

NORTHFIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 November 2010 commencing at 10:00am at Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley

Present: Cllr J Gaywood (Chairman)
Cllr M Brown
Cllr A Barnett
Cllr Mrs Oxtoby
Cllr Mrs Brammer
Cllr S Glover (arrived 10.18am)

In Attendance: Mrs A de Jager
Mrs J Hoad
3 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, as residents of New Ash Green.

Cllr Mrs Oxtoby a personal interest in any matter relating to the Horse Riding Route, as a member of the Horse Riding Route.

Cllr M Brown a personal interest in Milestone School as a Governor of the school.

Cllr S Glover a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5.5 Hay Cutting, as he is currently contracted to cut the hay. A personal interest in any matter relating to the New Ash Green Village Association, as a member of the Greenlands Committee.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2010 were signed as a true record.

4. Financial Report

4.1 The balances were received and NOTED.

4.2 It was NOTED that the annual contribution of £500.00 from each Parish Council has been deposited.

4.3 The payments set out in the Agenda were authorised with the addition of a payment to Kent Wildlife in the amount of £750.00 plus VAT , in respect of a Wildlife Survey carried out on Northfield. PROPOSED: Cllr Mrs Brammer SECONDED: Cllr M Brown and AGREED.

4.4 The summary of receipts and payments of the Northfield Management Committee as at 03 November 2010 were NOTED.

4.5 It was NOTED that Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council and Hartley Parish Council have provisionally approved a sum of £2,000.00 to be contributed from each parish council for management of Northfield during 2011/12.

The budget for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix 2 was approved. PROPOSED: Cllr Mrs Brammer SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Oxtoby.

5. Land and Site Maintenance

5.1 EDF Lease – It was NOTED that a letter confirming that the Northfield Management Committee agreed to an annual rental charge of £1.00 per annum has been sent to Susan Heads.

5.2 Access gate adjacent to Milestone School – Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the draft licence from Kent County Council be accepted without amendment. SECONDED: Cllr A Barnett and AGREED. The licence will be signed by the two Chairmen.

5.3 Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that up to £250.00 be authorised to spray for regenerated growth around New House Shaw and the area near the allotments as identified by Cllr A Barnett. SECONDED Cllr M Brown and AGREED.

5.4 Surface Water Run off into Church Road – It was NOTED that the installation of the soak away has been completed and the Committee were requested to consider the reinstatement works as recommended by the engineer, Mr A Young.

- Entrance gate from Church Road - a suggestion to extend the hard standing area was discussed without reaching a conclusion. Mr Young will be requested to provide any possible alternative solutions.
- The track used by the dumpers to back fill the 'bomb hole' – Mr Young advised that the rolling of this area in the current weather conditions would cause further damage. The situation will be monitored. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mrs Oxtoby and SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Brammer to be guided by Mr Young and to request that a caveat is included, that should the condition of the ground remain poor, the Committee would require further works to be undertaken in the Spring to reinstate the land. FOR: 5 AGAINST: 1 ABSTENSIONS: 0
- To request that the manhole cover is changed to one that locks and to ask that he fencing is removed as soon as possible.

5.5 Hay Cutting – this item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

5.6 Grass Cutting Tender 2011 – 2012 - Cllr Mrs Oxtoby PROPOSED an amendment to reduce the number of cuts from 8 to 3, being May, July and September in point A2 (B) Footpaths and Glade and (C) Meadow, with the provision for additional cuts to be requested, if required SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Brammer FOR: 3 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1. The arrangements for extra cuts was delegated to the Clerks. The addition of, ' A copy of the certificate of insurance to be provided.' will be added to point A3. (x).

5.7 It was NOTED that 75 trees had been applied for under the Kent Free Trees Scheme to strengthen the hedge adjacent to Milestone School. Cllr A Barnett will heel the whips in until the works at the entrance have been completed. Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that an amount up to £250.00 be authorised for the planting of the whips as instructed by the Clerks. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Oxtoby and AGREED.

5.8 Cllr M Brown PROPOSED that the Management Committee accepts the offer from the Woodlands Group to plant a plum hedge along the boundary from the allotments to the rear of Hartley House, if they are successful in obtaining the necessary funding. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Oxtoby and AGREED.

6 Recreational Facilities

6.1 Horse riding route – It was NOTED that the horse riding route, closed for the works on the soakaway, will remain closed, re-opening in the Spring. A letter of complaint had been received and responded to, and a letter of support had also been received and responded to.

7. Barnetts Wood and New House Shaw

7.1 Barnetts Wood Notice Board – it was NOTED that the notice board had been delivered and will be erected once the brambles have been cleared.

7.2 The planting of the Blue bells with the assistance of the Woodlands Group was NOTED.

7.3 It was NOTED that the pruning works in Barnetts Wood would continue in December 2010.

7.4 New House Shaw – It was NOTED that the works on the identified trees would be scheduled for 22 November 2010 may be delayed due to re-identification of the relevant trees.

Graffiti has been sprayed in blue paint on the trees around the perimeter of the 'Bomb Hole,' some of which is offensive. The Clerks are authorised to paint over the graffiti with brown paint.

7.5 Forestry Commission Workshop on Managing Farm Woods for Wildlife - Mrs Hoad and Cllr Mrs Oxtoby attended the workshop which included a visit to a farm woodland. A copy of 'Realising the Wildlife Potential of Young Farms in Southeast England,' is available for reading at Hartley Parish Council. The conference was interesting and combined well with the Wildlife Survey. The primary point was that more natural regeneration was allowed.

8. Wildlife Survey

8.1 It was NOTED that the wildlife survey had been received and an electronic copy distributed to members. Cllr M Brown stated that he did not feel that the survey was 'value for money'.

9. Health and Safety

9.1 Visual Inspection Sheets – the visual inspection sheets for the period September 2010 – October 2010 will be available at the next meeting of the Management Committee.

9.2 It was noted that a meeting had been held with a Liability Adjuster regarding the accident on Northfield on 25 July 2010. Both Clerks were required to sign a witness statement.

10. Correspondence and Date of Next Meeting

10.1 It was NOTED that a letter had been received regarding the back filling of the 'bomb hole' with the spoil from the soakaway, and that a response had been sent.

10.2 The next meeting of the Northfield Management Committee will be held on **15 December 2010 at 10.00am at Ash Green Sports Centre.**

Having declared a prejudicial interest, Cllr S Glover left the meeting and took no further part in the meeting.

Deferred Item:

5.5 Hay Cutting – It was NOTED that the specifications for the Hay Cutting Contract had been sent out. Cllr A Barnett PROPOSED an amendment to the specification regarding the 5 acres of wildflower meadow as follows; 'If possible, as an alternative, the Committee would prefer cut residue from the wild flower meadow to be collected, then dispersed and agitated over specified areas. Kindly comment regarding this request on the Form of Quotation.' SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Brammer and AGREED. It was agreed that amended documents will be sent out and the return period will be extended. Cllr A Barnett advised that he had been discussing the wild flower meadow with members of the Woodlands Group and they had suggested spreading the arisings from the cut in the Meadow in New Ash Green on Northfield to extend the variety of wild flowers. An approach will be made to the Village Association to discuss this suggestion in conjunction with their contractor.

The meeting was closed at 11.45am

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Chairman

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Date