



Edenbridge Town Council

Town Clerk: Caroline Leet



To: A. Baker (Chairman), S. McGregor (Vice-chairman), J. Aldridge, A. Damodaran, V. Jennings, A. Layland, N. Lloyd, A. Read, S. Taylor, and B. Todd.

An OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE meeting will be held 8 pm or shortly after on Monday 5 September 2022 at Rickards Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, OR PREDETERMINATIONS
Including any interests not already registered.
3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS
Members of the public, and Members with prejudicial interests on items on the Agenda, may make representations, answer, ask questions and give evidence at this meeting in respect of items on the Agenda. (This is the only opportunity for the public to make a contribution during the meeting.) Both public and Members are limited to three minutes each to speak, and the total time allocated for public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the Chairman of the meeting.
4. TO RECEIVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE 25 JULY 2022
5. TO RECEIVE ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31 JULY 2022
6. TO RATIFY OPERATIONAL DECISIONS FOR OPEN SPACES ACTIVITY
7. CORRESPONDENCE
 - 7.1 Resident re: Stangrove Pond water level
 - 7.2 Resident re: Mill Leat water supply
8. HEAD GROUNDSMAN'S REPORT
 - 8.1 Routine and seasonal work
 - 8.2 Groundstaff activity
 - 8.3 Items for the future
9. OPEN SPACES BUSINESS
 - 9.1 To receive the Burial Report
 - 9.2 To consider works for 2022/23 in the 10 and 30 year Open Spaces maintenance plans
 - 9.3 To receive an update on projects awarded CIL funding
 - 9.3.1 Recreation Ground playground refurbishment
 - 9.3.2 Street lighting, Westways: Amended resolution for total cost of project, currently £6,568 (CIL approved £5,000) – to receive update and consider potential additional expenditure
 - 9.3.3 Bus shelter, Swan Lane
 - 9.4 To receive a report on Bulky Waste collections
 - 9.5 To consider damage to playground gates
 - 9.6 To consider security at Mowshurst Barn
 - 9.7 To receive update on anti-social behaviour at Lingfield Road Recreation ground
 - 9.8 To consider works to the Retention Dam
 - 9.9 To receive an update on projects for the Queen's Jubilee
 - 9.10 To receive an update on Ready-Steady-Grow gardening competition
10. NEWS RELEASE

Council offices: Doggetts Barn, 72A High Street, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AR

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Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/22 and 31/07/22 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/22

		Previous Year's Net	2022/23	Actual Net	Balance	2023/24
INCOME						
Open Spaces						
300	OS Allocation from Precept	£298,890.90	£333,626.00	£166,813.00	-£166,813.00	£0.00
305	OS Cemetery Fees	£16,187.75	£15,000.00	£9,564.90	-£5,435.10	£0.00
310	OS Rents	£11,916.83	£10,810.00	£3,217.12	-£7,592.88	£0.00
311	OS Market Rents	£7,722.45	£6,000.00	£2,524.00	-£3,476.00	£0.00
315	OS Maintenance Services	£4,675.08	£5,224.00	£1,833.04	-£3,390.96	£0.00
320	OS Solar Panels	£1,908.37	£1,000.00	£0.00	-£1,000.00	£0.00
325	OS Sundry Receipts	£2,197.43	£70.00	£351.68	£281.68	£0.00
	Total Open Spaces	£343,498.81	£371,730.00	£184,303.74	-£187,426.26	£0.00

