**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH JULY 2024 AT CHURCH FARM AT 8.25PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. R. Roud (Chairman), Rachel Belton, T. Bishop, Mrs. L. Cook, P. Leale, Mrs. M. Moore, Mrs. J. Sharpe and D. Thornewell

**Under S.O.48(a):** Cllrs. Mrs. C. Bell, R. Haffenden, Mrs. C. Shire and Mrs. C. Woodger

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None Received

**APPROVAL AND SIGNIING OF THE MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 13th MARCH 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th March 2024 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING**

(i) **War Memorial/Vigor Close Cross** – inscriptions

It was **NOTED** that the work to the inscriptions is likely to take place in the school summer holidays.

(ii) **East Malling Village Hall – Roof Replacement**

The Clerk reported that the replacement of the roof has now been completed satisfactorily.

**FOOTPATH MATTERS**

(i) **Footpath MR 114, East Malling**

The Clerk was asked to send an email to KCC asking for an update in respect of the Definitive Map Modification Order on the above footpath – Pikey Lane/The Heath and Joan-A-Plain Lane.

(ii) **Footpath MR44, Abbey Meads**

Cllr. Thornewell reported that he has inspected this path and the section of the route the subject to a Diversion Order is now walkable but no Order has been made.

(iii) **Any Other Footpath Matters**

The sign at the entrance to MR109 at Sweets Lane has been knocked down and needs to be reported to the PROW office at KCC.

The footpath behind Fielding Drive going down to Tesco’s is overgrown and needs cutting back.

The path through the woodland from Larkspur Road to the A20 has been cleared by Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

MR587 – Path opposite Heron Road, Larkfield. A report has been sent to the KCC PROW office informing that there is possible asbestos dumped on this path which is located opposite the junction with Heron Road

MR97 – Paul’s Alley – a report has been sent to the PROW office informing of overgrowth on this path being the one from Martin Square to the A20. A reply had been received informing that work will take place within 10 weeks but some minor works will be carried out sooner that this.

MR122 – Following a report by a resident that this path is very overgrown, a report has been sent to the PROW office. This path runs alongside the motorway near to Lunsford Allotments.

**STREETLIGHTING MATTERS**

There were no Streetlighting Matters.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Qualitree Services Ltd: **Beech tree at South Ward Playing Field**

The Clerk reported that a beech tree at South Ward Playing is in very poor condition and Qualitree have provided a quotation in the sum of £1,704.00 inc. VAT to fell said tree.

It was generally felt that the tree should be felled completely and the trunk to be removed.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Roud inspect the tree in question and be given authority to instruct the Clerk to accept the quotation.

**ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(i) **Unworked Plots**

The Clerk reported that numerous letters have been sent out to tenants of unworked plots and quite a few have given them up and they have been re-let.

**OPEN SPACE MATTERS**

Cllr. Bishop reported that the hedges around Marlowe Road Green need cutting back and the Clerk was asked to request a quotation from Qualitree for the work required.

**RAGSTONE WALL AT ENTRANCE TO VILLAGE FIELD CAR PARK**

The Clerk circulated pictures of the ragstone wall in the access road to the Village Field Car Park which is in urgent need of repair. It has been established that the wall is the responsibility of the occupier of No.63 High Street, East Malling and it was **AGREED** that a letter be sent requesting that the necessary repair work be carried out as soon as possible.

**VILLAGE HALL MATTERS**

(i) **Travellers at Larkfield Village Hall Car Park and East Malling**

The Clerk reported on the situation that took place at East Malling Village Hall Car Park where travellers were threatening to both herself and Mandy Harris the Community Warden and attempting to move onto South Ward Playing Field with pony and traps, etc and the Police were called. They then went on the green by Chapman Way/Catlyn Close with ponies wandering free. Thanks were expressed to both the Clerk and Mandy for their efforts on the day in question.

In respect of the two travellers caravans in Larkfield Village Hall Car Park, the Borough Council on our behalf obtained an Eviction Order from the Court for them to vacant within twenty four hours.

Discussion took place regarding CCTV as the Village Halls and the Clerk was requested to make enquiries about the possibility of a system at both Larkfield and East Malling Village Halls.

(ii) **Any Other Village Hall Matters**

Cllr. Bishop mentioned the shutter in Larkfield Village Hall which is not working properly and can’t be opened. The Clerk commented that work is in hand for it’s repair.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Bishop asked for an update on the open space areas off Chaucer Way – Blake Drive, which are the responsibility of the Borough Council at present. The Clerk will endeavour to obtain Land Registry details.

The Clerk reported on the situation with an untaxed and non MOT camper van in the Village Field Car Park, this has been reported to the Police, the Parking Office at the Borough Council and DVLA with a view to it being removed. No action has been taken at present and it was **AGREED** that an email be sent to the Parking Manager at the Borough Council drawing attention to the fact they manage the car park on our behalf.

Cllr. Mrs Sharpe reported that bushes are being removed at Willow Road Green to gain access from the lake.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 11th September 2024

**CLOSURE**

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.05p.m.