

Goudhurst Parish Council



AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on 27 September 2022 at 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall

Present: Cllrs David Boniface, Alan Foster, Antony Harris, David Knight (Chairman), Mr Geoff Mason and Mrs. Alison Webster. Claire Reed, Clerk. Mrs Georgia Read-Cutting.

Cllr David Knight welcomed Mr Geoff Mason to the Committee and thanked him for joining.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Phil Kirkby (working) and Mrs Caroline Richards (holiday).
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 28 June 2022, and previously distributed to members via Board Intelligence, be accepted as a correct record.
4. **Green Spaces Management**

It was **noted** that meetings of the Glebe Fields Working Group had paused pending a report from the High Weald AONB Partnership on the viability of a wildlife area on the Lower Glebe field. The report made various recommendations around a reduction in mowing and cessation in the use of herbicides in Goudhurst but not in relation to the creation of a wildlife area. Mr Geoff Mason, who has personal experience of rewilding, has agreed to lead on the project and has contacted Ross Wingfield at the HWAONB to set up an informal meeting to discuss alternative options. It was **resolved** that Cllrs Alan Foster, Antony Harris, David Knight and Mr Geoff Mason meet Ross Wingfield on the Lower Glebe field to develop proposals. It was **resolved** that any potential changes to the management of the churchyards and burial grounds should be discussed separately by the Burial Authority. It was agreed that the 'excuse the weeds' signs should be put on hold pending the meeting with Ross. **Action: Mr Geoff Mason**
5. **The use of the telephone kiosks on The Plain**

Mrs Georgia Read-Cutting briefed the committee:
The newer phone kiosk on The Plain in Goudhurst has power which the council is able to use, free of charge, for the purposes of housing a community defibrillator (AED). It was noted that for AEDs to function properly they should be kept at a certain temperature; this temperature can be achieved externally by housing the AED in a heated cabinet. If the committee decide to relocate the AED, children from Goudhurst & Kilndown Primary School are keen to create a new mosaic floor similar to that in the existing red phone kiosk. Mrs Reed-Cutting generously agreed to cover the cost of materials for the mosaic if the project goes ahead. It was **noted** that the newer kiosk needs to be repainted and that Crown Points will supply red phone kiosk paint free of charge. It was agreed that a professional decorator should be engaged. Mrs Read-Cutting also explained that pupils from Cranbrook School, who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award, are willing to offer free first aid/ AED training in the community as part of the volunteering element. It was **resolved** to relocate the AED to the modern phone kiosk. It was further **resolved** to budget £2500 for a new AED and heated cabinet for 2023-24. **Action: RFO to add to the budget and Mrs Read-Cutting.**

6. CCTV Contractor

It was **noted** that the Clerk sometimes has difficulty obtaining recorded images via the phone app and that one or more cameras are regularly offline. It is often difficult to make contact with the Council's current contractor who travels around the country for business. It was **resolved** to obtain quotes for the management of the current CCTV system and for an additional camera, linked to the current system, to cover the church wall from alternative contractors. **Action: Clerk and Cllr David Knight.**

7. The Plain noticeboard

A quotation of £848.52 has been received for the renovation of the current noticeboard on The Plain. Mr Geoff Mason suggested that the committee contact the Acorn Workshop in Sussex who has recently produced a very good quality, reasonably priced oak noticeboard for the Swift Conservation Group. It was **resolved** to request a quote from the Acorn Workshop. **Action: Mr Geoff Mason.**

8. Cycle racks in the parish

The proposal to introduce cycle racks in the Parish was agreed in principle however the committee were unable to suggest a suitable location. It was **agreed** that the committees of both Goudhurst Club and the Village Hall should be approached to see if they would be willing to find space for the racks. **Action: Cllrs Alan Foster and Alison Webster.**

9. To consider the Committee's budget for 2023-24 and decide on proposed figures to submit to Finance Committee.

The current budget was discussed and it was **agreed** that all budget lines should be increased to take account of inflation. It was further agreed to add a budget line for Green spaces management of £3000 and to increase the CCTV budget to £1000. The awarding of maintenance grants was discussed and the Clerk was asked to clarify the council's legal position on awarding grants for the maintenance to income generating trusts. **Action: Clerk**

10. Items for information.

Duck House.

It was noted that the duck house is still awaiting repair and re-floating. The Clerk agreed to contact Chris Ditton to get an update on progress. **Action: Clerk**

Plaques for The Queen's Green Canopy Oak Trees.

Cllr Alison Webster reported that a number of children from Goudhurst & Kilndown Primary School had drawn pictures to celebrate the planting of four trees in the Parish as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. These children will be invited to help install a special plaque to mark the tree on the Chequer Field.

Next Amenities Committee Meeting on Tuesday 29 November 2022, 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.