	Previous Year's Net	2022/23	Actual Net	Balance	2023/24
EXPENDITURE					
Open Spaces					
3000	£176,868.18	£179,775.14	£62,408.80	£117,366.34	£0.00
3010	£11,395.46	£12,375.00	£4,396.39	£7,978.61	£0.00
3011	£2,392.85	£3,600.00	£1,240.15	£2,359.85	£0.00
3012	£0.00	£0.00	£692.54	-£692.54	£0.00
3016	£3,196.50	£3,000.00	£308.98	£2,691.02	£0.00
3020	£725.66	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3029	£608.66	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,200.00	£0.00
3030	£4,044.43	£6,000.00	£2,016.00	£3,984.00	£0.00
3040	£7,751.50	£6,630.00	£4,404.78	£2,225.22	£0.00
3050	£4,870.88	£6,500.00	£2,560.82	£3,939.18	£0.00
3055	£5,632.38	£6,600.00	£4,970.60	£1,629.40	£0.00
3060	£2,139.00	£2,500.00	£722.28	£1,777.72	£0.00
3065	£110.00	£0.00	£62.93	-£62.93	£0.00
3070	£8,181.27	£9,000.00	£4,965.22	£4,034.78	£0.00
3080	£3,982.14	£3,000.00	£1,693.25	£1,306.75	£0.00
3090	£571.65	£1,000.00	£236.82	£763.18	£0.00
3100	£2,695.94	£4,250.00	£127.50	£4,122.50	£0.00
3110	£3,122.37	£5,100.00	£971.00	£4,129.00	£0.00
3115	£860.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3120	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3130	£9,095.96	£11,000.00	£1,445.10	£9,554.90	£0.00
3135	£6,765.64	£7,000.00	£3,382.82	£3,617.18	£0.00
3136	£2,154.75	£2,500.00	£1,538.50	£961.50	£0.00
3140	£33,188.62	£24,500.00	£7,051.00	£17,449.00	£0.00
3145	£32,320.00	£55,000.00	£0.00	£55,000.00	£0.00
Total Open Spaces	£322,673.84	£350,530.14	£105,195.48	£245,334.66	£0.00

Open Spaces Committee Report – 5 September 2022

5. TO RECEIVE ANALYSIS OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31 July 2022

The comparisons report for the end of July is attached, giving the position one third through the current financial year.

6. TO RATIFY OPERATIONAL DECISIONS FOR OPEN SPACES ACTIVITY

The office was alerted to a part broken branch in a tree within the clump adjacent to the path passing the playground in Stangrove Park, mid afternoon one day early last month. The area was cordoned off overnight, and a tree surgeon was able to attend first thing next morning to climb and remove the branch, at a cost of £200 plus VAT.

A large pane of glass was reported smashed in the bus shelter on Main Road opposite the Swan, mid month. The Clerk approved a replacement pane of clear toughened glass at a cost of £215 plus VAT.

A visitor to the Cemetery reported failure of one of the older water taps to turn off towards the end of an afternoon last week. A local plumber was quickly arranged to attend, and kindly fitted a replacement tap he had in stock, at no charge.

Members are asked to ratify the above decisions.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Resident re: water level in Stangrove Pond

A resident contacted the office last month with concerns regarding the low water-level in Stangrove Pond. They were reassured that this was not unusual in drought years, as the pond was fed by groundwater and run-off from the Park. Past experience showed that as the weather returned to rain into the autumn and winter the water level and wildlife usually recovered, but the situation was being monitored.

7.2 Resident re: Mill Leat water supply

The new owner of the property previously known as Tanyard House (now called Tanyard Cottage) has contacted the office regarding payment for the water used to top-up the adjacent Mill Leat feature as necessary. This is linked to a sub-meter which records the usage, and under past ownership the Council paid for the quantity of water used, with the property bill as evidence of the charges made by the water supply company. For a number of years after 2014 while the property was under renovation, this system was not available to the groundstaff, who reverted to using the bowser to supply water.

With renovations nearing completion a new “tap” was subsequently fitted in the summer of 2020, approved by the committee members, but there is no record of any reading being taken from the sub-meter at that time, nor of any contact with the property owner prior to last month. He has sent a picture of a meter reading, and requested that the Council resumes paying for water used in the Mill Leat. The reading does not appear to correlate with the one taken when the business occupant of the premises moved out in 2014.

The Clerk has requested a site meeting to confirm whether this is a new sub-meter, and also a copy of the water bill showing supply charges, so that the Council can pay correctly what is owed. Members will be updated on the outcome, for inclusion in budget considerations. From past experience, the quantity of water added to the Mill Leat varies with the seasons and the weather, as the amount of rainfall contribution varied from month to month.

