**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30P.M. AT CHURCH FARM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. D. Thornewell (Acting Chairman), Mrs. L. Cook, P. Leale, R. Mitchell and Mrs. J. Sharpe

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs. T. Bishop, Sharon Root and R. Roud

**APPROVAL AND SIGNIING OF THE MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 10th JULY 2024**

 It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 10th July 2024 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING**

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

 The Chairman reported that the work to the inscriptions on the War Memorial is now complete and also the Vigor Cross in Mill Street has now be re-painted and the stone cleaned. The Account has now been paid.

(ii) **Ragstone Wall at entrance to Village Field Car Park**

 The Clerk reported that the repairs to the ragstone wall in the access road to Village Field Car Park have now been completed. A letter of thanks should be sent to Mr. Murphy at 63 High Street

(iii) **Any Other Matters Arising**

 The Chairman reported that the Beech Tree on South Ward Playing Field has now been felled but the trunk needs to be removed and Qualitree will be doing this when the field is not so wet.

**FOOTPATH MATTERS**

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

It was **NOTED** that a Modification Order for MR114 has now been made by Kent County Council to upgrade the this footpath o a Bridleway. Any objections should be made by 18th October 2024.

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

The Chairman explained the situation in respect of the diversion of the above footpath and an email had been sent to the PROW office asking for an update.

It is expected that the works will be undertaken next year but cannot give a reason for the delay. An officer will be in contact once they are able to undertake the project.

**STREETLIGHTING MATTERS**

 There were no Streetlighting Matters.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

King and Queen PH: **Request for Stalls on East Malling Village Green**

I was **NOTED** that the King and Queen PH are holding their annual Christmas Carol event on Sunday, 1st December 2024 and they are requesting permission to use the Village Green for craft stalls. The event will run from 3.00p.m. – 5.30p.m.

It was **AGREED** that permission be **GRANTED.**

**ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

 The Clerk reported that the Allotment Rents are being paid at present. It was **NOTED** that a number have been given up which means they can be offered to people on the waiting lists.

**OPEN SPACE MATTERS**

(i) **Marlowe Road Green** – Quotation for Work required

The Chairman reported that we have received a quotation from Qualitree for necessary work to a Beech hedge at Marlowe Road Green but since this was provided he has met with Gary from Qualitree regarding some additional work that is required and a revised quotation is awaited.

(ii) **Any Other Open Space Matters**

The Chairman reported that the request for a bench on the green at the junction of Lunsford Lane/Gighill Road has been made to KCC and now we need to complete an application for the works. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk obtain some quotations for a suitable seat/bench for this location.

Cllr. Mrs. Cook reported that there is a tree fallen down on the green in Lunsford Lane opposite the shop. This being KCC land it should be reported on their portal.

**VILLAGE HALL MATTERS**

(i) **Review of Hire Rates**

The Clerk circulated copies of the existing rates for both Block Booking and Casual Hirers and a sheet showing the income for five months which shows that it is on target with the Annual Budget.

After considerable discussion it was **AGREED** the rates remain as existing for the time being as it was felt that an increase could prove too expensive some of the regular hirers if they were to be increased.

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

 The Clerk was asked to obtain updated quotations from Sunlite for both Church Farm Hall and the Granary Hall and Workshop.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 13th November 2024

**CLOSURE**

 The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.00p.m.

 Chairman

 13th November 2024