



HEADCORN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office, Headcorn Village Hall, Church Lane, Headcorn, TN27 9NR
Tel: 01622 892496 Email: clerk@headcornpc.org.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Open Spaces Committee Meeting held in the Green Room at the Village Hall on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 7pm.

Those in attendance: -

Councillors: Cllrs Mather, Glanfield, Sexton and Thomas.
Clerk: Stefan Christodoulou.
Public: There were no parishioners present.

1.
 - a. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Gearing.
 - b. **To seek notification on whether anyone intends to film, photograph or record any items of this meeting:** There were none recorded.
 - c. **Declaration of changes to the register of interests:** There were none recorded.
 - d. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or other interests:** There were none recorded.
 - e. **Requests for Dispensations:** There were none recorded.
 - f. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none recorded.
2. Public session. (Minute book closed.)
3. **The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th January 2023** - These were approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the last meeting.**

Schematic Maps for Open Spaces – Schematic maps detailing how to get to each of the Open Spaces in the Village. This will include some information of help such as defibrillators etc. Once maps are finished, we will check with the committee. The lengthsman will install them.

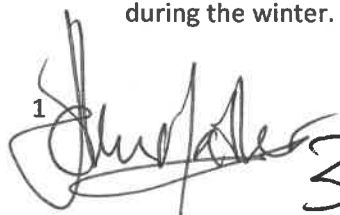
Bylaws and next steps – New Bylaws were needed to tighten and modernise “laws” for access and use of HPC green spaces. The committee agreed to the adoption of the said byelaws. The Clerks will now take the matter forward, which will involve steps prior to seeking approval of the Byelaws by the Secretary of State. The Clerks will keep the committee advised of progress.

Creation of a wildlife area with logs - This will be carried out by the Lengthsman later this year. Partially completed. To be finished after we know we have spare logs from the tree works and weighing the planters.

Allowing some green spaces or parts of green spaces to rewild - It was agreed that for any places that could be left to be “wild” would fall under the Clerk’s and Lengthsman’s discretion and they would be applied where it was expedient to do so. To be discussed with The Lengthsman. Wild flowers to be purchased and planted by hand.

Memorial bench for Queen Elizabeth II - This would be a good use of S106 funds and the Clerk’s Office will drive this forward with some suggestions of type of bench etc for the Committee to decide on a final design. We should hear back from the bench makers before next meeting.

Drainage of Hoggs Green and what should/can be done for it - Hoggs Green gets waterlogged during the winter. The side by the river does have pipes leading out of the surface and into the

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river, so it may have once had drainage. However it must be noted that it is a flood plain and has always had drainage problems and a liability to flooding. A long term solution may well be impossible. Will ask G&S Brown now the Days Green work has been finished to have a look at the field with us to ascertain what can be done with/about it.

Disabled Parking for Methodist Hall and if the Parking could be met from HPC land either in Church Lane or some other land. - Cllr Glanfield enquired if the newly acquired Methodist Hall needed disabled parking. Whilst the Council would fully support extra disabled parking it would unfortunately be impossible to enforce the restricted parking. However it was agreed that the Council could allow disabled people using the Methodist Hall to park on the hardstanding apron just inside the gates to Parsonage Meadow if we expanded the apron by a meter or so around the edge. The Clerks Office will look into this work and obtain a quote etc.

Permanent Gazebo on Parsonage Meadow for Music, Theatre etc. - It was decided that the Clerk's Office should investigate the case for this to be built using S106 funds and what if any planning permission should be sought. It is also important to try to ascertain how much use this will have before being decided. This will be looked at again then.

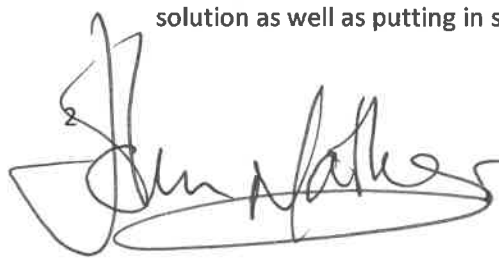
The "tidying" of the ditch between the Parish Graveyard and the Village Hall. - The ditch between the above locations has become significantly overgrown with brambles etc. Whilst this is a haven for wildlife it is in danger of filling in the drainage ditch and becoming untameable. It was agreed that the Clerk's Office would find someone to rectify this and have the lengthsman reinstate the fence and enable us to manage this useful natural microecology.

Drainage on the Village Greens. Over winter Hoggs, Days and Parsonage all need a more robust drainage system. - The Clerk's Office has received several reports about the Village greens being a bit wet and muddy over the winter months. Therefore when we are asking G&S Brown for advice about Hoggs Green we will also enquire about the other two greens.

Equipment for Lengthsmen. - The Lengthsmen have a list of equipment that they need. These will be evaluated and financed as and when we need them. At present they are using several pieces of their own equipment that are not suitable for the sort of heavy use in the Village.

Weavers PROW. - The Weavers PROW needs resurfacing. The options have varying levels of cost and durability. The Clerks Office will investigate the costs for best cover and durability.

5. **To receive a Budget Analysis report.**
The budget was reviewed.
6. **To receive correspondence and action as necessary.**
No correspondence.
7. **To discuss If the Disabled Parking needed for the Methodist Hall could be met from HPC land beside the Hall, currently used by residents or if we should stick with the previous agreement or perhaps both.** It was agreed that we should move forwards with the previously minuted solution as well as putting in some extra disabled places this side of the fence. It might also be


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helpful to include updated signage and yellow keep clear cross hatching on the entrance to Parsonage Meadow to allow disabled people to park more easily. It was also mentioned that perhaps removing the degraded double yellow lines from Church Lane and replacing them with demarcated parking bays might help easy problems there as well.

8. **To discuss the quote from Treecycle to finish the tidying of the allotment trees and ivy.** It was agreed to accept the price Treecycle quoted us for the continuation and finishing of the work that they were unable to do last time as they couldn't reach the trees for the brush in the way. Now the brush is cleared and they can continue the Clerks Office will ensure that this doesn't overlap with breeding season for birds or will not otherwise impact on bird who might be nesting.
9. **To discuss planting some trees at Hoggs Green to celebrate the Kings coronation.** This suggestion was turned down as it was felt that Hoggs Bridge has enough trees at this time. The possibility remains for planting trees on Roberts Land when that become available to us for any further commemorative events along side the Queens Jubilee trees.
10. **To discuss the last lot of tools needs by the Lengthsmen before the "new" year starts in spring.** It was decided that this last batch of tools should mean that the lengthsmen are now fully equipped with more robust tools to carry out any and all duties as well as to replace the tools that they have been using out of their own supply. It will also ensure they remain health and safety complaint and within our insurance terms etc.
11. **Any other business.**
As this meeting had to be bought forward to accommodate the needs of the Committee and the Councillors it was decided that from now on the Open Spaces meetings should take place on the first Wednesday of the Month so that they are always directly before the Full Council meeting to allow the Committee to forward such matters as are needed to the Full council meeting.

There being no other matters for discussion the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

3rd May 2023