8. HEAD GROUNDSMAN'S REPORT

8.1 Routine seasonal work

Grass cutting all sites

Weed killing

Weeding and flower bed maintenance

Maintaining planters through town, including Doggetts Barn courtyard baskets and tubs, and beds in the Cemetery

Hedge cutting and pruning shrubs

Pitch over marking and maintenance

8.2 Groundstaff activity

From the summer headstone check, there were no current contact details registered for owners, so

contact request cards are being placed at graves concerned. The summer visual tree survey is now complete, and there is a list of minor works to be undertaken by the grounds team. Any items beyond our capabilities have been reported to the deputy clerk.

All the Councils' benches have been repainted, including those for which we have recently taken over maintenance at the front of Stangrove Park.

The team spent some time preparing and marking ten Ultimate Frisbee pitches at the Recreation Ground as requested by the rugby club for the event last month. All the Council's sports pitches have now been marked for the coming season and all goal posts have been reinstated.

The two ladders approved by councillors at the last meeting have been ordered, and should be with us shortly and will be a great help going forward.

I am still waiting for the large scale weed spraying to be completed. I am in regular contact with the contractor and he hopes to have all approved sites done as soon as possible, weather permitting.

The team has started cutting back various summer shrubs and removing summer plants from the councils' beds and planters. We will continue to do so in the coming weeks with a view of planting the winter plants sometime in October.

8.3 Items for the future

I have recently decided to change paint suppliers for line-marking the councils' sports pitches at the Recreation Ground. This is due to a number of factors, but we may need to consider replacing our spray line-marker in the coming weeks/months. I am awaiting a representative to come for a site visit and to give us a demo of what they can offer us. After said visit I will be able to provide the committee with costings.

Head Groundsman
31/08/2022

9. OPEN SPACES BUSINESS

9.1 To receive the Burial Report

The burial report is as follows and updates the record of Cemetery activity:

July 2022

August 2022

9.2 To consider works scheduled for 2022/23 in the 10 and 30 year Open Spaces maintenance plans

The small schedule of works recommended from the periodic **external tree inspection** report has been commissioned in line with the decision at last meeting, with exception of one of the Churchyard yews in major decline, which had been advised for felling. The Church has confirmed that it wishes its tree to be half-felled in company with the one adjacent, to give scope for regeneration. The Churchwarden has advised in writing that the PCC will cover future cost of removal if necessary, if the tree ultimately fails.

The contractor who usually carries out the autumn hedge-cutting work at Blossoms Park, the Recreation Ground, Mowshurst, and Forge Croft allotments, has advised that the cost this year would be £1,895 plus VAT - the budget allowed for this work was £1,512. The difference reflects increased operation costs, and the fact that the hedgeline behind the new playground at the Recreation Ground will have to be cut manually as the machine previously used no longer fits behind the new playground fence. **Are members content to accept the costing for the work, taking the additional money from contingency?**

The annual external playground inspection has taken place on 22nd August, and reports received for Marsh Green, Blossoms Park skate ramps, Stangrove Park including the outdoor gym and ball games area as well as the playground, and Spitals Cross playground. All items were assessed either low or very low risk, and minor maintenance points will be addressed by the grounds team. The new facility at the Recreation Ground had recently received its post-installation inspection, so was not included this summer.

9.3 To receive an update on projects awarded CIL funding

9.3.1 Recreation Ground playground refurbishment

Two new litter bins, supplied through Sevenoaks District Council post-Covid funding, have been installed, and the unit temporarily in place is being transferred to the car park. The outstanding play equipment works are scheduled for the day of the committee meeting, and a verbal update will be given.

9.3.2 Additional street lighting, Westways

Further to the report at the previous meeting, the two new lighting columns installed on 1st July were due to be connected on 18th August. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

9.3.3 Bus shelter, Swan Lane

The County Councillor undertook to follow up the request for response from Highways regarding their suggestion for alternative location for the proposed shelter.

