

Harrietsham Parish Council

Environmental Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7:30pm

1. **Present:** Cllrs Dean (Chairman) and Stanley, D Oversby and M Cuerden (RFO/Amenity Manager)
2. **Apologies:** Mrs S Amos **Members of the public:** None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (2nd November 2017) were signed (without amendment) at the November Council meeting. A second set was signed for our records.
4. **Disclosures:** Cllr Dean declared a potential interest in any matters relating to Woodlands Walk, as she lives nearby. However, she has dispensation previously agreed.

5. **Amenity Contracts – Evaluation of Tenders:**
The Amenity Manager had previously circulated a digest of the tenders received from six potential contractors. He then went on to clarify a number of points regarding the contracts, and several points concerning the various tenders. Mr Oversby commented that without knowing who had tendered which set of prices, it was difficult to consider each against the prices they had offered. After a wide ranging discussion, it was agreed to **Recommend to Council** that the cheapest bid be accepted for each contract, as detailed in the Amenity Manager’s summary – prop Cllr Dean, seconded Cllr Stanley.

6. **Woodlands Walk**
Tree survey work: The Amenity Manager reported that the contractor has lodged a TPO application to allow the works, to be determined by MBC at the end of this month. Work will then be able to start.

As an aside, Cllr Dean noted that there were a considerable number of dead branches left by one of our immediate neighbours after some work. At the same time, a base-board had been removed from the new fence recently installed, but not replaced. Cllr Dean asked the Clerk or the Amenity Manager to write to the parishioner, asking them to remedy these items.

Aerator in the lake: Following contact from a couple of parishioners living adjacent to the lake, the Amenity Manager had contacted the company who had already supplied a test unit for one of them. It appears from the answers provided to a series of questions that should the council provide a third unit to supplement the two already being considered by the residents, then it offered the potential of avoiding – or at least significantly reducing – the annual, and costly, addition of chalk compounds to try to control the algae. The supplier has a second-user unit, which we can acquire for £800, with running costs of about £300 per annum – which compares to about £2,000 per annum for the compounds. Moreover, Mrs Amos has spoken with an environmental engineer, who indicated that this was likely to prove a viable option. It was therefore agreed to **Recommend to Council** that we acquire a second-hand aerator for the lake at a cost of £800 – proposed Cllr Stanley, seconded Cllr Dean.

Refixing the duck house: This still needed doing, but it was agreed to defer until the spring and better weather!

7. **Updates from the Amenity Manager:**
Glebe Field Bench: There had been no progress on this yet, but it would be pursued.
Teers Meadow: The Amenity Manager had asked Cllr Sams if there had been any progress, but there was none to report yet.

8. **Village hall hedge:** Mr Oversby had asked about the replacement of two beech saplings that had failed to take. The Amenity Manager reported that he had asked C&A to do so, and they said that they would, at the same time as doing the tree on West Street Green, which, hopefully, is imminent.

9. **Items for future discussion:** Mr Oversby raised the question of the molehills on the West Street Green.

10. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 22nd February 2018 in the Parish Office

Meeting closed at 8:50pm.