any incremental increase not above the official rate of inflation, after taking into account any increase in the price of the crop when it was taken off.

6.3 Wildflowers on Northfield – Cllr. Barnett reported that he had pursued the matter of cultivating wildflower seeds in plugs before planting them out on to Northfield with members of the Hartley Horticultural Society and the local Primary Schools in Hartley and New Ash Green. Hartley Horticultural Society and Hartley Primary School were unable to pursue the project, but the New Ash Green Primary School had expressed an interest to take part. After discussion, it was AGREED that the project was progressed with the New Ash Green Primary School and they would be provided with trays and seeds at a cost of **£40**. PROPOSED Cllr. Mrs Brammer, SECONDED Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

6.4 Hedge Cutting – As Cllr. Glover was not present at the meeting, it was agreed that the matter be deferred to a future meeting.

6.5 Stile by the Black Lion Public House – The Secretary reported that the work to install a step at the bottom of this stile in order to make it more accessible for walkers would be carried out the week commencing 31st March 2008.

6.6 Litter bin close to the stile by the Black Lion Public House – A local resident had asked if the Management Committee would consider the provision of a litter bin at this location. After discussion, the Committee agreed not to erect a litter bin at this location as they felt the need did not currently justify the cost of erecting and emptying the provision. PROPOSED Cllr. Mrs Brammer, SECONDED Cllr. Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

6.7 Ragwort Spray – It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Barnett, SECONDED by Cllr. Gaywood and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that up to **£150** be spent on the purchase of ragwort spray.

6.8 Roundup Spray – It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer SECONDED by Cllr. Gaywood and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that up to **£50** be spent on obtaining roundup spray for spot spraying of relevant areas on Northfield, subject to the parish councils' insurers being happy.

7. Recreational Facilities

7.1 Horse Riding Route – Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby reported that the horse riding route around Northfield was opened on Good Friday but had to close on Easter Saturday, due to ground and weather conditions. Cllr. Mrs Oxtoby would take the decision as to when the ride would re-open.

7.2 Provision of an additional entrance for the horse riding route – Members were asked to give consideration to providing an additional entrance at the following locations:-

- Next to the Milestone School entrance
- Along the Ash Road boundary, close to the Black Lion Public House

Members discussed the two suggested locations and it was AGREED that they were taken back to the Horse Riding Route Advisory Committee for further discussion and a proposal and costings would be drawn up for the Northfield Management Committee's consideration.

7.3 Junior Football Pitch – It was reported that since the Northfield Management Committee met in January, a junior size football pitch had been marked out on Northfield without the formal consent, written or otherwise, of the Committee. Holes had also been dug in the ground for the posts which at one point had been left exposed, although it was now understood these had been covered and made safe. There were constitutional matters arising from this issue and efforts would be made to try and resolve these as soon as possible. There were also planning issues that had been raised as a result of the marking out of the pitch, of which the planning department at the District Council were aware of.

8. Boundaries

8.1 Boundary fence between Courtfield, Cavan and Northfield – The Secretary reported that this work would be completed during April.

8.2 South Ash boundary hedge – The Secretary reported that this work would be completed during April.

8.3 Section of hedge along the Ash Road boundary – A request from one of the organisers of the New Ash Green Healthy Lifestyles Walks for this section of hedge to be cut back had been received. It was reported that Kent Highway Services were in the process of obtaining quotations with a view to carrying this work out.

9. Barnetts Wood

9.1 Quantative Tree Risk Assessment on New House Shaw – It was reported that the Contractor had not met his deadline for receipt of the report. His was the only tender received when invitations to quote were originally sent out. The Secretary and Treasurer would re-visit the contract with a view to sending it out again and inviting new contractors to quote.

9.2 Maintenance Programme for Barnetts Wood – It was reported that this work would be carried out during April.

9.3 Free Trees – It was reported that these would now be planted during the Autumn.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 Visual Inspection Sheets – The visual inspection sheets for December 2007 and January and February 2008 were NOTED.

10.2 Bollard to be placed outside the entrance gate to Church Road – It was NOTED that an order would be placed with the supplier and the New Ash Green Village Association Greenland Workforce would install the bollard.

10.3 EDF Energy – It was NOTED that the Village Association's Solicitor was awaiting a copy of the full specification of works from EDF Energy and was chasing them for the plans to be sent to her as soon as possible.

11. Single Payment, Environmental Stewardship Scheme and Soil Association

11.1 Single Payment Scheme – The application form for 2008 had been received for completion.

11.2 Environmental Stewardship Scheme – Cllr. Barnett outlined complications that had arisen with correct hectorage and new field numbers, both of which he was awaiting confirmation. If the new field numbers were not received, this could complicate the next payment to the Soil Association. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Mrs Brammer, SECONDED by Cllr. Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that if the payment to the Soil Association came up for renewal before the date of the next Northfield Management Committee, the Treasurer and Secretary were authorised to pay it. Cllr. Gaywood suggested that it would be helpful to have a breakdown of the costs involved in applying for organic status to ensure that it was cost effective.

12. Correspondence and Date of Next Meeting

12.1 RAMSAK Rag No 94 February/March 2008 was NOTED. The date of the next meeting was set for **Friday 23rd May commencing at 10.00am in the Pavilion, Manor Field, Hartley.**

13. Any other business

None.

Meeting closed at 11.10 am