9.4 To receive the report on bulky waste collections

The next free Bulky Waste Collection date is on Saturday 8th October, with the collection vehicle calling at four locations, beginning with Church Street, then moving to Skeynes Road, followed by Park View Close, and finally Fircroft Way. SDC reported that there were no problems from fly-tipping of items in advance at the end of July. Publicity through posters, social media, and website, emphasised that service users must stay with their items to load into the freighter. There is one further booking in this financial year in January to be confirmed. **Do members wish to continue with this quarterly collection service next financial year, and include budget funding accordingly?**

9.5 To consider damage to playground gates

Members at last meeting approved repair to the damaged access gate at the Ball Games area in Stangrove Park, at a cost of £295 plus VAT (which has been carried out). The same design of safety gate was installed at the Recreation Ground playground, and one of these has been similarly damaged. An alternative more robust design of safety gate is being researched for installation, rather than incur on-going expense for repeat damage to the existing style of gate.

9.6 To note security at Mowshurst Barn

In line with the decision at last meeting, the Head Groundsman has fitted a covered hasp style of lock to Mowshurst Barn, following the break-in over a weekend in May. The locksmith who was asked to inspect the doors, and recommend a more robust lock arrangement compatible with the size of the large doors, has suggested fitting two heavy duty hasp and staple locks, to the top and the bottom of the door, linked by a heavy duty padbar, and fitted with two heavy duty padlocks. The cost quoted would be £637.56 plus VAT, including £120 for labour. A diagram of the proposed installation has been requested. **Do members wish to pursue this option at this stage?**

9.7 To receive update on response to anti-social behaviour at Lingfield Road Recreation Ground

During the summer holiday period there have been a couple of reports of evening/night behaviour involving vehicles at the Recreation Ground, which were referred to the Community Safety Unit at Sevenoaks.

Following last meeting, Cllrs Baker and Aldridge with the Deputy Clerk had a site meeting with representatives of the company which deals with CCTV for Sevenoaks District. They have subsequently contacted BT to obtain costings for transmission services, which has been circulated to members. There are two options for positioning the service, and the prices shown do not include the cost of the camera equipment itself. Whilst ETC would be responsible for transmission and camera equipment costs, maintenance and upkeep, members are already aware that SDC charges approximately £1,000 per year per camera which it monitors for other organisations, to cover controlling and managing the data, and liaising with the police and the customers. **Do members wish to identify one of the position options, for which a camera quotation can then be produced?**

9.8 To consider works to the Retention Dam

Members have received a copy of the comments and costings for works to the dam bridge from the company which originally provided a ball-park figure for a new bridge earlier in the year. It will be noted that they are not able to undertake any repairs to the abutments on the river bank. This would be an additional cost.

The survey company were unable to suggest any contractor in the area which could undertake the repairs work highlighted in the survey report.

How do members wish to proceed?

9.9 To receive an update on projects for the Queen's Jubilee

The remaining project is replacement tree-planting this autumn/winter and, as Members requested, a brief tour of potential planting sites has been arranged with the District Council's countryside manager. This is on Thursday 8th September starting at 10am at Marsh Green.

9.10 To receive update on Ready-Steady-Grow gardening competition

The guest-talk evening on August 10th was very well received by a capacity audience in Rickards Hall. The competition presentation evening is booked for 6.30pm on 14th September, and all competition entrants have been invited. The special guest from the horticultural world is Jim Buttress, whose life in gardening has ranged over 75 years, from maintaining the Royal Parks to becoming a renowned Royal Horticultural Society judge, particularly for Britain In Bloom, and allotments expert. He will talk about his wide experience after handing out the prizes and certificates for Ready-Steady-Grow.

A limited number of additional free seats are being advertised to the wider community, on a first-come-first-served basis, to extend the audience for the evening.

10 . NEWS RELEASE

Do members consider any items from this meeting should be the subject of a News Release?

Minutes of the meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held in Rickards Hall at 7.45pm on Monday 25 July 2022

Present: Cllrs A Baker (Chairman), S McGregor (Vice-chairman), J Aldridge, A Damodaran, V Jennings, A Layland, N Lloyd and A Read.

