

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 1 October 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs J Fordham; J E Kay; A R Peters; K White; and Mrs J Woollons.

Members of the public present: None

1. APOLOGIES **ACTION**

1.1 There were no apologies

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

2.1 Cllr Peters took the chair for the start of this Meeting. There was one nomination for the Chair of this Committee, for Cllr Mrs Fordham, proposed by Cllr Mrs Woollons and seconded by Cllr White. She had indicated in advance that she was prepared to stand, was duly elected, and then took the chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

3.1 There were no declarations.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

4.1 There were no members of the public present.

5. ACTION POINT LIST – Appendix 1

09/01/05 Drainage Issues: The Clerk reported that this was an ongoing matter which would be pursued further as time permitted.

09/06/07 Allotments: The Clerk advised that letters had been sent to the allotment holders involved and it was agreed to discharge the action point.

09/06/08 Stile at FP22: As the necessary repair had been carried out it was agreed to discharge the action point.

09/06/09 Parking at southern end of Broyle Lane: Following discussion with Ash House occupiers at a Community Association meeting and initiatives by the PCSO, the situation near Broyleside has improved although the buses sometimes encounter problems. It was agreed to now consult local residents directly by letter drop, for ideas and to highlight the problem.

09/06/10 Pedestrian Crossing: The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with the responsible officer at ESCC who will advise further on its position and the facility deemed appropriate in the light of the speed survey results and recent reappraisal of the priority lists. The matter is therefore ongoing but she has stated that even if funding were to become assured, from whatever source, there would be an inevitably significant period needed from that point for design and implementation.

09/06/11 Requests for dog bins: The Clerk advised that he had notified the residents, from Gote and Norlington Lanes respectively, that resources are not available and it was agreed that the action point be discharged.

09/06/12 Infrequently mown verges: The Clerk advised that he had obtained some details of responsibilities and that the immediate problem had been resolved, however he would write to the authorities to request that frequency and periods of cutting be monitored for best effect.

6. ALLOTMENTS

6.1 The Clerk advised that the newly created allotments were being well cultivated. There had been limited interest expressed to date by people wanting to follow the Landshare approach of utilising surplus land for growing produce but the Chairman was aware that several people had organised this privately within the village.

7. FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS, FOOTWAYS AND TWITTENS

7.1 Proposal for a new footpath to the Downs

The Clerk had ascertained from ESCC's legal dept that the documentation was virtually completed and that therefore it should be possible to make the footpath available for public use fairly soon.

7.2 Kissing gates

The Clerk stated that no further progress had been made regarding the planned installation of kissing gates and other improvements along footpath 22 between Bishops Lane and Norlington Lane, and that this and the necessary budgetary provision would therefore be carried through to next year as the final planned part of the project.

7.3 Twittens

Councillors will recall that ESCC had been requested to carry out maintenance work on the twittens as part of the Village Maintenance

Teams' annual project however Council has not been advised how far the works have been implemented. A complaint had been received about graffiti and rubbish in the Shelley Close twitten but recent inspection has not identified any problems.

7.4 New permissive access

The Clerk advised that Cllr Peters had entered into an agreement through to 2019 with Natural England, allowing a link between footpaths 5 and 10 which will reduce the extent to which walkers would need to use the A26 for part of their route.

7.5 Request to pursue continuation of permissive access

A circular 2.2 ml walk between Lower Stoneham Farm, Chalkham Farm, River Ouse and Earwig Corner, which features in the Ringmer Footpaths booklet, is due to expire in September 2010, and Ringmer Ramblers have asked if Council can pursue keeping it open. A check with DEFRA and the Countryside Stewardship dept has indicated that the owner has apparently submitted a proposal which would include keeping the path open however it was agreed that Council write to confirm its support for this.

**Clerk
09/10/13**

7.6 Damage at Footpath 32

Cllr White requested replacement of a rotted timber sleeper forming part of the footpath near the new kissing gate.

**Clerk
09/10/14**

8. TRAFFIC, PARKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

8.1 The Clerk advised that following Council's and other submissions to ESCC following the fatalities on The Broyle, a speed survey had been conducted between 11 and 18 August opposite Upper Lodge. This had shown mean (average) speeds of 43 mph in each direction. Councillors found it difficult to credit such a result as most people from their experience travel along there at around 60mph and suspected an error in the equipment or its setting up. It was agreed that this should be queried and that it be also suggested that maximum speeds clocked should also be included as these are important in deciding the need for further action.

**Clerk
09/10/15**

8.2 Council had been contacted by the Highway Liaison Officer asking if a Liaison Meeting was sought. It was agreed that one should be requested and this should include topics such as the crossing, Broyle Lane parking, parking at the shops, The Broyle/Lane junction, Village Maintenance Teams, The Broyle, grass cutting arrangements, and a 20mph speed limit for part of Harrison's Lane (as sought by RADAR).

**Clerk
09/10/16**

9. DOG BINS AND DOG LITTER

9.1 The Clerk advised that 3 letters had recently been received complaining about some dog owners' inconsiderate and illegal practice of dumping filled dog litter bags next to footpaths, fields and public places, when they had the opportunity and responsibility of taking them home or using the several dog bins in the area. Councillors considered that substantial figures have already been spent by the whole community (not just dog owners) in providing for bins and their regular emptying and more would be required shortly as replacement bins were needed. However thought could be given to whether these are in the most appropriate locations and it was agreed that dog owners be consulted over this and with the matter being again raised in the Newsletter, so that the best possible use can be made of limited resources.

**Clerk
09/10/17**

10. CONDITION OF TRADITIONAL FINGERPOST ROAD DIRECTION SIGNS

10.1 Cllr Kay reported that despite renovation of these signs only a couple of years ago, they were again deteriorating. He agreed to check the locations of the signs in need of further attention so that the organisation involved can be asked to attend to the problem.

**Cllr Kay &
Clerk
09/10/18**

11. DRAFT COMMITTEE BUDGET 2010/11 – Appendix 2

11.1 The Committee considered the draft Budget and the Clerk stated that under Highway Equipment and Signage Maintenance, estimated outturn should read £1000. It was suggested that provision should only be made for the replacement or provision of one dog bin this particular budget year.

11.2 Subject to the above amendments **it was agreed to recommend to Council that subject to the recommendations of Office and Finance Committee it approve the draft budget as set out for 2010/11.**

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 There was no further correspondence to report.

13. ANY REPORTS (by leave)

13.1 Cllr Kay advised that he had attended a meeting organised by The Forges management company. It appeared that some progress was being achieved although the company was having limited continued responsibility, with much to be passed to Lewes DC. There would be opportunities for residents to gain places on the managing body and

a local company Green's have been given responsibility for maintenance work.

- 13.2 Cllr Peters recorded Council's grateful thanks for Cllr Longhurst's energetic work for the Council and particularly as Chairman of General Purposes Committee. He also congratulated Cllr Kay on his retirement that day.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place on Thursday 7 January 2010 at 7.30 pm in the St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.