



**Open Spaces Committee  
Minutes  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Meeting via 'Zoom' video conferencing - started at 6.00pm.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Chairman Max Harwood (MH), Laura Craven (LC), Adrian Collins (AC), Zoe MacLehose (ZM) and Mairi Rennie (MR).

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Clerk: Debbie Harknett

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- 1) **Recording of the meeting** - Clerk noted the meeting would be recorded as a test; recording would not be kept.
- 2) **Apologies for absence:** n/a.
- 3) **Declarations of interest:** none.
- 4) **Representation from the public:** none.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting:** After amending 'picnic bench' to 'picnic table' in 6c) the minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved for signing by the Chairman.
- 6) **Actions from last meeting** were noted (unless elsewhere on agenda):
  - a) MH noted he has chased the solicitor about the land registration as he appears not to have done anything since he was passed the paperwork in March. Rake Recreation Ground should be simple to register as we have the ownership documents but Fyning Recreation Ground is more difficult as ownership predates recent rules so the solicitor wants to seek specialist advice but is very busy with house sales because of the Covid related reduction in stamp duty.
  - b) AC raised concern about likely increase in quoted £350 cost per parcel of land with additional registration problems and if we move solicitor.
  - c) MH added Harting PC had similar problems registering land and, at the advice of their solicitor, they placed a charge on the land to stop anybody else claiming.
  - d) MR noted WSCC may be able to help as they dealt with the village green registration in 1971; the land was originally transferred to the PC under the Inclosure Act of 1846.
  - e) Felling licence – MH and Clerk thought it was part of the Woodland Management plan but can't locate it – MH to seek advice from Bob Epsom, SDNP.
  - f) ZM noted Black Bridge footpath is still overgrown and very boggy; she has got some photos to send to the Clerk.
  - g) Simple emergency plan has been drafted – Clerk will recirculate before putting onto website.
- 7) **Woodland Management Plan:**

It was agreed it has been difficult to arrange meetings under the current Covid circumstances so actions are ongoing but nothing is urgent.
- 8) **Footpaths:**
  - a) There was much discussion about the paths from Black Bridge, opposite Parsonage Estate to Slade Lane and across the field at Fyning – problems with maize planting, irrigation pipes, flooding, broken stile. As they are all currently passable it was agreed to leave until after planting in spring and irrigation pipes have been re-laid and take action then as appropriate.

- b) MH updated the meeting on White Horse footpath application progress – we have written to neighbours; support forms are being distributed and are available in the shop. The Trustees of the Hall have said they will not object. The school are supporting and will send out forms to parents. Requested that completed forms are returned by 21 December.
- c) Clerk noted neighbour letters were sent to people on the register of electors except for 2 Kings Head Mews as there was no information held so the letter was sent to address obtained from the land registry but it has now been returned. After discussion, it was agreed to resend to the property address.
- d) AC reported overgrown hedges over footpaths on London Road, Rake by the three non-operational nursing homes and another property. Complication being that the buildings are in Hampshire but the footpaths in WSCC. He will get more detail and discuss with Clerk so it can be reported to the appropriate authorities.

**9) Play areas:**

- a) MH reported Rachel West (who looks after the school play equipment) has generously offered to check the playgrounds and gym weekly and has got the forms for completion from the Clerk.
- b) There was much discussion about strimming of the village hall playground and the Clerk noted we currently pay for approximately 15 hours strimming throughout the growing season. AC suggested battery-operated equipment is lighter than petrol machinery and more durable than the suggested wheeled strimmer. After much discussion, it was agreed MH would talk to the hall grounds maintenance team and suggest we would consider contributing towards them purchasing a new battery strimmer (that would be more durable) as it is unlikely to be solely used on the playground.

**10) Date of next meeting:** The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6.00pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via ‘zoom’ video conferencing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.02pm.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**