In attendance: Cllrs M McArthur and M Gemmell Smith
Deputy Clerk, Head Groundsman.

There were no members of the public present and no press.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received, noted, and accepted from Cllr B Todd.
Cllr S Taylor was absent.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, OR PREDETERMINATIONS

Cllr Lloyd declared an interest in item 7.1, being a member of the Bonfire Society committee.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

The meeting was re-convened.

4. TO RECEIVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE 13 JUNE 2022

Resolved: that the minutes (9738-9743) be signed by the committee Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. TO RECEIVE ANALYSIS OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 30 June 2022

Members noted the position with one quarter of the financial year completed; there were no questions.

6. TO RATIFY OPERATIONAL DECISIONS FOR OPEN SPACES ACTIVITY

A resident bordering Stangrove Park reported a large over-extended oak tree branch from the park with a quantity of deadwood at height above an outbuilding on his property. As the groundstaff were not equipped to deal with this, the Council's tree surgeon was asked to inspect, report, and cost any work recommended. In consultation with the committee chairman, expenditure of £275 plus VAT was approved to climb, remove deadwood, and shorten the over-long limb. It was

Resolved: to ratify the above decision for expenditure of £275 plus VAT.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Bonfire Society re: Firework Display 5th November

The Bonfire Society had submitted a request to use the Recreation Ground for the annual firework display, which was resuming after a gap during the Pandemic. The Open Spaces Hire Agreement had been completed. It was

Resolved: to allow the event including use of the Council's TN8 licence, subject to submission of required health & safety documentation, including current insurance cover, at no charge for a community event.

7.2 Resident re: overhanging branches

A resident of Greenfields had raised the issue of some branches over hanging his boundary fence from an oak on Forge Green. On investigation there appeared to be no significant branches overhanging. The resident acknowledged he had the right to cut these back to the boundary line,

but stated that the height required a tree surgeon. It was

Resolved: to give permission for the resident to engage his contractor to access the branches from Forge Green if necessary, subject to submission of required health and safety documentation, including insurance cover.

8. HEAD GROUNDSMAN'S REPORT

8.1 Routine and seasonal work

Members noted the team's routine and seasonal work during June-July.

8.2 Groundstaff activity

Members noted the summer headstone check had been carried out and any issues had been brought to the attention of the Deputy Clerk for contact with grave owners, if possible. The summer visual tree survey was under way, and a report would be available for the next meeting. All the hedges and shrubs across Council's sites had been pruned.

The team spent some time laying concrete bases for the new benches to be installed onto in the new playground at the Rec. It was unfortunate one of these was vandalised whilst setting, which required additional groundstaff time to rectify.

The team had continued with the summer pitch maintenance programme, with all the goal mouths and other bare patches well on the way to being ready for the start of the new season. Due to the hot weather, they were being watered regularly, and this would continue to ensure said areas were well established for the coming season.

The summer bench painting/maintenance programme would continue through the coming weeks and would incorporate all the council's furniture, and bollards.

Since the last meeting a new pedestrian mower had been delivered to replace that which was deemed uneconomical to repair. This was approved by councillors at the last meeting.

The contractor carrying out the spraying for weed control on the Council's sports pitches had made a start. Nomads had been completed but the hot weather week meant it had not yet been possible to spray Blossoms Park and the Rec.

8.3 Items for the future

Members considered costings to replace the larger tripod ladder stolen from Mowshurst Barn, also to replace the extendable 3 section ladder from which a section was lost during a river rescue some time ago. It was

Resolved: to purchase a Henchman 4.8m tripod ladder at £550 +VAT, and a Titan 3-section ladder with stabilisers and rubber feet at £253.75 +VAT

It was noted that as a refresher to previous training, the Head Groundsman would be attending a one-day LANTRA course on basic tree survey and inspection in September.

