

NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 18 September 2009 commencing at 10:00am at Ash Green Sports Centre.

Present: Cllr M Brown (Chairman)
Cllr A Barnett
Cllr Mrs Brammer
Cllr Mrs Oxtoby
Cllr S Glover (arrived 10:05)

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Gaywood (medical)

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs M 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. Cllr S Glover a prejudicial interest in item 6.9 Cutting of Northfield.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June and 03 July 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2009 and the extraordinary meeting held on Friday 03 July 2009 were signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising

5. Financial Report

5.1 Balances – The balances, as set out in the Agenda of 11 September 2009 were NOTED.

5.2 Financial Statement – The financial statement, dated 10 September 2009 was NOTED.

5.3 Payments - The payments 3.1 to 3.6 as set out in the Agenda were AUTHORISED PROPOSED Cllr M Brown SECONDED Cllr Mrs Brammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

5.4 Budget – 1. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mrs Brammer and SECONDED by Cllr A Barnett and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the budget for 2010/11 be approved.

2. After discussion it was PROPOSED by Cllr M Brown and SECONDED by Cllr A Barnett that the Parish Council annual contributions remain at £500.00. This will be put to the Parish Councils in October 2009.

5.5 Insurance – The current insurance provider will not commit to extending the cover currently offered to Northfield Management Committee through the two parish councils. Cllr M Brown PROPOSED that alternative insurance providers be contacted in this regard. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Brammer

5.6 Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed. Fidelity cover should be increased to cover the balances held by the Northfield Management Committee. The amount of £10,000.00 will be recommended to the Parish Councils.

5.7 Financial Regulations – a review of the Financial Regulations was undertaken and received. To be ratified by the Parish Councils in October 2009.

6. Land and Site Maintenance

6.1 Access Gate adjacent to Milestone School – Sevenoaks District Council have requested that a discussion with the Highways Officer to determine the exact requirements is made prior to a meeting with the planning department.

6.2 Surface water run off into Church Road – It was NOTED that Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council has reversed its decision and has no objection to the soakaway being sited on Northfield on the understanding that there is a legal agreement stating that the Parish Councils are not responsible for any installation costs or future maintenance. This matter will go to the Hartley Highways Committee and a recommendation to the Hartley Parish Council meeting. Concerns were raised with regard to the trees and hedgerow, which need to be preserved and reinstated. There must be no danger to the public and horse riders and it was agreed that a site meeting prior to agreement be held taking into consideration the siting of the EDF substation.

6.3 Hedge cutting – quotes received for the required works on the hedge on the boundary with New Ash Green were considered and Cllr MRS Brammer PROPOSED that the quote from Mr T D Munday was accepted. SECONDED: Cllr M Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

6.4 Notice board at Milestone School entrance. It was NOTED that the perspex on the notice board had been vandalised and it was AGREED that if replaced, it would be vandalised again. A quote will be sought to have the perspex against the notice board.

6.5 Barnetts Wood Notice Board – the original notice board (interpretive Panel) had been funded by the Forestry Commission. Cllr Barnett will look into the design and quotes will be obtained for the replacement.

6.6 Allotment Holders – Cllr A Barnett reported that he had been approached by allotment holders for support with regard to problems being experienced with parking. After discussion it was agreed that the Village Association should address these concerns as they manage the allotments and this is not a Northfield Management Committee matter.

6.7 Replacement Trees – this is the third year that trees on the meadow have been vandalised. The last replacement trees cost between £30 and £40 each. It was AGREED that these trees will not be replaced.

6.8 New Ash Green Woodlands Group – the request for the Woodlands Group to participate in the BBC Breathing Places initiative was supported and it was AGREED that Northfield's quota of trees from the Free Tree Scheme will be included.

6.9 A second cut has been carried out on Northfield, this has been done prior to the seeding of the clover in an effort to prevent it spreading. The Soil Association will be contacted for advice in managing clover.

7. Recreational Facilities

7.1 Horse Riding Route – A request had been received to ask horse owners to restrict exercising their horses for 24 hours after worming as dogs could pick up parasites. Advice received from an equine vet stated that parasites were not transferable and therefore no further action is required.

8. Wildlife Survey

8.1 It was NOTED that funding in the amount of £750.00 for the Kent Wildlife Trust to undertake a site survey has not yet been identified.

9. Barnetts Wood and New Shaw House

9.1 It was NOTED that Independent Woodland Management had submitted a quote in the amount of £330.00 to mow Barnetts Wood.

9.2 New House Shaw – It was NOTED that approval from Sevenoaks District Council would have to be obtained prior to works being carried out.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 Visual Inspection Sheets for the period July – August 2009 were available.

10.2 Draft Lease for electricity sub-station on Northfield – the lease has been received for the two Parish Councils to sign.

11. Single Payment Scheme

11.1 Single Payment Scheme – Confirmation has been received regarding the verification of the Rural Land Register mapping update. NOTED.

11.2 Soil Association – It was AGREED that the Management Committee would not take part in the election of the Soil Association Council.

12. Correspondence and Date of Next Meeting

12.1 The correspondence as per the Agenda of 11 September 2009 was NOTED.

12.2 The date for the next meeting was set for 11 December 2009 in the **Pavilion, Manor Field, Hartley** commencing at 11:00am. (to be brought forward to 10:00am if the Pavilion is available)

13. Any Other Business

None

The meeting was closed at 11:00am