



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND BURIAL COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 2020 AT 19:30**

As permitted by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 this meeting was conducted “online”.

PRESENT

Cllr. G. Watson-Smith (Chair)
Cllr. N. Wickenden (Vice Chair)

Cllr. L. Henrick
Cllr. J. Kitchenham

Cllr. A. Martin.
Cllr. J. Richardson
Cllr. K. Rignall

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Trevor Thorpe, Parish Clerk, and Adam Hardy, Clerical Support.
Cllr. Buck observed the meeting.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public Forum

None.

b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85):

None.

c) Declaration of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda, and updates to members' register of interests.

None. Chair advised that if a Councillor identified an interest in an item being discussed at any point in the meeting, they should declare it.

d) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 21st January 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that these be confirmed and adopted as a true record and they will be signed by the Committee Chair once circumstances permit.

e) Update regarding matters arising and action items from previous meetings.

- Cllr. Martin reported that it was still hoped that the work to rectify the damp issue in the storage beneath the Pre-School will take place during the Summer Holiday.
- Installation of fencing to rear of Pre School surrounding waste unit, and rack for boarding in the Cemetery. Clerk has spoken to the contractor concerned; Whilst he would be happy to undertake the work his suppliers have either closed or vastly inflated their prices. He will let us know if circumstances change to allow the work to take place as there should be no issue with “social distancing” on the sites in question.
- Cllr. Richardson advised that the drainage issue on High Cross B2101, raised by her at a previous meeting, had been rectified by temporary repairs undertaken by Southern Water.

f) Committee financial report and agree any actions required.

Details had been circulated in advance of the meeting and no issues requiring action

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ

Tel: 01892 664245. **Email:** clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter @rotherfieldpcc and on Facebook

were identified.

1. RECEIVE INFORMATION AND MAKE DECISIONS ON ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURE AS REQUIRED REGARDING THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND.

RECREATION GROUND, CAR PARK AND VILLAGE HALL

a) Improvements to the Parish Noticeboard at the entrance to the Recreation Ground.

Councillor Martin is to inspect and report on the work required to repair and improve this.

b) Rotherfield School – information regarding contribution toward Recreation Ground maintenance.

It has been suggested that, to support the school, the Council no longer invoice them £500 in May of each year for a contribution toward the maintenance of the Recreation Ground which is used by them in lieu of having their own grounds. The School have advised that they do not receive funds from ESCC toward this cost as and, if they did have a sports field, County would charge them for maintaining it.

RESOLVED that, to support the School, the Council will no longer invoice for this contribution.

CLERK to advise School.

c) Bowls Club path – update.

It was reported that the path was “grassing over” as intended and appeared in good condition. Some “sharp sand” is to be applied and Cllr. Martin has offered to inspect and deal with this.

d) Agree contribution level for payment to Sports Club for grass cutting and maintenance.

It was **RESOLVED** to maintain payments at the current level of £325 monthly paid from 30th April until 31st December inclusive - 9 payments in total.

CLERK to advise the Club and set up a standing order for the payments.

e) Information regarding progress with the Sports Club’s application to the Football Foundation for a grant to fund drainage work to the pitches in the Recreation Ground and Council contribution.

Clerk has liaised with the Club Chair to complete the grant application formalities. Application will be in the joint names of the Club, and Parish Council as owner of the freehold of the site. Payments for the work will be made by the Parish Council to enable reclaim of the VAT element and the Club will reimburse.

RESOLVED that the Council will contribute up to £2K toward this work.

f) Updated information and documents from Wealden District Council re: The London Bridge Protocol.

The documents relating to this have been circulated to the Councillors and it was **RESOLVED** that the contents be noted.

2. ROTHERFIELD PARISH CEMETERY

a) Report and action re: conditions of use by the Lessee – car park is being used by non-visitors.

A sign is being obtained to state that the car park is only for the use of visitors to the Cemetery as the lease to the Council specifies that the permitted use is that it is only for those visiting the Cemetery. The cost of the sign and installation is within this Committee’s delegated spending power limit and **CLERK** to please order.

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3. OLD BURIAL GROUND AND COURT MEADOW GREEN

a) Update regarding installation of beehives in the Old Burial Ground

Two hives have been purchased using delegated spending powers. Willow or Hazel hurdles are to be erected around the hives to shade them and Cllr. Watson Smith will acquire the bees to populate them. Cllr. Martin had offered to obtain the hurdles and posts required so that our groundwork contractor can install them.

4. OTHER AREAS OF PARISH LAND

a) Maintenance of assets owned by the Parish Council.

Various works have taken place on the Rec. pitches, funded by the Sports Club, in preparation for the new cricket season. Contractors have been used for some of the work with the voluntary efforts of the Club dealing with the rest. The Club have confirmed that all involved have been made aware that "social distancing" must be observed and have provided details of the comprehensive "coronavirus" information from the Institute of Groundsman. Our groundworks contractor has also confirmed that he will adopt this method of working when grass cutting in the Parish.

b) Mark Cross Millennium Green. Proposal from residents regarding a fenced play area.

Cllr. Buck has offered to speak with those in the Mark Cross Community to establish the level of support for this and suitability of the site. **CLERK** to investigate conditions of the ESCC licence to the Council regarding the area to see if this will require amendment should the matter proceed. Item to be added to the agenda of the next meeting of this Committee to decide further action. **CLERK** to note.

6. TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE.

Tuesday 7th July 2020 in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Hall, starting at 19:30.

7. REPORT DETAILS OF ANY URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA.

- Raising the Roof project. Clerk reported that a chaser letter had been received from the architects for the project in respect of an outstanding invoice from March for an asbestos survey. This had been sent to the Rotherfield Players but not passed to the Council to settle. Invoice will be added to the payment list for the April Council meeting, **CLERK** to note. The Players will liaise with the hall management to seek reimbursement.
- Cllr. Henrick that Thursday's meeting, originally of the Financial and General Purpose Committee, has been redesignated as a full council meeting so that resolutions may be made regarding action to support the "Parish Pals" and their concerns regarding the possible impact of GDPR on their work in supporting the Community.
- Concerns have been raised regarding the condition of the netting surrounding the Bowls Green. Clerk to contact Sports Club chair and seeks his views on the condition and photos of the netting.
- Adam Hardy is to liaise with Cllr. Wickenden regarding issues with the sound quality experienced by him during virtual meetings.

Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 20:30.

.....Chair.....Date

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