9. OPEN SPACES BUSINESS FOR DECISION

9.1 To receive the Burial Report

The burial report was noted as follows, updating the record of Cemetery activity:

June 2022

One burial

Two interments of ashes

One Grant of Right

9.2 To consider works scheduled for 2022/23 in the 10 and 30 year Open Spaces maintenance plans

The small schedule of works recommended from the periodic **external tree inspection** report, for

seven of the 550-plus trees surveyed (reported last meeting), had been costed by the contractor and circulated to members, as follows:

	Site total
Marsh Green – to fell a Red Oak and a Goat Willow	£400
Blossoms Park – to remove dead wood from an Oak above a seat and fell an Ash, adjacent to the practice nets, monolith at hedge height	£600
Mowshurst – fell twin-stem Ash beside Four Elms Road, including budget cost for Traffic Management (subject to TM survey)	£1400
Churchyard/Cemetery – two yews (see below) and a small Alder to fell	£600
Total Ex-VAT £3,000	

One of the yews in the Churchyard in major decline was advised for felling. The Church had subsequently asked for that tree, along with an adjacent yew also in decline, to be cut down to healthy low-level growth as alternative action, hoping that they would regenerate. It was

Resolved: proceed with the works as recommended by the external inspector, and part reduce the second yew as requested by the Church.

It was noted the annual **service of the Jubilee Clock** in the High Street had been carried out, and the annual **external playground inspection** had been booked with Wicksteed. The Head Groundsman had meanwhile highlighted two playground issues – one was damage to the self-closing spring on a gate into the games area in Stangrove Park, the other was worn safety surface at the slide on Marsh Green. The two repairs were costed at £295, and £672 respectively, £967 in total exVAT. Members

Resolved: to carry out the playground repairs at £967 plus VAT, funding for the gate to be taken from vandalism budget, for the slide surface from Open Spaces maintenance plan.

9.3 To receive update on projects awarded CIL funding

9.3.1 Recreation Ground playground refurbishment

The opening celebration event took place on the afternoon of Thursday 16th June, with fancy dress, fun and games and goody bags. The zip-wire, Twirler, and signage would be installed soon, along with the new bins and the access path.

9.3.2 Additional street lighting, Westways

Further to the report at the previous meeting, the two new lighting columns were installed on 1st July, and it was expected UKPN would make the connections on 18th August.

9.3.3 Bus shelter, Swan Lane

The County Councillor Margot McArthur reported that she had not had any response from the Highways officer, and was taking this up with KCC.

9.4 To receive the report on bulky waste collections

The next free Bulky Waste Collection date was on Saturday 30 July, with the collection vehicle calling at four locations, beginning with Church Street, then moving to Skeynes Road, followed by Park View Close, and finally Fircroft Way. It would again be publicised through posters, social media, and website, with emphasis that service users must stay with their items to load into the freighter. Any items left in advance were fly-tipping which was an offence subject to fine. Subsequent bookings were for 8th October and another one in January.

9.5 To approve the pitches layout for next season at the Recreation Ground and the Frisbee event on August 13/14

The Rugby Club had reviewed the pitches layout and requested some changes to the junior pitches on the eastern side of the field. The aim was for the configuration to reflect the age-groupings, which past *ad hoc* additions did not.

The head groundsman had looked at the proposed layout of 15 and estimated at least two days additional work for two people, compared with just re-marking the previous season layout still visible. He was also uncertain that all would fit within the space available. Some of the pitches were within the casual kick-about area of the Rec which was not included in the area leased to the Club. The lease with the Rugby Club from 2011 showed a layout with six junior pitches, which over time had gradually increased. It was

Resolved: To approve the amended pitch layout for the forthcoming winter season as requested, and recommend the Lease Negotiating Group reviews the Lease, and then liaises with the Rugby Club at the annual meeting between Council and Club in September.

