

# Harrietsham Parish Council

## Environmental Committee

### Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 14th March 2019 at 7:30pm

1. **Present:** Cllrs Dean (chairman) and Stanley, Mr D Oversby, M Cuerden (RFO/Amenity Manager)
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Foster, Mrs S Amos **Members of the public:** None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (17th January 2019) were signed (without amendment) at the January Council meeting. A second set was signed for our records.
4. **Disclosures:** Cllr Dean re Woodlands Walk (with dispensation to speak).
5. **Amenity Contracts (Update):** The Amenity Manager reported that, as before, all looks to be in fairly good order, with the annual cycle of work starting again either this month or next. He noted that he had seen the Glebe Field being cut a few days ago.
  - He went on to say that we still couldn't tell what state Kent Highways would leave the A20 verges in when they finish, although we had been assured that they would clear the debris, roll and re-seed them. In the meantime, all we can do is to advise our contractors to do what they could, with due regard for health & safety.
  - It was noted that a tree had come down from a neighbour's land into Woodlands Walk. The neighbour had removed the tree and would be repairing the fence – Cllr Dean undertook to get a price for the minor repairs required to our damaged handrail, with a view to getting it repaired quickly for safety reasons. Cllr Dean also noted that the lake aerator had been found to be suffering from limescale build up and was being cleaned.
  - We have now received the signs concerning land usage, and it was agreed that we should place four on the Glebe Field (one at the Harrisons Drive entrance, one at the north-west corner by the rectory, one by the lockable bollards and one by St Welcomes Way), and two on the old CTRL land, (one at the end of Southfields Way, and one at the other end). This leaves two in storage for when required.
6. **Teers Meadow.** We are still awaiting the outcome of our funding bid, so at the moment nothing is happening.
7. **CTRL site and allotments:** There was some discussion on the subject of placing bollards to prevent unauthorised access. The Amenity Manager stated that he had estimated the run required to be about double the Glebe Field, and that cost some £2,500 in 2014, so we could be looking at about £5-£6K. Further, because of the landscaping already done, a row of bollards would probably look unsightly, and its effectiveness was questionable anyway. In the end, it was decided not to install any, and rely on the proposed legal improvements for safeguarding land from intrusion.
  - The question the site's maintenance was then discussed. It was agreed that the Amenity Manager and Cllr Dean would meet to discuss what should be done. Some advice from our contractors had been sought, yielding a range of opinions for us to consider. It was proposed that the timetable should be that we write a brief specification for circulation by the end of the month, awarding the contract during April. Due to the expected size of the contract, it was felt that three quotes would suffice, so the Amenity Manager suggested approaching our three existing contractors, plus C&A Landscapes, who worked for us in the last round, plus a notice on Facebook and the noticeboards. In order to proceed, it was agreed to seek delegated authority at March's council meeting to award the contract.
  - This would be for the amenity land behind the new estate. It was agreed that we should invite Mike Phillips of White Horse Ecology to come back and have a look at the scrub land round the new allotments to see what he would advise.
  - It was noted that the land will inevitably get used by the public for dog-walking – indeed, it already is. Cllr Dean agreed to approach our Borough Councillors to see if MBC could be persuaded to install a couple of dog bins.
  - There has been no further developments regarding the new allotments. The Amenity Manager opined that he felt that they were likely to lie fallow for some time to come.
8. **Items for Discussion:** None.
9. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 16th May 2019 at 7:30pm in the Parish Office

Meeting closed at 8:30pm.