



**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Property Committee
Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present

Cllrs Barry Barnes (Chair), Paul Berry, Sandy Duck, Dave Homer and Roy Margetts.

In Attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

Rob Falkner and Mark Snelgrove, Billingshurst Tennis Club

01/21 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman:

- a) Reminded Members that the meeting was being broadcast on the internet.
- b) Asked Members to raise their orange voting cards if they wished to speak.

02/21 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Garry Commins and Craig Gale. On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Dave Homer **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

03/21 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests.

The Chairman declared an interest in Minute 07/21 as a former member of the Tennis Club and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

04/21 Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020, previously circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

05/21 Matters Arising

None

06/21 Public Session

The public had been offered the opportunity to either join the meeting to ask a question, or have the Clerk read out a question submitted in advance. No such requests or questions had **been received.**

The Vice Chairman took the Chair

07/21 To consider request for landlord's consent to allow construction of further Tennis Court at Billingshurst Tennis Club, Lower Station Road Recreation Ground.

Rob Falkner and Mark Snelgrove of Billingshurst Tennis Club gave a summary of the proposal that had been sent to all members and answered questions. Cllrs remarked that the Club could not keep extending, but the officials said that this extra court would be the last

time they wished to extend; it was needed to cater for growing demand in a growing village. Members also commented that it could be a tight turn for long event-related vehicles turning onto the grass from the access road. Members were concerned that with two apologies, a Chairman who had declared an interest and another who couldn't join the meeting audibly, it may be better to defer the matter to Council in two weeks time, given the significant nature of the request. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Dave Homer, **DEFER** to Full Council.

The Chairman resumed the Chair.

08/21 To confirm that the Council would be willing to take responsibility for a proposed new hedge to be planted on the north side of the LSRRG access road, by the adjoining householder.

The householder to the north of the access road at Lower Station Road Recreation Ground, had asked if he could plant a hedge in the thin strip of land between the back of the footway and his fence. The Clerk had initially said that the Council would have no objection if he planted it and maintained it. However, he then asked if the Council would maintain it as it would be on the Council's side of his fence and the Council's contractor is more geared-up machinery-wise to cut hedges.

Members considered that the strip was so narrow that it would be nigh on impossible to have a hedge there of any note, especially one that could be kept narrow enough so as not to impinge on an already narrow footway. Members believed that the land in question was Council-owned. The Clerk apologised for granting consent for the hedge before referring the question to Members.

On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Dave Homer **RESOLVED** to decline permission to plant a new hedge.

09/21 To consider suggestion by Cllr Sandy Duck that HDC be requested to provide benches on the footpath running inside the bypass.

Local residents had suggested to Cllr Duck that some form of seating along this well-used path would be greatly appreciated and used by residents. Members were supportive, mentioning that perch-type seating would be preferable so as to avoid seating being misused.

On the proposal of Cllr Sandy Duck, seconded by Cllr Paul Berry **RESOLVED** to ask HDC to provide perch-type seating on the footpath running inside the bypass, as appropriate.

10/21 To consider tenders to undertake drainage works on Trim Trail at Jubilee Fields

A specification devised to relieve flooding of the Trim Trail to the north of Jubilee Fields had been sent to three contractors and the following quotations received:

A	Leith Hill Plant Ltd	£5,545 (MAX)
B	Thorne Civil Engineers	£21,801.00
C	Edburton Contractors Ltd	£5,739.33

On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Dave Homer **RESOLVED** to

1. Accept the quotation from Leith Hill Plant Ltd in the sum of £5,545 (Max)
2. As there is no specific budget, request the Finance & General Purposes Committee to apply funds accordingly, possibly from future CIL receipts, to include CDM fees of £1,360.

(Cllr Barnes and the Clerk would meet on site with the contractor and engineer prior to commencement to ensure everything required was included in the project.)

11/21 To consider request to leave some areas of grass on Council sites long to encourage wildlife

A local environment group, BilliGreen, asked if some areas of grass under Council control could be left uncut during the summer to encourage wildlife / meet other desirable environmental objectives. They had submitted maps showing the suggested areas. On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Dave Homer **RESOLVED**

1. To support the request to reduce grass cutting in some areas to promote biodiversity etc.
2. Delegate to Officers (+ Cllrs Barnes and Homer) in conjunction with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor, which areas it is appropriate to do so and implement accordingly.

12/21 To receive property updates, as amended, for information only.

NOTED. The Committee's usual thanks to officers for their endeavours was noted.

13/21 Any other matters for information only.

Cllr Paul Berry relayed some of the many comments made online during the meeting, which was a good sign that residents were engaging with the Council. He highlighted that the reports which Cllrs were speaking to, were all online with the accompanying agenda.

14/21 Date of Next Meeting: 21 April 2021

The meeting finished at 8.35pm

Chairman

Date