

The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Upchurch Parish Council held in the Committee Room, Upchurch Village Hall on Wednesday 14 December 2016

**Present:** Cllr Tyrone Ripley (Chairman), Cllr John Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr Pam Denny, Cllr Stephen Hunt, Cllr Peter Masson and Cllr Gary Rosewell; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

## **22. Apologies for absence**

All Members were present.

## **23. Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interests.

## **24. Public Time**

No members of the public were in attendance.

## **25. Allotments**

### a. To receive an update

Cllr Masson said the KALC course on allotments was excellent. Allotments should not run at a loss and legally the Parish Council has a right to increase rent without having to justify doing so. The allotments in Upchurch are very cheap and are not covering costs, many tenants want the site to be better maintained and are agreeable to the rent being increased to cover this. The percentage of residents who have a plot is very low. The plots need to be better numbered and there is an issue with plots encroaching across paths making it difficult for some tenants to access their plots. The plots need to be measured. When considering the budget only the rent, water and maintenance has been taken into account, the hidden costs of staff time and general administration of the allotments needs to be factored in.

Cllr Ripley said the issues need to be properly addressed and allotment holders have highlighted problems and it is clear that £25 rent per plot will not cover basic costs.

Cllr Masson said the number of allotments need to be clearly defined, several plots need clearing and some plots are not being maintained and the tenant needs to be evicted.

*ACTION: Cllr Ripley and Cllr Arnold to obtain cost for a site survey.*

### b. To consider budget for 2017-18

It was AGREED to allow £100 in the budget for extra cuts of the allotments.

## **26. Paddock and Recreation Ground**

### **i) The Paddock**

#### a. To receive an update

Cllr Denny asked whether the Paddock Project group have transferred the money for the benches.

*ACTION: Clerk to check next bank statement.*

Cllr Denny said there are two burnt out bins in the Paddock and the Clerk has asked SBC if they will replace them, there also needs to be a dog bin at the Chaffes Lane entrance to the Paddock.

*ACTION: Clerk to request dog bin.*

#### b. To consider budget for 2017-18

Cllr Denny asked that some of the S106 money from the Four Gun Field development be used for small play equipment and suggested that adult/teen equipment be considered for the recreation ground.

### **ii) Recreation Ground**

#### a. To receive an update

Cllr Masson said that ten exercise equipment in the recreation ground would be appropriate.

#### b. To consider budget for 2017-18

*ACTION: Cllr Denny to obtain cost of teen equipment.*

## **27. Burial Ground and Churchyard**

### a. To receive an update

Councillors asked whether the church wall had been repaired.

*ACTION: Clerk to follow up.*

The bench in the burial ground is still in situ.

*ACTION: Clerk to check the date of the notice letter concerning the bench.*

### b. To consider budget for 2017-18

There was nothing to add to the proposed budget.

## **28. Highways and Street lighting**

### a. To receive an update

Cllr Arnold said one of the light poles is still loose and two lights need new lamps.

*ACTION: Clerk to request invoice for repairs.*

Cllr Masson reported the lane by the Three Sisters is on satnav and vehicles are being directed down the lane with nowhere to turn. KCC have said they will charge £400 for a sign at the end of the road.

Cllr Denny said there needs to be a sign in the narrow part of Oak Lane at the junction of Wallbridge Lane.

*ACTION: KCC email address to be included in the next Gabriel report to enable residents to raise the issue with KCC.*

### b. To consider budget for 2017-18

There was nothing to add to the proposed budget.

## **29. Footpaths**

There was nothing to report.

## **30. Any other matter arising**

Cllr Ripley said he has contacted X2connect about the telephone box, if the telephone still works it belongs to BT. The phone box can be bought from BT for £1 but the phone is disconnected. A red phone box costs from £3,000.

Cllr Arnold said that someone has been cutting hedge behind houses in Oak Lane and putting the arisings in the alleyway.

*ACTION: Cllr Denny to talk to resident.*

Cllr Arnold said the defibrillator at the Three Sisters is working.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact WI concerning the official launch of the defibrillator.*

## **31. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.13pm.