

**PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**The Podmore Building, St Andrews Road, Paddock Wood**  
**Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6HT**  
**Telephone: 01892 837373**  
**www.paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Monday**  
**11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at the Day Centre, Commercial Road, at 7.45pm**

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**PRESENT:** Cllr D Boyle, in the Chair  
 Cllrs R. Atkins, M. Flashman, R. Moon, R. Steward, E. Thomas  
 E. Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs N Reay, Clerk  
 Mr K Butler, Estates Manager  
 4 residents

**APOLOGY:** Cllr D Sargison

**ES70        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
 There were no declarations of interest.

**ES71        MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  
 The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were APPROVED.  
 Cllr Atkins was asked if he was recording the meeting. He confirmed that he was recording the meeting but declined to say how many Estates meetings he had recorded in the past.

The Chairman asked, for GDPR purposes, who had access to the recordings. Cllr Atkins confirmed that only he had access to them.

The Clerk advised that a copy of the council's protocol on recording meetings was available at the back of the room.

The Chairman asked that the PPP committee look at the protocol at its next meeting.

**ES72        MATTERS ARISING**

a) ES60 a – The installation of the new roundabout has been delayed and a response from the contractors is awaited.

b) ES61 b – costs from one contractor to install the bollards at the Day Centre have been received and a second quotation is awaited.

c) ES62 - the costs of curtains for the Day Centre is being explored and fabric samples have been requested. Arrangements have been made to have the floors stripped and cleaned.  
 The Day Centre needs re-decoration and it was agreed that new curtains should not be fitted until the re-decoration has been carried out. The Estates Manger has advised that this work can be carried out in the winter. This will also allow enough notice to be given to the users of the Day Centre for the shut down period.

d) ES 65 – the deputy clerk is working on the draft byelaws for Foal Hurst Wood and is awaiting clarification from Defra as to whether a “dog exclusion order” is required.

ES73

**CRICKET PITCH**

In March 2017 the committee passed the following resolution:

*That the cricket square should no longer be available for cricket and the fencing should be removed.*

A request had now been received to reinstate the cricket pitch in its existing location. A copy of that request was attached for members consideration.

The chairman suspended standing orders to allow Mr Haffenden, who had put forward the request, to speak.

Mr Haffenden stated that whilst no longer a Paddock Wood resident he and his family had played cricket in the town in the past. He had canvassed former players who had walked away – they did not feel the pitch was up to standard – and who would be keen to see cricket returned to the town. He would like to work with the council and has the skills to bring this forward.

In the first instance he would like to arrange a charity match, ideally on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019. As the wicket had been out of use for some time they would only be looking to play “park cricket” this summer. They were looking for informal family games, for now but would be looking for more formal games in the future.

Members asked the following:

Is Paddock Wood Cricket a constituted club? They are not constituted but would look to go through the County Cricket Club for insurance if the Council gives the go ahead.

Could they not play elsewhere for the time being? Mascalls or Capel

They would like to play at the Memorial – it is the home of cricket in Paddock Wood

Which Charity would funds be raised for? Considering muscular dystrophy

Members considered the following issues:

- The Estates Manager had advised that the wicket was not safe to play on
- All members were supportive of the return of cricket to Paddock Wood
- The Council is liable if the wicket is unsafe
- If the Council is going to spend the money it needs to be certain there is a need
- Needs evidence
- Length time it will take to prepare the wicket – football is played at the Memorial until May.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Kent County Cricket board and ask for a pitch inspection and obtain advice as to what work would need to take place to allow an informal match to take place safely. Also, advice for the longer term.

The date of the 7<sup>th</sup> July would also need to be checked along with costs for the use of the wicket.

In the mean time the chairman urged Paddock Wood Cricket to be involved in the Neighbourhood Plan and support the Sport & Recreation group. There was concern about the length of time the NP was taking to come to fruition and residents felt they should not have to wait until that time.

The chairman closed the discussion by saying that it would be a matter of what is practical & deliverable.

An update would be given at the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

ES74

### **PADDOCK WOOD WALKS**

Members discussed the attached proposals for the re-issue of the Paddock Wood Walks. The deputy clerk had met with designers and has advised on the costs of printing and laminating the walks on A5 cards. The walks would also be available online for walkers to download if they wished.

Members also considered whether advertising should be sold to help fund the packs and whether any profits should be used for grants to local groups. Sets could also be made available on loan to groups such as the guides, scouts & U3A.

Cllr Boyle proposed, Cllr Wilson seconded:

*That the council should order 50 matt laminate sets of walks at a unit cost of £8.10/set. These should be for sale or on loan to local groups.*

CARRIED 6 in favour, 1 abstention

Cllr Thomas proposed

*That advertising or sponsorship should be sought*

The proposal was not seconded and therefore fell.

ES75

### **THE BATTERS**

A request has been received from a local resident seeking permission to erect a boundary fence between his property and The Batters on the Council side of the boundary.

Cllr Boyle proposed, Cllr Thomas seconded:

*That the Council REFUSES permission for the fence to be erected on its side of the boundary for the following reasons:*

*Concerns about undermining the wall*

*Could set a precedent for the future*

*Planning permission is needed for fences over 2m*

CARRIED 6 in favour, 1 abstention

ES76

### **GREEN LANE SPINNEY**

The deputy clerk has met with a representative from the High Weald Partnership to discuss possible projects for the S106 money which is available for the wood from the Mascalls Grange development.

The suggested options were:

Fencing along the boundary line between the woodland and the new development

Wood chippings for the paths

Dead hedges – possibly with the assistance of the FHW volunteers

Kent High Weald partnership would look to hold an event which the town council would need to fund if they were to assist with the project.

It was felt that asking the FHW volunteers would not be practical as they are already busy

There were also concerns that the boundary and the ownership of the ditch were not clear. Also were the developers already planning to build a boundary fence between the wood and the development?

The clerk was asked to forward the existing management plan to members for discussion at the next meeting.

ES77

### **DEFIBRILLATORS**

The clerk advised that the defibrillator at the Podmore had been tampered with on several occasions recently. The case had been damaged, and the spare pads stolen.

Members were asked considering the above did they still wish to site the two new defibrillators outside the Day Centre and Green Lane pavilion.

It was agreed that the Council should continue with its plans, but some sort of press statement should be made to publicise the fact that the device had been tampered with.

ES78

### **PUTLANDS FIELD**

Members considered the attached email from resident concerning water run off at Stace Cottages and Putlands field.

The clerk was asked to put together a chronology of work which had been carried out and forward it to the chairman before sending to the resident.

ES79

### **LITTER PICK**

The litter pick will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 between 5 & 7 pm. The Memorial Pavilion can be opened for refreshments. The Clerk will arrange for litter pickers, bin bags & hi viz waistcoats to be available.

ES80

### **ESTATES MANAGERS REPORT**

The Estates Manager advised that the team had caught up on the winter work and had cleaned the alleyway to rear of St Andrews Close. The chairman thanked the Estates Team for carrying out the task.

ES81

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Estates Committee will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm

CHAIRMAN