

NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Parish Office, Ash Green Sports Centre, Ash Road, New Ash Green, Hartley, Kent
DA3 8JZ

Telephone 01474 702760. Fax 01474 700496

21st July 2008

Dear Councillor,

You are invited to attend a committee meeting of the Northfield Management Committee to be held on **Friday 25th July 2008 commencing at 10.00am in the Viewing Gallery of Ash Green Sports Centre.** We would like to remind members of the Committee that all original copies of the correspondence contained in the Agenda are brought to the Committee meetings and held on file. If any member wishes to have sight of the correspondence that is not copied with the Agenda, would they please contact the Secretary to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Redman

Julie Hoad

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **To Approve the minutes** of the meeting held on Friday 23rd May 2008
(APPENDIX A)
4. **Matters Arising** from those minutes (Not on the Agenda)
5. **Financial Report** (APPENDIX B)
6. **Land and Site Maintenance**
 - 6.1 Cutting of the field for Hay 2008 – The contractor satisfactorily cut and baled the hay during the week commencing 13th July 2008. In order to satisfy a requirement from the Soil Association, the Contractor has been asked to confirm the number of bales that were taken from Northfield.
 - 6.2 Hedge cutting – Cllrs. Barnett and Mrs Oxtoby have completed their survey of the Northfield hedges and will present their report at the meeting.
 - 6.3 Ragwort Spray – TD Munday has been instructed to spray the ragwort where required, as a matter of some urgency, but has been asked not to do so within a 10 metre band of the meadow where he will hand-pull the weed. As this element of work is outside of his normal contract he will be paid the rate of **£15** per hour to complete the task.
 - 6.4 Enhancement and Management of Grasslands Workshop – Cllrs. Barnett and Mrs Oxtoby were unable to attend the workshop as it was fully subscribed.
 - 6.5 Access gate from Milestone School – To discuss re-examining an entrance gate to Northfield accessible via the access road leading to Milestone School.
7. **Recreational Facilities – Horse Riding Route and Junior Football Pitch**
 - 7.1 Horse Riding Route – Cllr. Mrs. Oxtoby to report.
 - 7.2 Junior Football pitch – Those representatives who will be attending a meeting to try and resolve the constitutional issues arising from the marking out of the junior football pitch are requested to submit some suitable dates to the Secretary who, together with the Treasurer, will then try to set up a meeting.

8. Boundaries

8.1 Boundary fence between Courtfield, Cavan and Northfield – This work has now been satisfactorily completed.

8.2 South Ash Boundary Hedge – It has been suggested that, as a way forward, the Chairman of the Greenland Committee and possibly a member of the Greenlands workforce be invited to a site meeting with members of the Northfield Management Committee to progress the cutting back of brambles etc on Village Association Land that are encroaching onto Northfield.

9. Barnetts Wood and New House Shaw

9.1 Quantative Tree Risk Assessment on New House Shaw – The Secretary and Treasurer are aware that they still have to meet to review and draw up a new contract to go out to tender. This will be done as soon as work-load commitments allow.

9.2 Grass cutting in Barnetts Wood – Cllr. Barnett to report.

10. Ship Cottage Encroachment

10.1 Correspondence has just been received from the New Ash Green Village Association relating to the Ship Cottage encroachment on to Northfield land. Following a site meeting, it has been suggested that the owners of Ship Cottage be offered a licence allowing them to keep the fence in its present position but only on the understanding that at some time in the future when the fence needed to be replaced, it should be reinstated to the line of the boundary that was in existence in the 1970s and that marker posts should be put in along the true line of the boundary. The licence would identify the boundary by reference to the electricity pole and railway sleeper and the new concrete posts to be inserted at appropriate levels along Ship Cottage's western and northern boundaries.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 Visual Inspection Sheets – The visual inspection sheets for May and June 2008 will be available at the meeting.

11.2 Bollard to be placed outside the entrance gate to Church Road – The bollard is awaiting erection by members of the New Ash Green Village Association workforce.

11.3 EDF Energy – Various points have been raised by one of the Village Association's Directors concerning the Scope of Works that was drawn up by EDF Energy and which in his opinion was generic and not site specific. As a result, he has drawn up a list of 23 points on which he has asked for clarification from both EDF Energy and the Northfield Management Committee. The Secretary has been through the points and has identified the ones which she feels require clarification by the Northfield Management Committee or by EDF energy. She will liaise with the Treasurer upon her return from annual leave to go through them in more detail.

11.4 Recent parties/gatherings on Northfield – Report by the Secretary at the meeting.

11.5 During the recent cutting and baling of the hay crop on Northfield, the Contractor encountered several groups of young people who were causing a disturbance, and interfered with the work that was being undertaken. At one point, several hay bales were set on fire. The matter was reported to the police who took two hours to attend the incident. A follow-up report from the police is awaited.

12. Single Payment, Environmental Stewardship Scheme and Soil Association

12.1 Single payment scheme – Notification has been received from the Rural Payments Agency of our payment for the year 2005 of **£306.20**.

12.2 Soil Association – A successful inspection was undertaken by one of the Soil Association's Inspectors on 4th July 2008. A copy of his report is attached for members information.

13. Correspondence and Date of Next Meeting

13.1 RAMSAK Rag No 97 June 2008

13.2 RAMSAK Rag No 98 July 2008

13.3 Certification News 62 Spring Copy from the Soil Association

13.4 Venue for future meetings – The Treasurer has informed the Secretary that the Pavilion may no longer be available for use by the Northfield Management Committee on Friday mornings as from September. If this is the case, the Pavilion would be available after 11.30am or alternatively Members may wish to consider changing the day of the week for meetings or if it met on a Monday or a Wednesday, Hartley Library would be available, as well as the Pavilion.

14. Any Other Business