

NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 13 February 2009 commencing at 11:00am at the Pavilion, Hartley

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

In Attendance: Mrs A de Jager
Mrs J Hoad
4 Members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Brammer and Cllr M Brown 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 28 November 2008.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2008 were signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Financial Report

5.1 Balances – The balances, as set out in the Agenda A/02/09 were NOTED.

5.2 Financial Statement – The financial statement, dated 13 February 2009 were NOTED.

5.3 The payments 3.1 to 3.7 as set out in A/02/09 and the additional payment to Quaife Woodlands in the amount of £475.00 plus VAT for the Survey Report were AUTHORISED. PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Brammer SECONDED Cllr Mrs Oxtoby and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

5.4 a) Rural Payments Agency – The receipt of £1,541.53 in respect of the Single Payment Scheme for 2008 was NOTED.

b) Receipt of two payments of £2,350.37 and £329.41 from the Rural Payments Agency in respect of Environmental Stewardship Scheme was NOTED.

5.5 The review of the internal audit system was discussed and it was AGREED that the review would be delegated to Cllrs M Brown and J Gaywood, a date would be made in the future.

6. Land and Site Maintenance

6.1 Mr E Broome from the New Ash Green Village Association attended the meeting at Ash Sports Centre on 15 January 2009 to discuss the access gate from Milestone School. Mr Broome advised that a meeting had been requested to clarify the

proposal. After discussion, it was agreed that modified plans would be forwarded to the Village Association.

Consideration was given to the type of gate to be erected and it was PROPOSED that a wooden gate and separate pedestrian gate, also wooden be purchased. FOR: 4 AGAINST: 1 ABSTENTIONS: 1

A new detailed plan giving dimensions of the gate and fence will be drawn up by Cllr A Barnett which will be sent to the Village Association for comment. At the same time quotations will be sought for this work. A representative from the Northfield Management Committee would be available to attend a meeting of the Village Association Amenity Committee and report back at the next meeting. This was PROPOSED by Cllr M Brown, SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Brammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

6.2 Surface water runoff into Church Road – A site meeting was held on 13 January 2009 attended by Mr Zoller, Resident, and Mr Rawson from Kent Highways Services. Kent Highway Services have offered the resident three options to resolve the problem. A response from the National Association of Local Councils was still awaited and it was decided that this matter would be deferred to the next meeting as further information was awaited.

It was suggested that the ground should be harrowed to allow the earth to be more porous and that the surplus soil from the substation be used to make a bund in this area.

7. Recreational Facilities

7.1 Horse Riding Route – It was AGREED that the route would re-open on 28 March 2009 providing the weather was suitable. The keys and barrel for the lock need to be rotated and a new barrel and 50 keys purchased. PROPOSED: Cllr Mrs Brammer SECONDED: Cllr M Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. Cllr J Gaywood PROPOSED that the fees would remain the same and be reviewed at the end of the season, SECONDED Cllr Mrs Brammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. Review of fees would be put on the October 2009 Agenda.

7.2 Junior Football Pitch – It was noted that no breaches of planning control have taken place in relation to the marking out of a football pitch.

7.3 Constitutional matters meeting. It was AGREED that the Clerks would arrange a meeting to review the Standing Orders.

8. Boundaries

8.1 It was NOTED that the tree that had fallen on Northfield had originated from Mr Burdenell's land and it has been removed.

9. Barnetts Wood and New Shaw House

9.1 The Quantative Tree Risk Assessment on New House Shaw has been carried out and the action points from the report state that four trees need to be felled and one stem cut back. Cllr Mrs Oxtoby PROPOSED that quotes for this work are obtained and expedited. The decision to be delegated to the clerks and Chairmen. SECONDED Cllr M Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. The trees would be placed on the bund once felled.

Item 9.5 was brought forward to allow Mr King, Tree Warden from New Ash Green Woodlands Group to address the meeting.

9.5 Mr King advised that the Woodlands Group did not have any trees available for planting. He also advised that due to the New Ash Green Woodlands Group's next five year plan and the extent of the Woodland, the Volunteer Group would be

reluctant to commit its services to work required on Northfield. Mr King advised that the National Forest Company has a scheme where they offer between 500 and 2000 trees free for planting a diverse copse, consisting of indigenous and wild fruit trees. His contact details were given to the Clerk. Mr King was thanked for attending the meeting and for his contribution.

Ash Road: 25 trees had disappeared and it was suggested that a single species of Lime or Horse Chestnut would be suitable to make an avenue.

Cllr Mrs Brammer left the meeting at 12:00pm

9.2 Barnetts Wood – Five tenders were sent out two responses received. The tenders were discussed.

Cllr S Glover left the meeting at 12:05pm

Cllr M Brown PROPOSED that the tender from S Judd of Independent Woodland Management be awarded the tender. SECONDED Cllr Mrs Oxtoby. FOR: 4 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

9.3 Standard Trees for planting. It was NOTED that the 25 whips have been planted.

9.4 Barnetts Wood Notice Board – To be brought to the next meeting.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 Visual Inspection Sheets for the period October – December 2008 were available.

10.2 Church Road entrance – it was NOTED that the bollard has been installed by the Greenland Committee. A hole has been left from the installation and the Greenland Committee would be asked to fill the hole.

10.3 Draft lease for electricity sub-station on Northfield – It was NOTED that there was nothing further to report.

10.4 Legal mechanisms for the draft lease – notices have to be placed in local newspapers and quotes will be obtained for the next meeting.

11. Single Payment Scheme

11.1 The Rural Payments Authority has agreed that there was an anomaly and that the incorrect entitlement has been paid since 2004, which will increase the funds received. The hectarage will be reviewed.

11.2 It was NOTED that the Soil Association Organic Standards for Producers publication had been received.

12. Correspondence and Date of Next Meeting

12.1 Correspondence as set out in Agenda A/02/09 was NOTED.

12.2 The date for the next meeting was set for 24 April 2009 at Ash Green Sports Centre commencing at 10:00am.

13. Any Other Business

None

The meeting was closed at 12:15pm