

# Goudhurst Parish Council



## AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on 23 November 2021 at 19.30 in the Parish Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Chris Ditton (Chairman), David Boniface, Alan Foster, Antony Harris and Caroline Richards, Jayne Russell and Alison Webster. Anthony Farnfield, Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. 1 Member of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Guy Sutton (holiday).
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.
3. **Matters raised by a Member of the Public.** A local resident who lives at the south end of North Road raised some issues.
  - a. There is a problem with Ham's buses that stop outside her residence early in the morning and leave their engines running. Not only does this cause unnecessary noise, but it is also not good for the environment.
  - b. The bus shelter in North Road is in disrepair; shingles on the front edge of the roof have been damaged and are loose. This could be considered dangerous. The whole structure is now showing its age. It appears not to be used much. Should it be taken away entirely or replaced by a more appropriate structure?
  - c. There is a litter bin adjacent to the shelter which, although being emptied weekly by TWBC, is often overflowing.
  - d. The local resident has been sweeping and removing litter from the shelter from time to time. Should the Parish Council be responsible for this task?  
**Action: Council to consider the matters raised and report back to the local resident.**
4. **Balcombes Hill Toilets.** The interior ceiling in the Gents toilet need to be repaired or replaced. Council has 2 quotes both of which offer 2 alternatives. Both contractors confirm that the better solution is to replace with a plasticised material. It was agreed that deputy Clerk will check with one of the 2 bidding contractors the detail of their quote and if satisfactory Amenities Committee will recommend to Council that the CGM quote be accepted. **Action: Deputy Clerk**
5. **Kilndown Quarry Pond Weed Problem.** As previously discussed, it was noted that the weed infestation at the Pond has reduced oxygen levels in the Pond to the point that the fish are dying. Council has 2 quotes for two different approaches to remedy the situation. The preferred solution is to install a device in the Pond that will aerate the water gently but constantly. This will need agreement from the Quarry Centre to provide energy to run the proposed aeration system at Council's cost. Committee recommends to Council that the quote of £1,559.00 from Pond Life be accepted subject to clarification of the likely energy cost to run the aeration system. Meanwhile Council seeks the solution to permanently reduce the amount of invasive weed in the Pond. **Action: Deputy Clerk.**

6. **Legionella Control.** It was agreed to recommend to Council that the quotation from Envirocure to extend their contract for this service be extended for 12 months only. **Action: Clerk.**
7. **Chequer Field Pavilion – Extension to the Building.** It was noted that a request has been made to the Clerks for an extension to be built on the Pavilion. Members of the Committee were of the opinion that this is unlikely to be affordable on current budgets. Council needs a business case before considering the proposal further.
8. To consider the need for maintenance of the Chequer Pavilion and make recommendations to Council. It was noted that provision for the renovation of the Chequer Pavilion, has been added to the budget for 2022-23. Clerk will seek quotes for a deep clean of the pavilion and costings for anti-fungal paint. Clerk will also seek advice from Cllr Phil Kirkby regarding the ventilation system. **Action: Clerk, RFO and Cllr Phil Kirkby.**
9. **CCTV to cover the St Mary’s Churchyard Wall** at the east end of Goudhurst High St. It was agreed that a job specification be drawn up and quotes obtained. **Action: Clerk.**
10. **The Plain maintenance and enhancements.** It was agreed that the wooden bench around the Chestnut tree needs to be replaced with an appropriate metal one. Furthermore, information for the public needs to be improved. Cllrs Mrs Caroline Richards and Mrs Alison Webster will bring forward costed proposals for Council’s approval on these two projects. **Action: Cllrs Mrs Caroline Richards and Mrs Alison Webster.**

It was noted that the reeds in the pond have now grown excessively. Deputy Clerk and the Chairman of the Goudhurst Village Hall Trust are meeting with Council’s Plain and Pond maintenance contractor on site on 17 December to agree a solution.

Date of next Amenities Committee Meeting, Tuesday 25 January 2022, probably in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.40 hrs.

Anthony Farnfield  
Deputy Clerk and RFO