Ultimate Frisbee event 13/14 August:

Members noted the Lease included provision for charging for additional marking for other occasions: *“at a cost of the Tenant at the Landlord’s standard charge-out rate... such charging rates to be reviewed annually by the Landlord in line with staff salaries.”*

It emerged the previous week that the Ultimate Frisbee tournament was returning to Edenbridge this year, and the Rugby Club was requesting 10 Frisbee pitch markings for the event 13th/14th August. The grounds team is one person short due to leave in the week prior to the tournament, but was confident the work can be achieved by two people working over two days. Members were please that the event was returning to the Recreation Ground, and

Resolved: to approve the additional tournament work next month, to be charged at £58.80 per pitch, as per the Fees and Charges table agreed for this financial year.

9.6 To note security at Mowshurst Barn

Mowshurst Barn was broken into over a weekend in May – the lock having been removed. The Buildings Manager had chased the local locksmith who was asked to inspect the doors, and recommend a more secure lock arrangement compatible with the size of the large doors, but a costing was still awaited. The head groundsman meanwhile would source a new padlock assembly with a covered hasp.

9.7 To receive update on anti-social behaviour at Lingfield Road Recreation ground

Following the decision at last meeting, new signage had been obtained for the western car park, including the S59 notice from the police. The recent meeting of PACT (13th July) was advised that reports about behaviour at the Recreation Ground had reduced. Subsequently there had been two reports, of quad bikes and motorbikes on the Rec.

The CCTV manager at Sevenoaks District Council had been contacted regarding the possibility of installing cameras linked in to the SDC system, and what were the practicalities of technology available/required, the protocols, and potential cost, to cover the car park and the sports pavilion. A costing for an installation to cover the area was being prepared, but Members were advised that SDC did not currently have any funds itself to increase the CCTV system. Cameras which SDC monitors for other customer organisations were charged at approximately £1,000 per year per camera, to cover controlling and managing the data, and liaising with the police and the customers.

Customers were responsible for transmission and camera equipment costs, maintenance and upkeep. A site meeting had been arranged with suppliers of the system for CCTV at 10am at the Recreation Ground – Cllrs Baker, Aldridge and Lloyd would attend with the Deputy Clerk.

9.8 To consider the survey report of the Retention Dam

A copy of the report had been circulated to Members, showing that extensive repair work to the bridge and the abutments was required, as well as further investigations. The principal surveyor had commented that the original design of the bridge was such that further degradation would continue despite repairs, and that a total replacement with a more durable design would be the best option.

A rough ball-park figure for a timber replacement could be at least around £50,000, probably more as timber costs were rising so fast (could be £20,000 or even more above that,

depending on what was found/required as detailed planning and costs went forward). A metal bridge would cost a bit less, but the retention dam structure itself was timber. There was no sum currently budgeted for major repair or replacement.

The bridge did not carry a Public Right of Way footpath, as SR612 crossed the river over to Church Street nearer to the High Street, and that “cradle bridge” is maintained by Kent County Council. The distance between them is roughly 100m along the riverbank. Members

Resolved: to seek costings for repairs to the bridge, as detailed in the report, and for comparison the potential cost of removing the bridge element.

9.9 To receive an update on projects for the Queen’s Jubilee

The nursery owner who recommended a summer walk round the various Council sites identified for Jubilee Queens Canopy tree planting, had to postpone the tour due to a family issue. He has not yet recommended an alternative date. Members

Resolved: to contact the new SDC countryside manager to view the possible locations of trees and Suitable varieties for planting in the autumn.

9.10 To receive update on Ready-Steady-Grow gardening competition

Ready-Steady-Grow competition closed on 7th July, and judging was under way. Publicity was being circulated for a guest-talk with the creator of the World Garden at Lullingstone Castle, Tom Hart Dyke. The event was also part of the project aimed to encourage people post-Pandemic to enjoy the well-being benefits of exercise outdoors, growing and caring for the environment. The event was at Rickards Hall on 10th August 6.30pm for 7pm start – seats were free but **must** be booked in advance, first-come-first-served. The competition presentation evening was booked for 14th September, with a further special guest from the horticultural world.

10. NEWS RELEASE

Members considered items from this meeting to be the subject of a News Release and confirmed the intention to publicise the Westways new lighting once connected.

Meeting closed at 8.47pm