

## RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF GREENS COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 20 September 2007 at Ringmer Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Wilcox (Chairman); Mrs V Humphrey; Ms P Lewis; R B Truman and I Wilson.

There were three members of the public present.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1. APOLOGIES</b>                      | <b>ACTION</b>  |
| 1.1                                      | There were apologies from Cllrs. Grindley; Kay and Peters;   |
| <b>2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS</b>   |  |
| 2.1                                      | The Chairman suspended Standing Orders and invited comments from the members of the public present.  |
| 2.2                                      | Comments were received from members of the public including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the need to replace the rubbish bin by the pump on the Green</li> <li>- the need for a 'no dogs' sign at the Green play area</li> <li>- perceived problems with the construction of the new path on the Green</li> <li>- the vandalism of the new roundabout on the Green</li> </ul> |
| 2.3                                      | The Chairman reconvened Standing Orders.   |
| <b>3. ACTION POINT LIST – Appendix 1</b> |  |
| 06/03/04                                 | <b>Provision of bench on the Green:</b> the Clerk reported that pressure of work at the joinery continued to mean this could not be progressed. It was agreed to discharge this action.  |
| 07/06/01                                 | <b>Seesaw for the Green:</b> as this was the subject of a separate agenda item it was agreed to discharge this action.   |
| 07/06/02                                 | <b>Replacement 'rustic' bench by pond:</b> it was reported that the height from ground level of the sitting surface should be between 450 – 500mm. Accordingly it was agreed to ask Mr Cooper to proceed with the replacement.   |
| 07/06/03                                 | <b>Re-painting of seats on the Green:</b> it was agreed to discharge this action as it was covered by a separate item on the agenda.   |

**Clerk**

07/06/04      **Renovation of grave of Ringmer's first vicar:** it was reported that two quotations had been received and a third was expected soon. Quotations for repairing the stone, cleaning it, relaying it and re-cutting lettering ranged from £675 to £1183 (although lettering at £4 per letter was not included in the former). An alternative proposal had also been offered for £425 (plus £4 per letter) involving simply reshaping the bottom half of the stone that held the inscription and cleaning and relaying this.

**On the basis of this information it was decided to seek guidance from Council on how it wished to proceed.**

#### **4. PLAY AREAS & EQUIPMENT**

##### **Refurbishment of play areas including new seesaw on the Green**

4.1 It was reported that the Broyle Close play area refurbishment had been completed except for signs that had been omitted from the successful tender. The Clerk had arranged for these to be installed by Wicksteed Leisure when the new seesaw was installed. Wicksteed would be installing the seesaw in early October. It was also agreed to order a 'no dogs' sign for the 'rear' gate of the Green play area.

**Clerk  
07/09/05**

##### **Annual inspection of play areas**

4.2 No major issues had been identified. Some minor maintenance/repair works were required that the Clerk would action.

##### **Vandalism**

4.3 The Clerk reported on the vandalism of the roundabout on the Green and the action taken. Wicksteed anticipated repairing it in about three weeks and he was meeting the company on site to discuss this. Mr Cooper provided photographs of the damage which would be helpful in determining if the roundabout had been correctly installed.

**Clerk  
07/09/06**

#### **5. VILLAGE GREEN**

##### **Replacement of the path**

5.1 The clerk reported on progress and slight changes arising from the need to avoid tree roots. Also that there would be an increase in cost due to:

- the excavated soil being unsuitable for re-use and the need to import top soil;
- a second layer of concrete path being discovered near the turning circle requiring additional work to break it up and remove it.

- 5.2 He also reported the circumstances leading to the removal of a section of the land drain in front of the pond and adjacent to the path. It was agreed to wait and see if its removal had any noticeable effect before considering what action to take. In the event of work being necessary it was recognised that this could not be undertaken before the spring given likely ground conditions. In the meantime the Clerk would inform the cricket club of the situation.

**Clerk  
07/09/08**

**Painting of seats on the Green**

- 5.3 It was confirmed that this had been completed and feedback from residents had been positive.

**Donation of new seat by the cricket pavilion**

- 5.4 It was reported that this had been completed and painted the same colour as the other seats.

**Improvements to the village pond**

- 5.5 It was reported that water levels remained high. As a result the Clerk recommended that proposed works to grade the banks be postponed and that only the planned second treatment of the water proceed. This was agreed.

**Request to use the Green for a children's' party with marquee**

- 5.6 The Clerk reported that following this recent request, Council's insurers had advised that the applicant should take out special event insurance as Council's public liability insurance would not cover any resultant accident and Council could find itself liable. He had advised the applicant who had decided not to proceed. The Clerk reported the applicant's views on the matter.

**Replacement of bin by the Parish Pump**

- 5.7 It was agreed to replace the bin and that the Chairman and Clerk would agree the type of bin to be installed.

**Cllr.  
Wilcox &  
Clerk  
07/09/09**

**6. WAR MEMORIAL – REPLACEMENT OF WOODEN POSTS**

- 6.1 The Clerk reported that the posts were in a very poor condition and unsightly. To replace them would cost £250 in materials plus £150 labour from Mr Giles. If agreed the work could be finished before Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed to ask Mr Giles to undertake the work.

## **7. OPEN SPACES**

7.1 There was nothing to report.

## **8. CUTTING OF GRASS ADJACENT TO VILLAGE HALL**

8.1 The Clerk reported that he had a complaint about the uncut grass beside the Village Hall, alongside the path between it and the Anchor Inn. Both the County Council and the Village Hall denied ownership and he had asked the County Council to undertake a Land Registry Search. This had revealed the land was unregistered. The Committee were asked if they wanted to absorb the area within Council's own grass cutting contract.

8.2 **It was agreed to recommend to Council that it take on the cost of cutting the grass given the value to the community of maintaining the village conservation area in good order on the understanding that Council was not assuming responsibility for, or ownership of, the land.**

## **9. DRAFT COMMITTEE BUDGET 2008/09 – Appendix 2**

9.1 The Committee considered the draft budget and **it was agreed to recommend to Council that subject to the recommendations of Office & Finance Committee it approve the draft budget of £19,385 for 2008/09.**

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

10.1 The Clerk reported an email from a resident drawing attention to excrement found near the pond and annoyance caused by youths at the play area on the Green around 10pm onward on Fridays and Saturdays. She had asked if the police could include this on their patrols as a deterrent to vandalism. The Clerk reported that he had already spoken to PCSO Clarke. The area was already subject to police cover but particular attention would be paid at the times identified when the PCSO's were on duty.

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

11.1 There were no reports.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12.1 Thursday 6 December 2007, 7.30pm St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm