

**St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council
Amenities Committee Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00pm on 4th November 2015
In the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Members Present: Cllr C House, Chairman

Cllr R Adkins

Cllr Mrs J Carter

Cllr M Dyer

Cllr B Goringe

Cllr Mrs J House

Cllr N Hindmarch

Cllr Mrs A Warman

In attendance: Mrs Ann Jacobs, Clerk, Steve Davies of Avon Heath, two Members of the Public and Cllr R Warman observing.

257. Declarations of Interest & Requests for dispensations: None received.

258. Apologies: Cllr R Bryan

259. Public speaking - none

260. Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2015, pages 46 & 47, were agreed unanimously, as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr B Goringe.

Nem. Con.

261. Matters Arising from the Minutes: None

262. Correspondence: None.

263. Braeside Road and Play Park Area –

i) Reports on the Play area were noted.

ii) Dog fouling in the play area – The Clerk reported that this had improved and there had been no incidences for approximately three weeks. Inspections will return to their normal weekly level.

7.05pm Cllr Adkins arrived.

iii) CCTV – The Chairman and Clerk had met with a Supplier and a quotation for four cameras is being obtained which will cover the play area and most of the open green area. A quotation to return a power supply to the two light columns I also being arranged. Cllr Dyer reminded the meeting that part of his Ward grant would be available but it needs to be drawn by 31st March 2016.

264. Dogs: - The report from the Dog Warden was noted. The remark about the volume of dog fouling was questioned by Cllr Mrs Carter as a regular user she felt that whilst the edge was clearer a number of deposits were now occurring in the middle of the area. This will be reported to the Dog Warden.

265. Allotments sub committee – Members received the minutes of the subcommittee and discussed the recommendations. A draft letter to the Allotment Society was circulated and discussed. The lease being offered is for 15 years and with the amount of investment needed it was felt that a longer lease would be preferred. Cllr Dyer had spoken to the Landowner and asked if there was a possibility of purchasing the land but this had been declined, if Council could not move this particular site forward consideration to purchasing a site elsewhere should be considered. After further discussion it was agreed unanimously to forward the letter to the Allotment Society. Proposed by Cllr M Dyer, seconded by Cllr Mrs J House. The Clerk will also write to the Landowner, via Cllr Bryan and thank him for the generous offer; ask if they would offer an option to renew the lease and or extend the lease to 20 years.

266. Wildflower Meadow Areas – County Cllr P Richardson has offered part of his grant this year to install meadow areas in front of Ashley Halt and Horton Road village Green – Members were asked by Full Council to consider whether they would support this proposal, the grant money must be used by 31st March 2016.

The meeting closed briefly to hear from Mr Steve Davies of Avon Heath. Both strips at the Halt and Horton Road would cost around £1200. The mix suggested would be attractive to both bees and butterflies and is recommended by the RHS. The first year will give 30% flowers and then improve in subsequent years. Cutting time was crucial and on the second year the Parish would need to be prepared for some complaints as at some point you need to cut the flowers whilst flowering this is to produce a second harvest. Information needs to be provided to the Public to keep them properly informed. Mr Davies is also looking at putting in wildflower areas along the A338 and the A31/A338 roundabout as besides improving the biodiversity it will reduce the number of cuts required thereby saving money.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting for further debate. The Clerk highlighted that any underspend could be put by for a bench at the Horton Road site to view the wildflower area, this was noted. After further discussion. It was agreed, unanimously, to support the proposal for both wildflower areas. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr R Adkins.

RESOLVED: Members agreed with the Ward grant donation for development of a wildflower meadow strip at Horton Road

267. Budgetary plans for 2016/2017 – This was discussed. The Chairman reported that the overall costs for the year for Amenities were £26,000, more management of the cuts would be felt, offset additional costs such as fertilising. No further amendments were made.

268. Exchange of Information:

1. Next meeting 2nd December 2015
2. Cllr Goringe raised concern about the drain at the new car park area being overwhelmed. It appears to be exacerbated by the new concrete area in the Scouts compound. Edens cleared the drains during construction of the area but an existing issue with roots is known. The Clerk will liaise with the Chairman and ask Canford Drains for advice and quotation to resolve. The Clerk was concerned that this work should be carried out before icy weather arrives.
3. Cllr Mrs Carter reported that the kissing gate area had a large mud area in front could it be looked into to improve, perhaps with gravel. The Clerk will ask the Lengthsman.
4. Cllr Dyer reported that the Bowls Club have not cut the hedge, which needs doing during August/September, if done now any frost will cause severe damage. Can they be asked to wait until Spring.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Chairman