

**RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF GREENS COMMITTEE**

**Held on Thursday 2 July 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. R Wilcox (Chairman); Mrs V Humphrey; A J Grindley; Ms P Lewis; A R Peters; and I Wilson.

There were no members of the public present.

**1. APOLOGIES**

**ACTION**

1.1 There were apologies from Cllrs Kay and Truman.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

2.1 Cllr Peters took the Chair for the election of Greens Committee Chairman. There was one nomination, for Cllr Wilcox, who was proposed by Cllr Mrs Humphrey, seconded by Cllr Ms Lewis. Cllr Wilcox was therefore re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Peters thanked him for his work in this role to date.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

3.1 There were no members of the public present therefore no questions.

**4. ACTION POINT LIST – Appendix 1**

08/12/11 Broyle Lane Play Area: The Clerk advised that as the court case seeking removal of the adjacent mobile home was only due to be considered at the end of July , it would still be premature to obtain firm estimates.

09/02/01 Letter to Mr Moulard: The Clerk advised that a further copy of the letter in question had been hand – delivered by him through Mr Moulard’s letter box, and it was therefore agreed that this action point be discharged.

09/02/02 Horse Chestnut near pond on The Green: The Clerk advised that he had referred the matter of alleged damage to Lewes District Council’s Tree Officer, who had then inspected the tree. While he was concerned about any such work undertaken within the ‘root protection area’ of a tree, in this instance he had to advise that the tree is severely diseased anyway and probably only had a remaining life of between 5 & 10 years. Although he did not consider that the tree posed a current hazard, on the basis of limited inspection, he

indicated that it should be regularly inspected and that in any event a general survey of the trees on the Green would be advisable. It was agreed that the action point be discharged.

## 5. PLAY AREAS & EQUIPMENT

The following were agreed after the annual tour of play areas:

### 5.1 Broyle Close

The equipment and site appeared in good condition with no problems associated with overhanging vegetation. The number of litter bins was adequate. It was noted that 2 fence panels required attention and it was established that these were LDC's responsibility – this should be brought to its notice.

**Clerk  
09/07/03**

### 5.2 Broyle Lane

It was agreed that new high wire mesh fencing should be provided to the frontage and also the side adjacent to Careys Cowshed, and that a goalpost should be installed at the northern end, existing trees providing an informal goal at the other end, sufficiently distanced from the neighbouring dwelling. A basketball stand was suggested but not supported. This small area is apparently well regarded and it was subsequently confirmed that these low key improvements should be welcomed locally.

### 5.3 Fingerpost Field

While the equipment and general condition of this play area was found to be good, it was reported that grease had been causing some problems on the revolving cage and this should be referred to the manufacturers to seek a solution. Similarly, the larger swings required some attention and the safety surface repaired as it had cracked significantly.

**Clerk  
09/07/04  
Clerk  
09/07/05**

### 5.4 Anchor Field

There was concern that the builders' compound fencing bordering the new surgery, retained to protect new grass while it establishes, is unattractive and poses a security problem in screening the skateboard and play areas. It was agreed that the surgery be requested to replace this with see-through temporary fencing.

**Clerk  
09/07/06**

The skate board ramps appeared to be in good order, although they have recently been subject to vandalism and graffiti, and some youths using the equipment suggested that some additional features, increasing the challenges available, would be welcomed. It was noted that the self-closing gates did not always function properly – this is to be addressed.

**Clerk  
09/07/07**

The youths also suggested that football and basketball be provided for, and Councillors referred to a problem of balls oversailing into neighbours' gardens – a high fence above the bordering garages' wall was discussed as a solution. It was agreed that before

considering this and other possible expenditure further, Council's continued tenure be confirmed as the lease is understood to be due for renewal shortly and that the legal position regarding possible alternative uses be checked. It was also agreed that the football club be approached over cracking that has occurred in the adjacent enclosing wall, raising possible safety implications.

**Clerk  
09/07/08**

**Clerk  
09/07/09**

5.5 The Green

Members noted some cracks in the bitumen path running through the centre of the play area between the gates and it was agreed that a repair should be undertaken. It was also noted that some of the older safety surfaces had bulged or risen and that due to contraction there were gaps at some edges – subsequent discussion with the contractor carrying out weekly safety inspections indicated that he regularly looks at these and would advise if he considered that any remedial work was required. Algae growing on the older surfaces in the winter months had been removed with weak detergent and water and this will require annual attention. Members were advised that the roundabout has required some attention this year but is currently operating satisfactorily (some loose and missing bolts have now been attended to.) In other respects the play area was considered satisfactory.

