** **Goudhurst Parish Council****

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on 2nd July 2024 at 7.30pm in The Church Rooms, Back Lane.

PARTICIPANTS

Councillors Present:Cllrs David Knight (Chairman), Suzie Kember, Antony Harris, Geoff Mason, Caroline Richards, Alison Webster, Paul Wareham and Ed Read-Cutting.

Officers Present: Rebecca Barden, Assistant Clerk

# APOLOGIES

219/24 There were none.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

220/24 There were none.

TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIR

221/24 Cllr Knight proposed Cllr Webster to be Vice Chair. This was unanimously agreed. **Resolved: Cllr Webster elected as Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee.**

# MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

222/24 It was **resolved the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 28th May 2024, and previously distributed to members via Board Intelligence, be accepted as a correct record**.

TO RESOLVE TO CO-OPT CLLR WAREHAM AS AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

223/24 Cllr Knight proposed that Cllr Wareham be co-opted as an additional member of the Amenities Committee. This was unanimously agreed. **Resolved: Cllr Wareham to be co-opted onto Amenities Committee.**

# QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

224/24 There were none.

# TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON:-

225/24 ***The AED in the old phone box***.

 Cllr Knight informed the Committee that the AED had been installed and that it would be registered once the paperwork had been received from B&K Electrical. Cllr Read-Cutting provided a reminder that the AED at the Church Rooms also needed to be registered. **Clerk to ensure that both AEDs are registered once the necessary paperwork has been received.** Cllr Webster gave an update on the AED training that had taken place the previous night. Feedback had been really positive and individuals felt that they had learnt a lot. It was mooted that this should become an annual event. There was also discussion regarding whether any first responders had been appointed, as the first 20 minutes following an attack are critical. It appears that there are currently no first responders. **Resolved:** to advertise the role of first responder (3 individuals) in the Newsletter, Website and via posters for local shops. **Action: Assistant Clerk to advertise the roles.**

226/24 ***The Millennium Walk sign posting and discs***

Cllr Richards had ordered and received the new discs and showed them to the Committee. She plans to walk the route and install each of the new discs. Cllr Knight expressed an interest in helping with this. **Resolved:** Cllr Richards to install the new discs and identify how many new posts would be required. **Action: Assistant Clerk to await instruction from Cllr Richards and order new posts if required and liaise to arrange their installation.**

227/24 **The removal and painting of the village sign**

Cllr Knight informed the Committee that the village sign had been taken down and delivered to A&C Sandblasting. It is thought that the sign should be ready for installation in August. The Council have been advised that the post for the sign will need to be replaced as it has rotted at the base. Quotes have been sought. There were discussions whether to make the re-installation of the sign an event and celebrated. Cllr Webster stated that she would provide the contact details for a contractor who could install the post. **Action**: **Cllr Webster to provide contact details for Contractor and Assistant Clerk to liaise with contractor regarding the supply and fitting of a new post and the refurbished sign. Assistant Clerk to publicise via poster, newsletter, website.**

228/24 **The replacement bench on The Plain**

Cllr Knight informed the Committee that the replacement bench had been purchased and installed on The Plain. He stated that it looked really smart and that he had written to Richard Greenaway to thank him.

229/24 **The water treatment of the pond on The Plain**

 Cllr Knight stated that the water treatment had taken place. Cllr Harris said that he had met with Marion Sergeant who had shown him where the filters and drains for the pond were located. It was agreed that Cllr Read-Cutting would liaise with Marion regarding this. **Action: Cllr Read-Cutting to contact Marion.**

230/24***The Duck House***

Cllr Knight informed the Committee that the duck house had now been repaired and was awaiting delivery from Richard. Cllr Knight has contacted Ed Bates and asked about the possibility of him re-floating the duck house, perhaps with the help of Alan Foster. **Action: Assistant Clerk to liaise with Richard, Ed and Alan to arrange the re-floating of the duck house as soon as possible.**

231/24 TO RESOLVE TO DECIDE HOW TO UTILISE THE MODERN PHONE BOX***.***

 The use of the phone box as a book exchange was discussed and agreed upon. It was suggested that books could be rotated and shared between those currently in the Social Club book exchange. The issue of responsibility for the books was raised. Cllr Harris asked about replacing the modern box with a more attractively, and more water-tight old-fashioned phone box. Cllr Kember stated that she had seen some which were reasonably priced at a local reclamation yard. **Resolved: To push this item back to the next Amenities Committee of 27th August 2024.**

232/24 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE LITTER BIN COLLECTION FROM TWBC

 Assistant Clerk gave an update on the request for 2 more litter bins from TWBC. **Resolved: To pursue this application. Action: Assistant Clerk to chase TWBC, with the assistance of Cllr Knight if required.**

233/24 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE INVESTIGATION OF ONE, UNIFIED CCTV SYSTEM AND DECIDE UPON ACTION NEEDED**.**

Cllr Knight gave a brief history of the CCTV systems and gave an update that 3 companies had been contacted to discuss the proposal. Each company is interested in quoting for the work. **Resolved: To carry out an audit of what equipment the Parish Council currently has, where it is located, type etc. Action: Assistant Clerk to carry out review and feed back to Committee. One unified system to be installed.**

234/24 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE OUTSIDE GYM AND DECIDE ON ANY ACTION REQUIRED.

