

**RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF GREENS COMMITTEE**

**Held on Thursday 5 February 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall**

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

There were 2 members of the public present.

**1. APOLOGIES**

**ACTION**

1.1 There were apologies from Cllr Peters.

**2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

2.1 No interests were declared.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

3.1 The Chairman suspended Standing Orders and invited comments from the members of the public present.

3.2 Mr Cooper referred to 2 smaller trees on The Green near the pavilion which overhung and were of low value in his view and could be usefully replaced by bushes. He also suggested that additional signage could be erected in an attempt to deter litter and dog mess problems which should refer to penalties for those responsible.

3.3 Mr Hockley provided some information about the drainage of the pond at The Green. He acknowledged that the path is now wider but queried the background to its construction as a replacement – he was advised that this had been prompted by a tripping accident on the uneven former concrete slabs and the opportunity presented of S.106 funding. There followed a discussion as to whether there would have been an obligation to comply in part or full with the requirements of access and any other related legislation. It was agreed that the path could if necessary be discussed at a forthcoming Council Meeting, but no earlier than March, notwithstanding that by resolution of Council on 11 September last it had been decided that ‘the path be left for at least one year before deciding if further work was needed on the surface,’ and that other aspects such as width and adequacy of construction had been previously debated and considered satisfactory. On the issue of access, Cllr Wilson mentioned that a disabled user of the path, Mr Mouland, had yet to receive a response to a reported incident, despite 2 copies having been sent to him – following discussion he undertook to hand deliver a further copy.

**Cllr  
Wilson  
09/02/01**

3.3 The Chairman reconvened Standing Orders.

#### **4. ACTION POINT LIST – Appendix 1**

- 08/12/08 Replacement of litter bin: The Clerk advised that this had now been installed and it was therefore agreed that this action point be discharged
- 08/12/09 Visit of Lawson’s Circus: Arrangements had been formalised on the same basis as used for the Fair and the Circus will be visiting between 27 and 29 April. It was agreed that the action point be discharged.
- 08/12/10 Trees at Middleham Close: A tree survey report had been received from Lewes District Council’s Tree and Landscape Officer in relation to the 6 trees involved. No further works or actions were recommended and the action point was therefore discharged.
- 08/12/11 Broyle Lane Play Area: It was confirmed that the proposed works were eligible for S.106 funding, however as the anticipated removal shortly of an unauthorised mobile home from immediately adjoining land may well cause damage to part of the fencing proposed, it was concluded that the consideration of estimates and implementation of the works should be deferred.

#### **5. PLAY AREAS & EQUIPMENT**

- 5.1 Following reporting of these issues, the Clerk had investigated difficulty in revolving the roundabout on the play area on The Green, which appears to have been due to freezing of trapped water - now freed and further greasing applied; and algae accumulation on the older safe play surfaces there – which will be reduced shortly by gentle scrubbing and mild detergent (the most that should be used to avoid toxicity or further degradation of the surface).

#### **6. VILLAGE GREEN**

##### Drainage issue in vicinity of Delves House driveway

- 6.1 During recent heavy rainfall, it had been reported that boggy conditions had occurred in the area of The Green between the pond, path and drive to Delves House. This appeared to be mainly due to the lack of a ditch or functioning drain in this location, with the further possibility of some seepage from the pond. The Clerk advised that in arranging the improved drainage from the pond last year, provision had been made, via a now constructed inspection chamber,

for a French drain to be added along the cricket pitch side of the path; however it had been agreed that that part of the scheme would not be implemented at the time. It was agreed that the problem be kept under review since it was unclear whether this was merely an exceptional occurrence.

#### Unstable tree

- 6.2 Cllr Wilson referred to a large tree adjacent to the pond, subject of a TPO and within the Conservation Area, which had apparently suffered root severance during overflow drainage works for the pond last year. Photographs had been supplied which gave an indication of the alignment of a trench and some root debris. He was concerned that this very tall tree now appeared to be leaning. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the District Council's Tree and Landscape Officer for investigation.

**Clerk  
09/02/02**

#### Request from John Lawson's Circus to use Village Green

- 6.3 The Committee was advised that the Circus had agreed to appropriate conditions and that the Police and the Environmental Health Dept had been notified in case a presence or monitoring might be required.

### **7. OPEN SPACES**

#### Trees at Middleham Close – inspection by District Council Tree Officer

- 7.1 The Clerk advised that the requested survey had concluded that the 6 trees involved, on the incidental open space area between nos. 3 and 4, posed low risk as a result of their size, position and the limited use likely to be made of this area. As a result frequent re-inspection should not prove necessary and the trees could be left for 5 – 10 years. The Tree Officer was concerned however at what he regarded as 'an unsympathetic and aggressive pruning regime' that had been applied to these trees which had gained poor wound response and led to pockets of decay, affecting their long term health prospects. This perhaps suggested a cautious approach to pruning that ensured tree welfare and retained amenity value while taking a responsible yet balanced approach to adjacent property owners' concerns.

### **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 8.1 There was no correspondence.

**9. ANY REPORTS (by leave)**

9.1 No oral reports were made.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10.1 Thursday 2 July 2009, 7.30pm St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.

**Please note** that the July Meeting will be preceded by the Annual tour of play areas commencing at 6.30pm at Broyle Close play area.

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm.