

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY 26TH November 2020 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Crawford, Cllr Griffin, Cllr Gadd, Cllr Morris and Cllr Niell (in part).

Also in attendance: Cllr Smith, Claudine Feltham, RFO and 2 members of the public

1. To elect a Chair of the Amenities Committee
Cllr Griffin proposed for Cllr Crawford to be Chair of the Amenities Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Gadd. There were no other nominations, and this was unanimously approved.

Cllr Crawford took on position of Chair for this meeting.
2. To elect a Deputy Chair of the Amenities Committee
Cllr Crawford proposed for Cllr Griffin to be Deputy Chair of the Amenities Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Gadd. There were no other nominations, and this was unanimously approved.
3. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Anderson.
4. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial, and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

Cllr Gadd declared a personal interest in respect of item 8.7 on this agenda as a Trustee of Wadhurst Institute Hall and Field Trust.

Members agreed to take this item as the final item of the agenda so that Cllr Gadd could leave the meeting.

5. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.

A member of the public asked about the recent sale of the Community Minibus as it was part purchased by the parish council.

Cllr Gadd advised that she had a long conversation with Uplands School who had advised that bus had been funded by grants, and not the parish council. Uplands had two other buses which were available for community use and were looking to promote the service.

Cllr Griffin commented that If the parish council had contributed to the minibus then it may be listed on the parish council asset register. John McKenzie may have been involved with the grant.

Action: RFO to investigate previous account records to see if parish council funds were used towards the purchase of the minibus.

A member of the public spoke in connection with the bench being donated in memory of her grandparents for the Jardin.

Cllr Griffin thanked her for purchasing the bench and invited her to meet to discuss the siting of the bench. Whilst the grandparents had lived in Wadhurst and been active in the community, she did not live in the village and was open for the parish council to decide upon a suitable location.

Cllr Griffin advised he would invite other Cllrs to consider the best location for the bench.

The member of the public also enquired whether it would be possible for 2 rose bushes to be planted when the parish council consider future works to the Jardin.

The costs for the delivery and extension legs would be considered at item 8.2 of this agenda.

Cllr Griffin thanked the member of public again for the generous donation.

1944 hours end of public forum.

6. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2020.
Cllr Griffin proposed that the previous meeting minutes should be approved at the full council meeting on 3rd December 2020, this was seconded by Cllr Gadd and unanimously agreed.
7. To determine matters arising from the previous minutes for updating and noting.
As per agenda item 6.
8. Items for decision and allocation of resources, if necessary.

8.1 Bench for the Jardin. To agree a place within Jardin and then get a quote for a solid concrete base.
Action: Cllr Griffin offered to take photos at the Jardin and circulate these to the other Cllrs so that most appropriate location could be decided.

Cllr Gadd asked if Cllr Griffin had been able to view a copy of the lease and advised this should be viewed before arranging installation. **Action:** Cllr Griffin to view the lease.

Some benches at the Jardin are set on concrete with stones in front of them.

1948 hours Cllr Niell arrived at the meeting.

8.2 To resolve if the parish council will pay for the 'extension legs' and delivery charges of the new bench for Jardin.

Resolved: Cllr Griffin proposed that the parish council pay for the extension legs and delivery of the bench. This was seconded by Cllr Gadd and received unanimous approval.

8.3 Replacement boiler at the Pavilion – to consider the quotes received and decide upon a contractor to use.

Cllr Gadd advised that the parish council had attempted to obtain 4 quotes. One company declined to quote because they were too busy, another company never produced their quote, despite being chased. This left two quotes to consider British Gas and Sureflow Plumbing & Heating.

Members considered the quotes, including the guarantees offered, as well as the advantages/disadvantages of using an independent business or larger national company.

Resolved: Cllr Crawford proposed for Sureflow Plumbing and Heating to carry out the works, this was seconded by Cllr Gadd and received unanimous approval.