**Clerk  
09/07/10**

**6. VILLAGE GREEN**

6.1 Survey of trees on the Green and other areas

Such a survey had been suggested by LDC's Tree Officer and consideration was further hastened by a reported action against the Environment Agency for allegedly failing to look after trees in Barcombe, leading to personal injury. Some of the trees in or abutting the Green are fairly mature and substantial and it was agreed that at least those for which the Council is responsible should be surveyed to ascertain their condition and whether any tree works are advised. It would be necessary to establish the Green's boundaries particularly adjacent to the ditch between the cricket pavilion and Bishops Lane, but in any event there was a query whether Council should also check the safety of trees overhanging over the boundaries and whether the thick growths of ivy will be proving detrimental to the trees' wellbeing. It was requested that it be established how frequently such surveys should be conducted. It was agreed that estimates for such a survey be obtained for the next Meeting, and that this should cover trees on the Green, Anchor Field and the small play area at Broyle Lane.

**Clerk  
09/07/11**

6.2 During the annual inspection of the Green, it was commented that drainage of the area east of North Road by a French drain could alleviate some of the flooding problems that occur around Cheyney Field. It was agreed that as the problem appeared to have arisen since ESCC had temporarily used the site as a depot/vehicle park, it should be approached over rectifying the problem.

**Clerk  
09/07/12**

- 6.3 The damage to the path caused by collapse of the area above the drainage work was also inspected and appeared to now be in satisfactory order.
- 6.4 Members were advised that an electrical survey in connection with the War Memorial lighting had established that the fault was on the south, Hall, side of the road and subsequently it has been found that it has been in the building itself and after minor precautionary improvements that have been arranged, the circuit will again be functional.
- 6.5 Concern has been frequently raised recently about the amount of litter left on the Green particularly at weekends, which is then broadcast by wind or animals. It was agreed that those organising activities on the Green should be encouraged to collect up and reposition surplus waste that their activities had generated to an appropriate location to be agreed.

**Clerk**  
**09/07/13**

## **7. OPEN SPACES**

- 7.1 There were no further matters arising in relation to this item.

## **8. POSSIBLE NEW PROJECTS AND UTILISATION OF REMAINING DEVELOPERS CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 8.1 The Clerk had circulated an appendix which set out the current situation regarding the various funds arising from the 2 sources of developers' contributions, the Forges and Pippins developments. This was discussed in some detail and he emphasised in particular that:
- There was a sum of over £35,000 remaining, allowing for accrued interest, which could potentially be applied to recreational projects by RPC, subject to LDC approval of details.
  - Of this, over £25,000 has to be spent by April 2011 while the rest has no specific deadline.
  - Separately from this, moneys have already been released to serve other purposes as required under the S106 agreements, for instance £132,766.08 to ESCC for the cycleway from the Forges development.
  - Further funds have also been allocated (but not yet transferred), principally for the provision of a play area at the Forges (£76,526.34, including estimated interest) and for outdoor sports facilities at the Community College (£99,672.74 est.) which also need to be utilised by 2011.
- 8.2 He revisited the details of the possible projects arising from discussions at the December Committee meeting, in the light of the

annual inspections referred to above, and it was confirmed that the fencing and goal post at Broyle Lane was the only remaining firm project for the near future of those then listed; that new swings at Anchor Field appeared of low priority as those existing seemed satisfactory; and that progress over recreational facilities at Broyle Gate Farm did not seem likely in the near future.

- 8.3 Particularly in view of the limited immediate prospect of further such financial resources from development proposals and the initial discussions currently under way about the possibility of utilising part of these funds for other purposes, which may be regarded as being of higher priority by the community, it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain at least indicative figures for the next Meeting for the costs of implementing those projects and repairs identified at this Meeting.

**Clerk**  
**09/07/14**

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 9.1 The Clerk had been asked whether Council had any use for a young horse chestnut tree that has grown up on the allotments and it was agreed that this be referred to the tree warden for his attention.

## **10. ANY REPORTS (by leave)**

- 10.1 Cllr Wilson advised that following delivery of the letter, Mr Moulard intended to check the path as part of his preferred route to gauge its suitability for his use.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 17 September 2009, 7.30pm St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.