

# Cliffsend Parish Council

## Financial & General Purposes Committee

Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 7.15pm in the Village hall

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**Present** Cllr Knowles, Alexander, Searle, Fiander, Hovenden & Lyon

A Stacey, Clerk, and 21 members of the community

Cllr Knowles opened the meeting and explained the emergency procedures.

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> July** proposed as a true record by Cllr Searle, seconded Cllr Fiander. All in favour – Cllr Knowles did not vote as she was not present.

**Meadow Working Party report**  
Cllr Searle advised the following

### Working Party Site Meeting

This site meeting was called because one picnic table area had been reported as being damaged on 8<sup>th</sup> July – some of the paving was misplaced, leaving uneven gaps up to 2” wide, and uneven edges.

Also to further consider if anything else could / should be done to “protect” the Cliffsend Road Footpath exit as a dog had been reported as being hit by a car after running out into the road from the meadow.

### Picnic Tables

A resident reported that the damage had been caused by rowdy youths one evening – the bench was OK before they had been there, but was damaged the next morning.

The misplaced slabs and bench were realigned by Garden Services 4 You, FOC, when they were working on the meadow.

Quinneys (table supplier & installer) have inspected the tables & will refix the 2 brackets where the bolts were pulled out, & add a second bracket to these 2 legs, FOC.

For £50 +VAT they will add extra brackets so that all 8 chair legs on each bench are secured to the paving slabs. Currently only 4 chair legs on each table have brackets

It will be sensible to have the extra brackets fitted, as the benches are only fixed to the slabs, and the slabs are not concreted down.

Is the Quinneys remedial work sufficient?

At the meeting, Councillors disagreed about how much, if any, work is needed.

Other work to securely “frame” the paving areas to prevent displacement will be expensive - £500 – 1,000.

Plus securing the tables very securely via bolts heavily concreted in under the paving - £595.

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### Footpath exit

At the site meeting it was agreed that it is both impractical and useless to add a secondary barrier in an attempt to restrict ready access to the road. Any effective barrier would have to be a gate across the gap.

At the meeting councillors were not convinced of the necessity of adding a gate, which will make access much more difficult for people with pushchairs and the disabled.

Any gate has to be self-closing, or it is pointless to put one in.

A copy of "BS5709:2006 explained" has been sent to all councillors.

It lists the requirements for a footpath entrance.

The 1st rule (page 3) is that **the least restrictive option must be chosen**.

The order for selection is Gap, Gate, Kissing gate, Stile.

Specialist footpath gates exist, but are expensive.

For a 2-way opening, self-closing footpath gate - £175 – 440 + VAT - just for the gate kit.

Fitting it will be a larger expense.

### Memorial Trees

#### Weeding under the trees

The weed and grass clearance has been completed; a barrow load of woodchip has been spread under each tree.

At the owner's request, Tree 6 was not done.

### Tree Damage

#### Walnut (tree 14)

This has suffered from deliberate damage; a large area of bark has been stripped off the trunk and one main branch (to about half the trunk / branch diameter in places).

It has only just been pruned to remove a low branch (which was being "chewed").

It was undamaged on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The tree will suffer, and may lose a branch.

There are "cut" marks on parts of the stripped trunk and branch

The exposed wood was very pale, but has now darkened on exposure to the air.

Netting has now been fixed around the trunk and vulnerable lower branch areas to prevent further damage.

#### Rowan 'Chinese Lace' (tree 22)

This tree had suffered extensive die-back from neglect.

After initial pruning it was growing again but lop-sided, with most of the growth towards the south.

It was pruned again this year to try persuade it to make strong growths to the north.

A new strong north facing growth has now been broken off close to the trunk.

Cause unknown.

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### Tree pruning

Outstanding tree pruning has been completed - Pineapple Broom (tree 1), Silver Birch (tree 12), Walnut (tree 14)

Damaged tree cage has been repaired - Canadian Maple (tree 11).

### Other meadow work completed

Brambles, hedges have been cut.

Cllr Knowles advised that the gate has been like that for a number of years and it should remain as it is.

A resident advised that it was her dog which was injured, but it had run out under the recreation ground hedge onto Foads Lane, not through the footpath exit onto the Cliffsend Road.

The PC should not incur the cost of a gate. Cllr Searle proposed that we do not have a gate – seconded Cllr Knowles five in favour – Cllr Fiander abstained.

Cllr Fiander advised she had a complaint from a gentleman in Nicholas Drive and following the site meeting it was agreed he could cut down the hedge at the rear of his property, but only to the same height as that on the adjacent property.

Cllr Lyon advised she had received complaints re the brambles alongside the road opposite the playground. She spoke to Paul from TDC who confirmed the works would take place.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm