



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee
Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 7.30pm.**

Present

Cllrs Graeme Acraman (Chair), Barry Barnes, Paul Berry, Sandy Duck and Roy Margetts.

In Attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

01/22 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman:

- a) Reminded Members that the meeting was being broadcast on the internet, so please speak loudly and clearly.
- b) Asked Members to raise their hands if they wished to speak.

02/22 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Craig Gale and Dave Homer - prior engagements. On the proposal of Cllr Graeme Acraman, seconded by Cllr Roy Margetts, **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

03/22 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests.

None.

04/22 Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Sandy Duck, seconded by Cllr Barry Barnes, **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021, previously circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

05/22 Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that the re-wilding work on the Village Green would be undertaken shortly (Min 55/21).

06/22 Public Session

The Chairman invited the public to speak during the specific agenda item on this occasion.

07/22 To ratify consent to detailed plans for *Billingshurst Men's Shed* at Station Road Community Gardens.

At the last meeting, Members gave outline landlord's consent for the siting of a Men's Shed in Station Road Community Gardens, subject to detailed plans being provided, Min 52/21 refers. To allow them to apply for planning permission sooner rather than later, they asked if the Council was happy with the details, in advance of this meeting. Plans were sent to Members in December and all those Councillors who responded advised that they were content with what was planned.

On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck, **RESOLVED** to ratify consent for the detailed plans.

08/22 To consider proposal from Cllrs Paul Berry and Dave Homer that the Council look at alternative ways of managing vehicular access to Jubilee Fields.

Aware of continuing instances when the height barrier at the entrance to the site was being left open, thus leaving the site vulnerable to unauthorised visitors, Councillors considered that the way in which access was controlled warranted further investigation. Whilst many options were available, they felt a conventional barrier as per existing was the most practicable, but the current barrier was very cumbersome and difficult to operate, suggesting it may be a contributing factor in why many couldn't be bothered to close it. Officers were asked to look at lighter more user-friendly barriers and also the best location, reporting to a subsequent meeting.

09/22 To consider proposal for Platinum Jubilee Beacon on Adversane Green.

A program of community activities to mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was being taken forward, each element being led by a local community group and largely self-funding.

Two events that the Council seems best-poised to deliver are a Walking Parade through the village and a Beacon on Adversane Green.

The Council had been asked to fund a band or equivalent to lead the parade up to a cost of £500.

In addition, a quote has been received from a local fabricator to make a beacon to go in the centre of Adversane Green. He will donate his labour but materials etc and installation should be no more than £3,000. Local residents were largely in favour. It would remain in situ afterwards as a lasting landmark.

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Barry Barnes, **RECOMMEND** to the F&GP Committee that they approve

- i. Up to £500 on a band or equivalent to lead the parade;
- ii. Up to £3,000 for a Beacon on Adversane Green.

10/22 To note e-mail correspondence relating to Jubilee Fields Skate Park replacement.

Councillors viewed e-mail correspondence between the Clerk and preferred builder of Phase 1 of the new skatepark. They were very disappointed in the lack of speed on the part of the latter in trying to take this forward. Given that he was advised he was the preferred builder in November 2020, with no progress made, they agreed that to continue as is, was not acceptable. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Graeme Acraman, **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask Cambian Ramps the cost to use their design for Phase 1 upon which new tenders could be sought.

11/22 To receive property updates for information only.

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

- i. Cllr Sandy Duck asked for an update on the replacement fence on the wiggly path at Jubilee Fields; the Clerk would seek a progress report from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC). [Post meeting note. WSSCC advise: Yes, it has been priced up by the contractor for works commencing from April. I should have a programme date for you by end of March, an outline one at any rate.]
- ii. Cllr Roy Margetts said many twittens in the village were looking unkempt; the Clerk advised Cllrs to report them to WSSCC; the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Rangers would be visiting the area soon and had asked for areas requiring attention. Litter could be reported to the Parish Office for Litter Wardens' attention.
- iii. The Clerk reported that that the project to make a path to the rear of Station Road Community Gardens had been held up as the Consulting Engineer working on the scheme had reduced his workload and the Clerk was seeking a replacement advisor.

12/22 Any other matters for information only.

None.

13/22 Date of Next Meeting: 20 April 2022

The meeting finished at 7.58pm

Chairman

Date