

PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Monday 14th December 2020 at 7.30pm, via ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllr D Boyle, in the Chair
 Cllr R Atkins, M Flashman, R. Moon, D. Sargison, R. Turk

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Reay, Town Clerk
 Mr K Butler, Estates Manager
 2 Residents

APOLOGY: Cllr E. Thomas

ES43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Atkins declared an interest in item C46 as it was his wife who was making the request.

ES44 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held 8th November 2020 were APPROVED with the following amendment ES34 – the costs of the repair to the tractor were £2,600.

ES45 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) ES35 (e) – Cemetery drainage, further advice is being sought. The Finance Committee had asked for the additional funding to be included in the 2021/2022 budget.
- (b) ES36 – Tree work, the order has been placed and a schedule of works will be agreed with the contractor. There was a Tree Preservation Order on the trees at Fuggles Close and an application would need to be made to carry out the work.
- (c) ES37 – Estates Equipment, the field roller has been valued at £1,000.
 Cllr Boyle proposed, Cllr Moon seconded:
 That the Estates Manager should be authorised to dispose of the field roller.
 CARRIED 5 in favour, 1 abstention
 Kent County Cricket Board have been asked for their opinion on the Cricket roller. A response is awaited.
- (d) Christmas Lights – the lights have now been installed. A total of 6 columns failed the stress testing and garland has been wrapped around these columns. Four of the columns already have signage attached which is why additional items cannot be added. Hanging baskets can also be attached to the columns in the summer.
- (e) Elm Tree Playing Field – PWFC have received planning permission for the dug outs. They have been asked for a timeline for the work to be carried out, but it was not expected to be before next spring.

Cllr Atkins left the meeting

ES46

WHITES CORNER

The Council had been approached by a local community Facebook group – Love Paddock Wood. The group was seeking to carry out planting and maintenance work at White's Corner, and in the first instance were seeking the Council's support for the project. Further details would be brought back to the council once the plans had been drawn up.

Members were supportive of the idea. However, they felt it was important to retain the heritage of the area and for the council to see the final plans.

The chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Mrs Atkins, who had set up the group, to speak.

She confirmed that the group would seek to retain the heritage aspect of the area. They wished to increase the planting to make it more appealing to residents. They were seeking professional advice on what type of planting would be suitable for the area.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

Cllr Boyle proposed, Cllr Sargison seconded:

That the committee agrees, in principle to the idea of the community group carrying out work at White's Corner.

CARRIED unanimously

Cllr Atkins returned to the meeting.

ES47

GREEN LANE SPINNEY

A tree has been reported as unsafe. It is adjacent to the power line to the rear of The Foxgloves.

As the footpath through the spinney is a public right of way, an emergency closure order has been obtained for 21 days. An alternative route is signposted. Due to the proximity of the power line the tree surgeon cannot commence work until they have given permission by UK Power Networks. He will then need to hire in specialist equipment to carry out the work. UK Power Networks have been contacted. They have advised that they need to visit the site. To date they have not made any appointment to do so.

ES48

CEMETERY

Members reviewed the photographs of the works to the cemetery and voiced some concerns as to whether the edging was robust enough. It was agreed to wait until the grass had re-grown around the edges and then review it.

The Deputy Clerk had advised that a low fence was required around the entrance to prevent people from cutting across the grass to access the path.

Cllr Boyle proposed, Cllr Atkins seconded:

That a single bar rustic fence should be installed.

CARRIED unanimously

ES49

ESTATES MANAGERS UPDATE

The Estates manager advised that due to holidays there would only be two members of staff working between now and the new year.

The following work will be carried out:

- Cleaning and maintenance of all wooden benches
- Tree work

ES50

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Monday 8th February 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

The chairman thanked everyone for their work over the year.

CHAIRMAN