

Goudhurst Parish Council



AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on 24 May 2022 at 19.30 in Goudhurst Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Chris Ditton (Chairman), David Boniface, Alan Foster, Antony Harris, Mrs. Alison Webster.
Anthony Farnfield, Deputy Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Mrs Caroline Richards (holiday overseas).

2. **Declarations of interest:** There were none.

3. **The Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 January 2022** were accepted as being correct.

4. **Cycle Stands.** Following a previous Amenities Committee meeting, it was again agreed that the proposed installation of cycle stands is a good one. It was noted that some young people cycle to Goudhurst Village to catch the school bus. It was noted that single and groups of cycling tourists also visit. However, after much thought, Members could not suggest a suitable site near the centre of Goudhurst for the stands. **Action: Cllr Antony Harris will approach the developer of the Old Parsonage site to see if he might make available a small parcel of land for the proposed cycle stands.**

5. **CCTV Contractor.** Council is not entirely satisfied with the service we have been receiving in past months. We await a quote for the installation of a CCTV camera on the Star & Eagle overlooking the Churchyard wall at the top of Goudhurst High St. It was **agreed to recommend to Council** that he should be reminded again of this matter and if the quote is not received promptly then Council should seek the services of an alternative contractor. It was also **noted** that there is an outstanding request for a check on the Village Hall CCTV facility. **Action: Clerk**

6. **Improvements to The Plain and Goudhurst Pond Area.** Cllr Mrs Alison Webster reported that she has obtained 2 quotations (£2,085 and £2,465) for a timber replacement circular bench around the chestnut tree on The Plain. It was **agreed** that Cllrs Chris Ditton and Mrs Webster will evaluate the quotes to ensure the chosen quote is the more appropriate and better value. **Action: Chairman Amenities Cttee and Cllr Alison Webster.**

Making The Plain more attractive. It was **agreed** that both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Trust should make the area of The Plain more attractive by planting seasonal flowers. It was **noted** that the water trough is already planted out suitably and maintained by the contractor that maintains the Goudhurst War Memorial garden.

The area by The Plain Notice Board. It was **agreed** that, subject to finance being available in the 2022/23 budget, the wooden notice board, which is no longer waterproof and the doors of which swell in the winter damp, should be replaced by an aluminium one. Also the previous proposal that one bar of the Pond fence should be rearranged to enable the public to read the notices more easily. **Action: Chairman Amenities Cttee to organise a site visit with interested Cllrs and the Clerks.**

7. High Weald Joint Advisory Committee. Members considered in detail the report of 7th April 2022 from Tobias Jackson, Land Management Project Officer of the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee. This followed previous discussions with the Kent High Weald Partnership and a specific survey on the management of wildlife on the Lower Glebe. It was agreed that Chairman, Amenities Cttee should consult on site with our contractor who carries out the grounds maintenance.

Post Meeting Note: This is the report from Cllr Chris Ditton following his site meeting on 25 May 2022 with Steve Bryant, the contractor who has the contract for grounds maintenance at St Mary's Churchyard, The Victorian Cemetery and the Burial Grounds.

I met with Steve Bryant this morning and have agreed the following:

1. Reduce mowing to once at the beginning and once at the end of the season and remove arisings on:
a. the bank and area along Back Lane on the south side of St Mary's Churchyard;
b. the area, as agreed, in the south east corner of the Victorian Cemetery to create a meadow of flowering plants as recommended by the High Weald Joint Advisory Cttee report of 7th April 2022.

2. Cut the area around St Mary's Church with a slightly higher setting. Pay attention not to strim too hard the bank on the north side of the main path from the High St to the west door of the Church to avoid browning/scalping.

3. Reduce strimming to all headstones (in St Mary's Churchyard, the Victorian Cemetery and the Burial Grounds) to once per month, and possibly reduce further depending on the growth.

As an aside I think that the kerb stone enclosed memorials in the Victorian Cemetery and the Burial Grounds would benefit from continued spraying to keep on top of the weed growth. If the spraying is done to avoid any drift, then it is going to be the best solution unless of course we can get regular volunteers to carry out the task or can trade off the cost of spraying with employing a 'weeder'?

I think that is all. Steve has taken it all in but maybe worth following up with a note to confirm the same. Steve also asked that we continue to update him if we feel things are looking too unkempt or too well trimmed.

I think some signage would be good as soon as we can?

For approval by GPC 13 June 2022.

8. Legionella control at Chequer Field pavilion. It was **agreed** that the quotation for an updated Risk Assessment by Envirocure dated 20 April 2022 for 2022-23 be accepted. **Action: Clerk**

9. Duck House on the Pond. It was **noted** that the Duck House appears to be slowly sinking. It was **agreed** that Council should send a photograph and a copy of the original invoice to the supplier to seek a remedy or compensation. **Action: The Clerks with assistance from Cllr Mrs Alison Webster**

10. Jubilee Oak Trees and their Plaques. It was **noted** that the four oak trees have been successfully planted and they now await their commemorative plaques. It was **agreed** that the plaques should be installed without great ceremony but a few local celebrities should be invited to attend and photos taken for the TWBC Magazine. **Action: The Clerks with Cllr Mrs Alison Webster.**

11. Christmas lights. Cllr Chris Ditton reported that he is in touch with the previous supplier and installer with the intention of making a much improved display for Christmas 2022 in Goudhurst.
Action: Cllr Chris Ditton. It was agreed to check with Kilndown if they have any requirement for Christmas lights this year. **Action: The Clerks**

12. Loo of the Year Report 2021. It was **resolved** that the deficient items mentioned in the Report should be actioned soonest. **Action: The Clerks.** It was **noted** that the old ceiling in the gentlemen's lavatory has been successfully replaced recently.

13. Old telephone Kiosks at The Plain and at Kilndown. It was **agreed** that the use of both Kiosks should be reviewed. It was **agreed** that Mrs Georgia Reed-Cutting, who has done so much good work on introducing Defibrillators to the Parish in recent years, be invited to bring forward some suggestions. **Action: Amenities Committee and the Clerks.**

14. Uplands Community College. It was **noted** that Council had received an appeal from Uplands Community College for a grant towards the cost of an all-weather sports pitch. The Amenities Committee declined to agree a grant on the grounds that Goudhurst has the same problem with a waterlogged pitch and we are working on raising funds as well.

15. Date of next Amenities Committee Meeting, Tuesday 26 July 2022, 7.30pm in Goudhurst Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.30.

Anthony Farnfield
Deputy Clerk