

## **ASSETS AND AMENITIES WORKING GROUP**

**Wednesday, 26<sup>TH</sup> July, 2017**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Present:**

Cllr. Russell Tillson, chairman  
Cllr. Denise Meyers  
Gillian Smith, clerk to the parish council  
6 members of the public.

#### **Apologies:**

Keith Owen – organisational problem at office  
Paul Blyth – offered to attend, but without report from Keith Owens it was agreed unnecessary.

#### **Item:**

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 were agreed as a true record.

3-6 Items regarding consultant's report and findings were deferred until next meeting.

#### **7. Developments in the village.**

Gill informed an application had been made by Mrs. D. Coker to register the recreation ground as a village green. KCC officer informed that Village Greens are afforded protection under the Commons Act 1876 and Inclosure Act 1857. The Acts will preclude any erection of building or soil disturbance.

A survey has been distributed around the village by 'Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground'. The survey is comprehensive but contains some misleading information regarding the play equipment, which refers to it being installed with funding achieved by Dymchurch Parish Plan Action Group. One hundred per cent of the funding was provided by the De Haan Charitable Trust and its installation and management overseen by Shepway District Council.

#### **8. Alternative possibilities for plugging the impending funding gap.**

Gill informed the parish council currently has two means of generating income; the precept and the car park. District councils are keen to off-load local services to parish councils but little funding is offered in return for providing the services. All town/parish councils are looking at ways to generate additional income. Raising the precept is never the most desirable option and therefore council may wish to focus on improvements and revenue streams at the car park.

The parish council's application to appeal against the business rate for Bull's Field car park has been refused. £3500 will need to be found to meet this new liability.

9. **Options paper, timescale and subsequent public consultation.**

Cllr. Tillson informed the options paper will include:

DPC financial background, Localism Act and General Power of Competence, background to exploratory work on developing assets as future income sources, recreation ground, history/ownership/use, scope for house building, pavilion history/ownership/uses, health and safety, equality issues and options, Bulls Field car park, history, income streams, future options, planning considerations, council office, history, deeds legislative shortcomings, options for relocation, local opinion and consultations, implications for future revenue streams, conclusions and recommendations.

Cllr. Tillson opened the meeting to members of the public. Sally Cook spoke of the village green application and was of the view that the information provided by the KCC officer to the parish council is incorrect. The survey being conducted by Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground was discussed, and commended by the Working Group but clerk had to deal with a customer and did not capture the conversation, part of which focused on possible ways of raising revenue. Sally did agree to share the analysis of the survey with the parish council.

10. **Progress on deeds to council office**

Gill informed the matter is ongoing and reaching the final stages.

11. **Annual Assets Risk Assessment:**

Changes have been made to the risk assessment following council members' inspection of assets held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017.

12. **Millennium Clock.**

Gill informed records show there was a village clock installed with funds raised by The Corporation of Dymchurch Clock Committee in 1938. It was sited at 'The Estates Offices' which is believed to have been where the hairdressers is opposite Martello 24. Another clock was installed at 8 High Street in 1981 replacing the previous clock.

The Millennium Clock that is sited at The Arcade premises is now 18 years old. All guarantees are long expired and the clock will not last forever. It was considered that whilst the clock is still functioning it should remain in situ, but spending vast sums on repairs is not a viable option. It was suggested that research into a new site and design should be pursued for future information.

13. **Rear Entrance to War Memorial.**

Gill informed that a representative from The Royal British Legion has mentioned a rear entrance to the War Memorial would provide a safer

environment for those visiting the cenotaph, particularly during services. Working Group suggested a cost for the works should be obtained for Council to consider. The Cllr. Tillson agreed to meet with RBL representative with a view to discussing joint funding.

14. **Additional seating at play area:**

A design and cost has been obtained for seating at the recreation ground for full Council to consider.

Gill informed a request had been received for a footbridge to be installed at the recreation ground that would provide access to footpath HM143. The Romney Marsh Drainage Board has provided details of a design that would be acceptable to them, but the land owner on the opposite side of the drain has yet to respond to the suggestion.

15. **Recommendations to full Council:**

1. **That the Minutes be accepted.**
2. **That the Millennium Clock remain in situ and research be undertaken for a replacement as and when required.**
3. **A quote be obtained for a rear entrance to be erected at the cenotaph, for council to consider.**
4. **Additional seating be approved at the play area of the recreation ground and the cost be met from the capital expenditure budget.**

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, 9.30am.