



Birchington Parish Council
Environment Committee meeting Held on
Tuesday, 10th December 2024 at 6.00pm
At the Parish Office 2 Albion Road, Birchington,CT7 9DN

Present: Cllr John Tiley - Chairman Cllr Marcel Pooke Cllr Max Houghton Cllr Colin Brown Cllr Jim Moore Cllr Bob Prebble -observer Jane Bevin - Parish Clerk Mike Pepper – Allotments Site Representative	
E/2024/47 Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fellows and Hudson E/2024/48 Declarations of Interest None. E/2024/49 Minutes The Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2024 were presented for approval and accepted by the Chairman. The minutes were Agreed E/2024/50 Chairman's Report and Public Participation The Chairman said his report would be covered under the agenda items. E/2024/51 Allotments The Chairman introduced Mike Pepper who was the Parish Council's site representative at the allotments. Mike gave members a briefing on his role and talked about how he liaises with other tenants ensuring rules are adhered to, dealing with any problems that arise and liaising with the Parish Office. He discussed with Cllr Brown potential access to allotments for residents who were disabled. He said that the mower that he used on behalf of the Parish Council required replacing. The Chairman said he would discuss at the Finance Committee meeting funding for a replacement. The Chairman thanked Mike for his briefing. E/2024/52 Community Payback There were no further updates. E2024/53 Shelters The Chairman said that the renovation of two shelters had continued to be delayed due to the project work on the recreation ground but said he hoped they would be completed by the end of the year. E/2024/54 Maintenance Operative Tasks The Chairman said that discussions were ongoing with the Clerk with the new software for logging jobs with the maintenance operative. E/2024/55 Dog Acre The Chairman said that some tree works had been completed on Dog Acre . Cllr Prebble said he had recently attended a training course on insurance and risk. From the training he learnt that trees should be annually inspected for damage or disease; there should be a visual check on trees following storms; and in the case of Council owned land being hired, there should be an inspection of the land with the hirer in	ACTION Chairman Clerk

advance of the event. The Clerk said she had received an update from KCC on the costs of adopting the streetlight on Dog Acre. She then gave a briefing on the costs, which were very reasonable and that she would submit them to the Finance Committee meeting for consideration.	Clerk
E/2024/56 Birchington Memorial Recreation Ground (BMRG) The Chairman said that a major part of the work at the Recreation Ground was now nearing completion. He said he was obtaining quotations to remove chippings from the compound and move them to the car park to provide a more solid support for the area. He said that River Sports youth team were crowdfunding to purchase floodlights for their evening training in the winter months. He suggested that the Parish Council contributed towards this by asking them to apply for a grant. Once purchased the floodlights would become the property of the Parish Council. The Clerk gave an update of the purchase of a toilet block. It had been sourced locally and reserved. The only issue was the timing of the delivery as the ground of the compound had to be prepared and access had to be when the recreation ground was in a suitable condition to take the weight of the delivery lorry. She also said it would be helpful if the new wider gate for Park Road entrance was sourced and provided sooner than later. The Clerk referred to the TDC grant which the Parish Council had been successful in obtaining. An issue TDC raised was the need to have a safeguarding policy. Cllr Prebble suggested that this be referred to General Purposes Committee to draft a policy. The Clerk confirmed that she had ordered First Aid kits and accident books for both the Recreation Ground and the Parish Office. The Chairman said that the tree works on the Recreation Ground had now been completed but it did highlight the need for tree surveys. He suggested that the Parish Council undertook a tree survey every 5 years. Cllr Prebble asked the Clerk to see if there was anything stated in the Council's insurance policy about tree surveys. Cllr Prebble said that the play park should be inspected at least annually. The Clerk said that the Maintenance Operative inspects the play park weekly and fills out a report form. Pleydell the company who installed the play park are coming in January to inspect and also to repair an item of equipment that was damaged, and which was reported to them.	Clerk
E/2024/57 Notice Boards The Clerk provided an update . Cllr Houghton had previously obtained a quotation, and two more quotations had been requested but to date there had not been any response. Cllr Prebble suggested a time limit of the end of December 2024 for the outstanding quotations to be received. Cllr Houghton said the other issue was the replacement information board for Dog Acre which had been destroyed by a car in August. He said work was ongoing in obtaining a replacement. E2024/58 Planters The Chairman said that he had met with Birchington in Bloom about the planters in Station Road which were not suitable in terms of their size and the maintenance required. He said he had designed some recycled plastic ones and had asked if the Manshed could make them. Unfortunately they declined as they were too busy on other projects. He has since asked engineers at his own company to build the planters from recycled plastic. He requested that the Parish Council supply the materials and possibly some suitable tools. Cllr Prebble requested that the Chairman provided a quotation for the cost of the materials and tools.	Chairman
E/2024/59 Benches The Chairman said there was nothing further to report at this stage.	
E/2024/60 CCTV – Upgrade and Review The Chairman said he would be arranging a meeting with the Parish Council's CCTV provider to discuss options for upgrading the current CCTV system.	Clerk
E/2024/61 Minnis Bay Beacon Sign Replacement Cllr Houghton said he had contacted the company who provided the Epple Bay shield for a quotation for a replacement sign for the beacon at Minnis Bay but had not heard back. The Clerk said the Parish Office would chase up.	Deputy Clerk
E/2024/62 Clerks Correspondence The Clerk reported that the metal silhouette of Tommy on Dog Acre had been vandalized. Arrangements were being made to have it repaired.	

E/2024/63 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 4th March 2024 at 6.00pm in the Parish Office, 2 Albion Road, Birchington,
CT7 9DN

Signed by Parish Clerk

Jane Bevan

Dated: 17th December 2024

The meeting Closed at 1910