

LYNDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held at Lyndhurst Community Centre on Tuesday 30 June 2015 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr G Bisson (Chairman), Mr G Burden and Mrs A Trend.

In Attendance: Mrs M Weston (Clerk to the Council).

1. Election of Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations for the post of Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing year. Mrs Trend proposed, seconded by Mr Burden, that Mr Bisson is elected Chairman. Mr Bisson indicated that he would be willing to take the post and there were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: That Mr Bisson be appointed Chairman of the Amenities Committee.

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Bisson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 – Great Mead as he owned property abutting this land.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Rollé, Mrs H Klaassen, Mr K Kaljura and Mrs P Wyeth.

4. Public Participation

None.

5. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 7 April 2015 were approved as an accurate record.

6. Matters Arising

It was noted that the Clerk had written to the Forestry Commission regarding the condition of the seating at Bench Hill and the holly tree that was growing up through the yew and had been informed that remedial action would be taken.

It was noted that the village signs were now been dealt with at full council level.

The condition of the Silver Street to Blackwater path was now being dealt with by HCC Countryside Access.

Mrs Trend and the Clerk were taking the BT telephone kiosk refurbishment forward together with the information boards with the assistance of Jim Mitchell at NFNPA.

The four flower tubs around the village in the ownership of the Parish Council had been planted and would be tended during the summer months.

7. Bulbs

Discussion took place regarding likely planting sites for bulbs in Autumn 2015.

RESOLVED: To purchase four 25kg bags of bulbs which would be planted on the C17 beyond the firemen's seat and as far as possible towards the gate/cattle grid. Bulbs would also be sited on the triangular piece of land opposite the Fire Station and on Romsey Road at Racecourse View. They would be positioned in large groupings.

8. Maintenance Programme

(a) Seats

Mr Bisson explained that formerly there had been a rolling maintenance programme for the seats and bus shelters, introduced by former Parish Councillor Mark Böckle, although in 2012 all the seats and bus shelters had been painted. Mr Bisson had compiled a map showing seats/shelters and would eventually number each seat for ease of identification. Mrs Trend suggested that when seats needed to be replaced recyclable materials be used, although Mr Bisson felt that wooden seats would be preferable in the forest situation.

The Clerk and Kevin Bennett had viewed the seats and Kevin had quoted £45 per seat and less (approximately £35 for any benches). Work involved would be cleaning, preparation and painting.

RESOLVED: That as sufficient funds were held in the Amenities budget the quotation is accepted

The two memorial seats of a different design (situated at the top of Knightwood Avenue and beyond the Willow Tree Café had not been supplied by Neptune (now incorporated into Good Directions Ltd). The Clerk had emailed John and Shirley MacKenzie who would look at the seats shortly with a view to providing a quotation to renew all the slats in both seats and to paint them.

(a) Bus Shelters

Kevin Bennett had provided a quotation of £200 plus materials to undertake the necessary work to the shelter opposite the Lyndhurst Park Hotel and would also do the necessary work to the bus shelter adjacent to the Lyndhurst Park Hotel and the roof of the shelter at Clay Hill on the Beechen Lane side of the road.

RESOLVED: To accept the quotations but to undertake the second and third shelters under the lengthsman's scheme.

7. Noticeboards

(a) Public Noticeboard – to consider

No further action could be taken on this item at the present time as NFDC had responsibility for the possible public open space once the old toilet block had been demolished. Mr Burden suggested that the idea of a rolling noticeboard with a power screen be considered.

(b) Small Noticeboards inside bus shelters – to consider

Mr Bisson explained that he had looked into the various types of noticeboard that could be used in the bus shelters. It had already been resolved to trial noticeboards in the shelters either side of the road at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel.

RESOLVED: That Mr Bisson be authorised to arrange with the Clerk the purchase of two noticeboards approximately A3 in size of a pinboard design and lockable.

8. Great Mead

An estimate of £300 to £350 had been obtained from Brett Wateridge for the work necessary to clear the ditch between Great Mead and Shaggs Meadow but it was likely to be the higher figure due to the fact that there would be some shrub/tree clearance work involved and debris from the ditch would need to be taken away from site. It was noted that this ditch was the joint responsibility of the Parish Council as owners of Great Mead and the residents of numbers 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 19A Shaggs Meadow.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write an explanatory letter to owners of the properties asking them to make a contribution of £29 towards the cost of the necessary work.

The Clerk reported that Kevin Bennett had said he would strim the grass in Great Mead that has previously been treated with weed killer by NFDC for £30 although it was recognised that it might be necessary to strim the area more often but that it would look better than the weed killer.

RESOLVED: To request NFDC not to apply weed killer for the remainder of the year and to strim the area instead. The result could then be reviewed towards the end of the year.

Mr Burden asked if it might be possible to consider planting fruit trees in Great Mead. Mr Bisson explained that he felt there were already enough trees in this area.

9. Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk had discussed the possibility of additional dog waste bins at Great Mead and Emery Down with NFDC and had been informed that the most cost effective solution would be to put a larger litter bin at Emery Down with a notice on it stating that it was acceptable to deposit dog waste in the bin. A similar large litter bin could be installed at the Shrubbs Hill Road end of Great Mead on the site of the existing dog waste bin and it would also be fitted with the same notice. There would be no extra charge to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: To accept this offer.

10. Any Other Business

(a) Grit Bins

Mr Bisson said he now had the position of the grit bins on the map he had prepared. The Clerk asked him to ensure that the grit bins in Pikes Hill and Pikes Hill Avenue were marked on the map as these had been installed more recently. Mrs Trend asked if notices could be placed in the grit bins stating that other items should not be placed in them. The Clerk explained that she had previously done this but as it was some while ago she would ensure that this was checked. Mr Bisson stated that the bins were filled by NFDC.

(b) Church Steps

Mrs Trend asked if either the Church or NFDC, depending on where responsibility lay due to the fact that St Michael's was now a closed churchyard, could have their attention drawn to the fact that the church steps were, in her opinion, unsafe.

In the absence of any other business the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date