

Minutes of the Halstead Parish Highways and Amenities Committee held on Tuesday, 06 August 2019 at 7pm in the Pavilion.

In attendance: Cllr Marshall, Cllr Brown, Cllr Davenport and Cllr Peel. 2 Parishioners and Clerk.

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation.

Cllr Brown expressed a non-pecuniary interest in item 11

3. Public Participation Session

There were no comments or questions from the public.

4. Flooding Report

Cllr Marshall went over the flooding report which has been distributed to the residents of Watercroft Road. Cllr Marshall has spoken to County Councillor Chard, who holds the portfolio for Highways and Emily Kinsella who oversees the Sevenoaks District drainage for Kent Highways. Cllr Marshall understands that contractors have been appointed to look at Otford Lane and Knockholt Road and have been looking at Watercroft Road. Cllr Marshall has requested a report back within 4 weeks on action to be taken.

5. Sports License Fees

The Clerk explained the current situation of the license fees and what's included plus some of the costs for maintenance of the field. Cllr Marshall suggested that the matter should be referred to finance committee and fully reviewed by the end of the year.

6. Bus Service through Halstead

Cllr Brown attended a meeting with Go-Coach and was able to ask them questions regarding extending the service through Halstead to include more regular access to Sevenoaks. Cllr Brown was informed that this was not something that is possible at this time and that the best way to increase the service is to get more people using the buses that run through the village at present.

Cllr Brown suggested that a smaller bus link from Halstead to Sevenoaks, like the Arriva service that covers the Rye estate in DG would be a good solution. Cllr Peel suggested that enabling school children to use their bus passes at weekends and evenings would cultivate a use of buses in younger people. Cllr Marshall questioned the importance of the bus service to Halstead residents as suggested that perhaps a Community Transport Scheme may be more useful. Cllr Peel highlighted that planning permission has been granted for 450 houses at the Fort and this may be a way to persuade bus companies to serve the area more frequently.

Cllr Marshall highlighted that there is a KALC transport conference in October

AR: Put bus timetables on the website and include information about Hail & Ride.

AR: Obtain information about the Community Transport Scheme.

7. Play Area Safety Report actions

Cllr Davenport went through the report provided by RoSPA and highlighted where we need to make repairs.

AR: To file back and repaint the goal posts and tyre climber
AR: Speak to a Blacksmith to see if it can be repaired
AR: Investigate the purchase new seats for the big kid swings
AR: Investigate purchase of anti-bird spikes
AR: Receive a quote for replacing the rubber tiles
AR: Receive a quote to repair the fencing
AR: Investigate fixing the closing device for the gate.

The council has received a letter (alongside many with anecdotal conversations with parishioners), from a parishioner who feels that the facilities for children are disappointing when compared with other facilities in the area.

8. **Halstead Fun Day**

Councillors noted that they didn't gain much feedback from parishioners but that the day was well received, and they felt that the networking opportunities were well worth it.

Cllr Peel spoke to many parishioners about developing of the recreation ground and gathered details of parents who may be available to develop future plans.

9. **Highways Improvement Plan**

The Highways Improvement Plan will come back to H&A in September to be filled in and returned to Kent Highways.

AR: Investigate actions taken against regular fly tipping by Kent Highways & Sevenoaks District Council.

10. **Pavilion Maintenance**

The Pavilion requires maintenance of a number of areas including (but not limited to) kitchen window, clock, outside light, guttering, toilet fixtures, barrier entrance, solar lights, racking for storage, new kettle, cutlery and fixing of soffits.

RESOLVED: Council resolved to spend up to £2000 on maintenance of the Pavilion

11. **Netball court**

RESOLVED: Highways and Amenities committee will recommend to council that the netball court be resurfaced.

12. **Community Infrastructure Levy**

Councillors discussed the option of applying for the Children's Play Area but concerned about the timing and/or rushing the application. Councillors would like to wait until after the strategy meeting to decide if they will apply for any CIL money in this round.