



**PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**  
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**MINUTES OF THE  
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE ROTHER HALL AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON THURSDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Henly (Chairman), Campbell, Clarke, Ellis-Brown, Esdaile, Hare and Riddle.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs H Knight (Clerk)  
3 members of the public (part of meeting)

*The meeting opened at 7.30pm*

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and reasons approved from Cllrs. Hunt (personal commitment), Lawson (unwell) and Court (unwell).

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest or changes to the Register of Interests made.

**3. MINUTES**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed them.

Clerks Report

**Min. 104, 14.04.22, Ground Treatment Works**

As already advised to all councillors by email, the previously agreed action of annual weed control by herbicide application at Rivermead nature reserve to keep hemlock water dropwort under control had not been undertaken and will not now take place.

The reasons for this were several: The professional contractor appointed on arriving in the very early morning to carry out the work and assessing the site was engaged by a resident who expressed their opposition to the work. To avoid potential confrontation the contractor decided to leave site without undertaking the work. Subsequently, it has proved difficult to programme in with other jobs he already had planned for the next couple of weeks: Since then, the fine weather recently followed by the current wet period meant that the hemlock water dropwort has grown profusely in height and spread and is already well advanced, as the application would normally happen in early spring. As a result, from a pragmatic point of view it

would not be viable to apply herbicide now as it would be unlikely to be effective (glyphosate cannot be applied in wet weather). Therefore the window of opportunity for herbicide application had passed.

As already agreed by the committee the matter of the future land management of Rivermead, including herbicide use, will be discussed fully this autumn as the 5 year management plan adopted nears an end.

Previously the Committee asked the Deputy Clerk to investigate other bodies potentially willing to take on management of the RNR. The Wilder Horsham District Landowner Advisor (Sussex Wildlife Trust) had advised that HDC Parks and Countryside officers are actively considering whether they could take on the site as part of their management portfolio. Before a proposal could be put forward, internal checks were taking place on the matter, and further information was awaited.

#### **Min. 83, 10.02.22 Jubilee Event at Recreation Ground**

Plans for the event jointly organised by PCP and S&SC had taken shape and finalisation for the Picnic in the Park on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. Since the committee gave its approval to use the recreation, subsequent requests were for use of the pavilion changing room toilets for public and use of the committee room to store chairs for the event. In liaison with the committee chairman, and members, the Clerk had given permission for both these, stipulating that the toilets should be monitored regularly by event marshals, cleaned at event end, and that the chair storage was considerate of existing furniture items in the room. The Clerk had also arranged for the Council's pavilion caretaker to clean the toilets on Saturday morning, prior to the Cricket Club home match. The Clerk had received the event Risk Assessment and raised some queries, an updated version was received today together with all event supplier/organiser insurance or public liability cover.

#### **Min. 96, 16.03.22 Queen's Green Canopy**

The HDC officer involved with the programme had advised that the tree could be delivered to Nutbourne Common, and all trees will be provided at the onset of this year's planting season, ie between mid-October and early November.

#### **Additional information**

The Clerk reported that the local cub scout group wanted to put up around 6 bird boxes in Pocket Park, which she had approved, and Members confirmed there was no objection to this.

#### **4. PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The Chairman welcomed two residents representing the local Men's Shed initiative and invited them to speak in connection with agenda item 6, Men's Shed.

**Meeting adjourned: 7.37pm Meeting reconvened: 7.57pm**

During the adjournment, Mr A Heath and Mr K Cleminson presented a proposal seeking Council support to establish a Pulborough Men's Shed premises on the Council's land at Cousins's Way. The presentation talk included the background and objectives of both the national organisation and the local project. Members asked various questions during the talk.

The Chairman thanked the residents for addressing the Committee.

#### **5. RECREATION CLUB REPORTS**

No club reports had been received but the Clerk reported the following:

### Sussex Clubs for Young People (SCYP)

SCYP termly report had been circulated to Members via the correspondence list.

The Clerk advised that SCYP had returned to using the Purple Bus on the main recreation ground again after the Easter school break, but moved to Thursday afternoons, and it was understood attendance numbers had risen to around 40 again.

### Cricket Club

The Clerk reported that the formal consultation had been received from HDC for Pulborough Cricket Club's application for S106 funding. The formal consultation deadline of 6<sup>th</sup> May meant that it did not fit in with PPC meetings timeframe. However, as previously reported to the Committee (Min.80, 10;.02.22 refers), a letter of support had been requested by the club and already provided on behalf of the Parish Council, as the landowner. There had been some consternation within the council that the club was applying for £30,000 of S106 funds, which had not been clear initially.