Action: RFO to advise Sureflow Plumbing and Heating of this decision and ask for them to liaise with Bob Penny (Caretaker) for installation dates and arrangements.

8.4 Replacement of the village planters – Cllr Griffin

In the village there are 5 wooden trough planters, which sit outside of the shops. Each contains 4 plant pots. The troughs are old and in very poor state of repair. One is entirely rotten and will be removed tomorrow.

Cllr Griffin suggested that article is put in the Focus magazine to invite young carpenters from the village to become involved in the project, to make replacement, robust troughs.

Members reached a unanimous decision for Cllr Griffin to proceed with article Focus. **Action:** Cllr Griffin to write an article for Focus

8.5 Removal of large metal planters in the Jardin

Outside of the fire station there are two old planters, which are rusty and now messy. They need replacing.

Cllr Griffin to include this alongside item 8.4.

8.6 Removal and replacement of notice boards.

Cllr Gadd advised that the old wooden noticeboards at the Jardin really need to be removed and replacement boards sourced and placed in similar location. **Action:** Cllr Gadd invited members to look at Broxap for potential replacement boards.

The RFO commented that noticeboards with lockable sections were available. **Action:** RFO to circulate links/photos of free-standing noticeboards.

Cllr Gadd also advised that the green noticeboard next to the war memorial had a hole in the Perspex and would need replacing. **Action:** RFO to see if this is something that Bob Penny could assist with.

8.7 Creation of a working party for liaison with Hall and Field (*this was taken as final item on the agenda*)

One member of the public in attendance at the virtual meeting was connected to Hall and Field through a contractual business.

Members considered whether this member of the public should be present whilst discussions took place.

Whilst the general topic was not listed on the agenda as private and confidential it was considered how the meeting should proceed. A discussion on the correct procedures then ensued.

Deferred: it was eventually decided that this item should be considered by email, and any decisions be ratified at the full council meeting on 3rd December 2020. **Action:** Cllr Griffin to email proposals to the member of amenities committee.

9. Items for discussion

9.1 Jardin; a proposal for the maintenance of the Jardin with a view to applying to the Lund Fund for a grant to undertake the required works.

Cllr Griffin advised members that he was concerned over the condition of the wildflower area at Jardin. It looked rather unkempt and had become over dominant in the location. Cllr Griffin had received negative feedback about the area and was concerned that this was the first impression of the village when travelling from the Tunbridge Wells direction.

The Lund Fund sponsored by the Rausing Family was available for environmental and local amenity projects and could possibly be a source of financial assistance.

Cllr Griffin would like to seek the opinion of parishioners for ideas on how to improve the Jardin.

Cllr Gadd advised that details within the lease should also be checked.

Cllr Niell recalled how this issue has previously been considered by the council and thought that a more formal design may be a good idea. Something low maintenance that presented well throughout all seasons.

The idea of the wildflowers was appreciated but considered that it should maybe be more of a backdrop than a large block. Also, the pond needed attention and bringing back to life.

Cllr Niell advised that Jo Thompson Landscape & Garden designer lived locally and maybe the parish council could invite her to assist with a design. Cllr Griffin advised that another garden designer had recently moved into the village too. The idea of a large wooden fire engine for children to sit and play on could also be considered.

Action: article to be put in Focus magazine asking for ideas and design assistance, maybe even a competition to get the young generation involved. (Cllr Griffin)

Action: Parish Council to contact Jo Thompson to see if she would be interested in helping.

Resolved: proposed by Cllr Niell, seconded by Cllr Gadd, and unanimously agreed,

10. Items for noting only

10.1 To note Amenity committee, spend to date against budget.

Documents had already been circulated to the Amenities Committee and no questions were raised.

Action: Chair/Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee to start thinking about budget requirements for 2021-2022 as the budget setting and precept request would be considered at the full council meeting on 3rd December 2020.

10.2 Any amenities issues: *None*

11 Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda: *None*

Meeting closed at 2048 hours.