 Cllr Knight stated that he was awaiting feedback from the residents’ survey regarding the desire for an outside gym. The issue of where the gym would be situated and the visual impact and safety concerns were discussed. The type of equipment was also considered critical – a table tennis table was popular. **Resolved: To arrange a site visit with a contractor to discuss options. Councillors to carry out visits to local outdoor gyms to establish use and visual impact. Action: Assistant Clerk to chase Cllr Broom for survey results to determine interest for an outdoor gym. Councillors to liaise and arrange site visits of local outdoor gyms.**

235/24 TO DISCUSS FEEDBACK ON THE PETANQUE PITCH AND DECIDE ON ACTION REQUIRED.

Cllr Knight stated that again, he was awaiting the results from the survey to assess public interest in a petanque pitch. Cllr Harris said that 2 quotes were received last year, and they were £5k and £8k without fencing. **Resolved: to await the analysis of the survey to establish public interest in the installation of a petanque pitch. Action: Assistant Clerk to liaise with Cllr Broom.**

236/24 TO DISCUSS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC CAR PARK AT BALCOMBES HILL AND DECIDE ON ANY ACTION REQUIRED.

Cllr Knight informed the Committee that two individuals had been identified to carry out “caretaking” type duties throughout the Parish. **Resolved: To employ the services of these two individuals to carry out maintenance duties as and when required. Action: Assistant Clerk to contact these individuals when work is required.**

The Assistant Clerk spoke regarding the history of the car park and identified that the Parish Council owned and was therefore responsible for it. Currently the sign at the car park states that it is owned and run by TWBC. **Resolved: To remove the TWBC sign and replace with a new Goudhurst Parish Council sign. Action: Assistant Clerk to arrange for the removal of the sign and to investigate the sourcing of a new sign and its wording.**

237/24 TO DISCUSS THE REQUEST TO SUPPLY A BENCH FOR THE LOWER GLEBE AND DECIDE ON ANY ACTION REQUIRED.

 The Assistant Clerk explained that they had been approached with a request for the supply and installation of a bench for the Lower Glebe near the vegetable patch. Cllr Wareham asked whether the installation of a bench would create issues with regards grass maintenance. **Resolved: To investigate the location for the bench, and obtain quote for installation. Action: Assistant Clerk to visit the site and liaise with contractors to obtain a quote for installing a concrete base and installing the bench.**

238/24 TO RESOLVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO £1,120 (£280 PER VISIT), UP TO FOUR VISITS) TO TREAT THE DUCK WEED AT THE QUARRY POND**.**

**Resolved: The expenditure of up to £1,120 to treat the duck weed at the Quarry pond be approved**. **Action: Assistant Clerk to arrange for the first duck week treatment to take place.**

239/24 TO RESOLVE THE EXPENDITURE OF £180 FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE TREE AT THE QUARRY POND**.**

Cllr Knight gave an update that the fallen tree and branch can not be removed until the water level at the Quarry pond drops. **Resolved: To obtain a quote from Tony. Action: Assistant Clerk to contact Tony to request a quote for the tree work.**

240/24 TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE MOVING THE BIKE RACK ON BALCOMBES HILL**.**

Cllr Knight explained that comments had been received that the bike rack was largely unused. A discussion took place and it was concluded that the bike rack would be much more useful on The Plain. **Resolved: To move the bike rack from Balcombes Hill car park to the The Plain. Action: The Assistant Clerk to liaise with Richard to obtain a quote to install the bike rack on The Plain.**

241/24 TO DISCUSS THE EXISTING DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSERS AND DECIDE ANY ACTION NEEDED

The Clerk updated the Committee on the request from the Pre-School for the dog waste bags to continue to be provided. There was discussion regarding the theft of the bags. **Resolved: Assistant Clerk to investigate whether the lock on the dispensers could be changed to prevent the thefts. Action: Assistant Clerk to contact supplier of dispenser and discuss the issue.**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

242/24 **Map For the Website**

The Assistant Clerk stated that the new map was now on the website and thanked Cllr Webster for help and Cllr Broom for uploading the map onto the website

243/24 **Planters for the Public Toilets**

The Assistant Clerk gave an update on the situation regarding the removal of the planters from the public toilets. After discussion it was decided not to re-instate the planters at the present time due to the high level of maintenance that they require. This situation can be re-visited in the future.

# DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next Amenities Committee Meeting on Tuesday 27th August 2024

The meeting closed at 8.44pm

Rebecca Barden

Assistant Clerk

2nd July 2024