



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee
at the Billingshurst Centre
Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 7.30pm**

Present

Cllrs Craig Gale (Chairman), Edna Benger, Phillip Day and Sandy Duck.

In Attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

42/23 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman

- a. Advised that the meeting was being streamed to the internet.
- b. Asked Members to raise their hands if they wished to speak and speak clearly.

43/23 Apologies.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Paul Berry, Roy Margetts and Steve Thomas - prior engagements. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck, **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

44/23 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests.

None.

45/23 Minutes.

On the proposal of Cllr Edna Benger, seconded by Cllr Phillip Day, **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2023, previously circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman of the meeting.

46/23 Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported that staff had removed slats from the bench adjacent to the Tennis Courts at Lower Station Road Recreation Ground as an interim measure in an effort to discourage anti-social behaviour. These could be replaced in due course or, if it solves the problem, the rest of the bench could be removed also.

47/23 Public Session.

The Clerk read out a message from a member of the public, Mr D Homer, querying the suggestion to limit ball games at Manor Fields and asking how it would be enforced?

In the light of the above comment, the following two agenda items were taken in reverse order.

48/23 To consider suggestion from Neighbourhood Wardens to restrict ball games at Manor Fields allotments.

The Neighbourhood Wardens and Billingshurst Allotment Society had requested that ball games be discouraged with signage, from the open play area adjoining the allotments. Newly installed fencing to protect the allotments from thefts and vandalism had recently been cut in order to gain access to retrieve balls and also it was spoiling the enjoyment of the play area by children. Whilst Members noted the comment that the space was to be used for recreation, changing circumstances sometimes meant that things had to be looked at differently. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck, **RESOLVED** that appropriate signs discouraging ball games in the area and suggesting alternative sites in the area be installed.

49/23 To ratify consent to allow Billingshurst Allotment Society to plant fruit trees at Manor Fields allotments.

The Allotment Society had requested some time ago that their agreement be varied to allow the planting of small fruit trees on the site. They had required an early response in order to apply for a grant and Councillors had been supportive when asked by the Clerk via e-mail. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale, seconded by Cllr Phillip Day, **RESOLVED** that the agreement be varied accordingly to allow the planting of fruit trees, to be no higher than 6'.

50/23 To receive an update on proposed new path at SRCG.

The Clerk had detailed the problems in getting other quotes for the laying of a path at the back of Station Road Community Gardens. Cllr Sandy Duck suggested another possible contractor and they would be asked to quote. In addition, the path to which it would join to the south, floods heavily but is the property of The Weald School. Attempts were also being made to improve the area at the gate by the Men's Shed leading to the Leisure Centre and Weald School. **NOTED.**

51/23 To consider request to move steel container at Jubilee Fields.

The Billingshurst Sports and Recreation Association had sought landlord's consent to move a steel container at Jubilee Fields closer to the Clubhouse, where it would be more useful and less prone to abuse. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck, **RESOLVED** that landlord's consent to move the container as proposed be granted.

52/23 To consider adoption of steps between Village Green and 71 High.

There was a flight of steps to the south of the Village Green (owned by the Council) which enquiries showed were no one's responsibility. Whilst little used, they required some minor work to make them safe. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck, **RESOLVED** that the steps be adopted by the Council and plans made to undertake repairs accordingly.

53/23 To receive results of entry into South & South East in Bloom competition.

The Committee was pleased to see that Station Road Community Gardens (SRCG) had retained its previous standing of Silver-Gilt and that the village itself had gone from a Silver to Silver-Gilt in the South & South East in Bloom competition. Cllr Sandy Duck reported that another successful community gardening day had been held last weekend at SRCG and lots of new

helpers had signed up to become more involved. Locally, the Billingshurst in Bloom competition had been very well supported, with awards presented the previous week by the Council Chairman. Councillors asked that their thanks to all involved be recorded.

NOTED.

54/23 To receive property updates for information only.

NOTED. The Committee's usual thanks to officers for their endeavours were noted. Cllr Sandy Duck reported that the Men's Shed had had their application to use S106 funds for internal electrics approved by Horsham District Council. Cllrs spoke of the benefits of the Litter Wardens having their own vehicle. The Clerk reported that there had been some interest in the Litter Warden vacancy.

55/23 Date of Next Meeting: 6 December 2023.

The meeting finished at 7.55pm.

Chairman

Date