

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GREENS COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 17 September 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall

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

Members of the public present: None

1. APOLOGIES

ACTION

1.1 There were apologies from Cllr Kay.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

2.1 There were no questions.

3. ACTION POINT LIST – Appendix 1

08/12/11 Broyle Lane Play Area: As the Clerk had advised, the court case seeking removal of the adjacent mobile home had been unsuccessful but further action is being pursued. It was therefore decided to proceed to arrange estimates with a view to the front section of fence and gate being renewed, the signage updated, and a goalpost provided, with replacement of the northern side fence to be deferred.

09/07/03 Broyle Close Play Area: The deteriorated fence panels had been brought to LDC's attention however this action point was retained to ensure that the result would also be reported.

09/07/04 Fingerpost Field: It was reported that the grease had been cleaned up however the problem still had to be referred to the manufacturers.

09/07/05 Fingerpost Field: The Clerk advised that Mr Giles had been in the habit of applying the grease generously to deter misuse of the swings, but the hot weather had caused it to run. He will avoid this problem in future. Appropriate repair to the safety surfaces generally are under investigation.

09/07/06 Anchor Field: The Clerk advised that this request was made and it was agreed that this action point be discharged since the fencing has now been removed in any event.

09/07/07 Anchor Field: It had now been established that the gates will

require some dismantling as well as lubrication and detailed instructions are being obtained, with assistance as necessary.

- 09/07/08 Anchor Field: The tenure situation has been referred for attention to the appropriate LDC depts and a firm response is awaited. The lease comes up for renewal in Nov 2010 and Council's tenure has been running since at least 1969.
- 09/07/09 Anchor Field: The Clerk advised that the potential hazard posed by the cracked wall had been referred to the football club and it was agreed to discharge the action point.
- 09/07/10 The Green: The Clerk advised that he had arranged for an appropriate quotation before the 2 long cracks are repaired and it was agreed that the action point be discharged.
- 09/07/11 Tree survey: The Clerk advised that from discussion with LDC's Parks Manager, it transpires that a district wide survey is being undertaken in the Spring and LDC could include the areas identified by the Parish Council and will provide a quotation, which should certainly prove more cost effective than commissioning a separate survey.
- 09/07/12 Drainage east of North Road: The issue had been referred to ESCC for attention and response. The Clerk was advised that the previous drain had been filled in the enable vehicle access during ESCC use of the adjacent area.
- 09/07/13 Litter on The Green: The Clerk advised than activity organisers had been co-operating , and that Mr Carter is now collecting and storing litter on more appropriate days ready removal. Further improvements are being considered. It was agreed to discharge the action point.
- 09/07/14 Possible projects: The Clerk stated that this is an ongoing matter over which gradual progress is being achieved.

4. PLAY AREAS & EQUIPMENT

- 4.1 It was reported that defects in the safety surfaces have become more apparent with the long spells of hot and dry weather, in the form of splits, unevenness, voids underneath and separation from the concrete edgings. There had been failure of some of the joints between older and renewed surfaces, and grass and weeds had started to grow in places, which needed to be treated. The annual independent safety inspection was imminent but in any event it was necessary to contemplate repair or replacement in several positions on Fingerpost Field and more particularly The Green. The Clerk advised that on LDC Park Manager's recommendation he was

looking into the possibility of using a matting system made from recycled material which can be pegged down to cover and overlap an existing surface (examples can be viewed at Bell Lane and de Montfort Estate play area, both in Lewes.) By contrast the existing form of surfacing used is said to be very expensive, difficult to repair and is environmentally unfriendly. It has already been confirmed that renewal or repair of the safety surfaces can be funded out of the S106 contributions.

- 4.2 It was advised that a letter had been received from a mother whose daughter had tripped on an uneven area of ground within The Green play area. Councillors were told that Mr Giles had been asked to make good this and other areas and to grass seed them at the appropriate time, including areas of cracking due to clay movement as necessary, in order to maintain safety and the robustness of the surrounding metal fence.
- 4.3 The Clerk advised that there had been further instances of vandalism at Anchor Field which had been referred to the Police. This included damage to the surface of the skate board ramps, broken glass, fires in litter bins and the recycling area, and destruction of a litter bin which now requires replacement. (With a further incident of rubbish dumping and hazardous broken glass in the recycling area abutting the car park, the Clerk has now also referred this problem to Lewes District Council.)

5. VILLAGE GREEN

- 5.1 The Clerk advised that a number of cracks had appeared in the new path, in common with many recently observed on roads and paths in the general area. He advised that he had referred this for advice to Lewes District Council whose engineer had taken the matter in hand. The Clerk also stated that he considered action to be required, and repeated on an appropriately regular basis, to prevent grass and weeds from encroaching over the path edgings, which would presumably lead to surface deterioration if left unchecked. The need for this was supported.
- 5.2 The Clerk stated that following a query from the Chairman, he had looked into measures proposed in recent years relative to the pond. In 2007 some tree work was conducted and water treatment carried out but some recommended grading of the banks was deferred due to water levels not being conducive. The specialist contractor concerned has been asked for his suggestions after a site visit. This might involve grading, further dead tree removal, water treatment and additional planting and a reply is awaited. Following an accumulation of litter in the pond, some clearance had been arranged however some parts are not accessible from the land. To ensure appropriate safety precautions the Clerk asked whether a safety buoy

**Clerk
09/09/15**

should perhaps be provided: it was agreed that the practicality and need for this be investigated, however it was recalled that when previously provided this was frequently misused.

**Clerk
09/09/16**

6. OPEN SPACES

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

7. DRAFT COMMITTEE BUDGET 2010/11 – Appendix 2

- 7.1 The Committee considered the draft budget and it was agreed that it be supported and recommended to Council through Office and Finance Committee that it be approved, subject to a query over figures for play inspections (code 22), and a suggestion that the maintenance works (code 10) budget figure could perhaps be reduced given that a contingencies figure is allowed for (code 32).

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1 A request had been received from the owner of 6 Middleham Close to have a sycamore and 2 horse chestnut trees cut back hard on the adjacent open space due to their growth and untidiness and concern that the roots might be undermining their foundations. The trees have been heavily reduced every 2 years for some time. The Clerk suggested that this be referred to the Tree Officer for an opinion as to whether such work was warranted or appropriate given the tree species and circumstances, or whether some or all of the trees should be removed and replaced by a smaller ornamental tree as suggested by the resident. This approach was agreed to.

**Clerk
09/09/17**

9. ANY REPORTS (by leave)

- 9.1 Cllr Grindley asked that the ditch and culvert under the entrance to the Scout Hall be checked, since its failure could be a contributory factor in any flooding of the area east of North Road.

**Clerk
09/09/18**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 3 December 2009, 7.30pm St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.