## 6. **MEN'S SHED**

Members considered the written proposal paper previously circulated. The 'Pulborough Shedders' group was seeking approval in principle from the Council for them to proceed with a planning application to build a Men's Shed on the Cousin's Way recreation ground. The initiative had been in discussion for several years but a suitable location had not been found, two other potential sites having had to be abandoned for various reasons. The group recognised that there were challenges such as services, access and parking. The intention was that the group would seek capital grant funding for the initial build, with income from running a repair café and fundraising used to meet running costs. Support from the council would enable the group to progress setting up formal constitution, business plan, finances and planning application. No financial input from the council was envisaged and build would be as environmentally friendly as possible, reducing the use of cars. The proposed site location in the field is near to the adjoining allotment land.

Members recognised the many positives in the proposals, such as addressing loneliness, social activity, skills being used for a repair café, re-use/recycle projects. Concerns around provision of services eg water, sewerage, etc and potential objections were also acknowledged. The Clerk reminded Members that the Council had previously given in principle support to the Pulborough Pump Track group, which was also interested in this location. The Clerk advised too that checks would need to be made around any covenants on the land for building/development work.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to give in principle support to the proposals, subject to further due diligence checks on any land restrictions and further investigation and reports by the club to ascertain viability of essential services to a Men's Shed at Cousins Way recreation ground.

## 7. **TRIENNIAL TREE SURVEY**

Members considered the Arboricultural Report commissioned from Arborsense (previously circulated) from the survey carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Members also considered remedial tree works identified in the report, together with reports received from PPC Tree Warden and an arboricultural contractor whose quotation had been sought. Both the contractor and Tree Warden considered that two maple trees tagged 26 and 27 were dead and needed felling, whereas the report had not picked up tree tag 26 and noted 27 as needing crown removal only. The contractor advised that two English oaks, tags 72 and 73, were good quality mature specimens and unlikely to require extreme pruning.

Following discussion, the following was **RESOLVED**:-

- That the two maple trees, tagged 26 and 27, should be removed, and delegated authority be given to the Clerk to arrange this following firm quotation by the contractor.
- That the two English oak trees in Pocket Park, tagged 72 and 73, should be left for the time being but kept under review / follow up in next survey.
- That the root plate of the fallen birch tree at Nutbourne Common (tag 153) be left in situ.
- The Groundsman be instructed to sever ivy growth identified at base of trees in Chestnut Walk, tagged 80-94.

#### 8. **RESIDENT REQUEST FOR TREE PRUNING**

Members considered the request from a resident of New Place Road for pruning of branches from oak tree tag 6 overhanging his and a neighbour's (Nutcroft) properties. It was noted that the tree had a TPO listing. A quotation had been sought from the arboricultural contractor contacted for the previous agenda item. He had not provided a quote but had expressed the view that the removal shown on a sketch was extreme and unlikely to be approved by HDC.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to seek the tree surgeon's advice on likely acceptable branch pruning and a quotation for the work, for consideration again at the next Committee meeting.

#### 9. **PAVILION REPAIRS – SECURITY LIGHT**

Members noted the correspondence from the maintenance contractor and electrical installer regarding the flickering security light. Unfortunately, the original installing electrician was no longer able to assist and the light was out of warranty. A member offered to pass on contact details of an electrician who may be able to advise and quote for repair, in addition to any other quotes the Clerk is able to source.

#### 10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items were noted, as per the list previously circulated: -

##### **SDNPA**

e-newsletters for April, May and Spring Newsletter 2022, and Planning News 27.04.22

##### **S&SC**

Minutes of Committee meeting on 22.03.22 and profit and loss comparison. Copied to Committee.

##### **SCYP**

Termly Report 1<sup>st</sup> March-15<sup>th</sup> April 2022. *(Copied to Committee)*

##### **James D Baird (Home Farm) Ltd**

Invitation to parish councils to attend Parish Council Safari at Knepp Castle Estate on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022, to share information on delivering for nature across the region – event for land managers, estate owners, local authorities and wildlife organisations.

**Cllrs Ellis-Brown and Campbell offered to attend this.** *(Copied to Committee)*

##### **Horsham Men in Sheds**

Tool share event and Spring Newsletter 2022

##### **The Wiggonholt Association**

Copied correspondence between Wiggonholt Asscn, Amberley PC, MP, Council Chairman and Cllr Riddle regarding sewage /storm overflows.

**Residents**

- FOI request 20.04.22 regarding herbicide use at Rivermead and Clerk's response (*previously circulated*).
- Resident enquiry (following social media post) regarding use of glyphosate and Clerk's response

**Publications**

- Wey & Arun News- April and May 2022 e-news.
- CPRE Countryside Voices Spring 2022 magazine.

**11. PAYMENTS**

Members **RESOLVED** approval of the Payments List which was duly signed by two authorising members, comprising the following payments.

Professional Weed Solutions Ltd	£774.00
Sussex Clubs for Young People	£3,666.88

**The meeting closed at 8.34pm**

.....CHAIRMAN

.....DATE

