

**TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE**  
**KILN FIELDS RESERVE AND WILDLIFE VENUES SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 09.01.20**

**PRESENT:**

**Town Councillors:** Mrs. Jean Curteis and Dr. Lisa Lovelidge (Chair).

**Non-Councillors:** Dave Bourner, Roger Finniss and Mrs. Jean Sugden.

**Tenterden Town Council Staff:** Lesley Owers taking notes.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies for absence were received from Jon Burnell, Callum Knowles and Mrs. Kate Walder.

As the meeting was inquorate, no decisions could be made at this meeting. Decisions would have to be deferred until the next KFR&W Sub-Committee meeting. Lisa Lovelidge requested that the Town Clerk has a discussion with all councillors about not turning up to meetings.

- 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

- 3. MATTERS ARISING.** None.

- 4. MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE TOWN CLERK AND REDROW TO DISCUSS THE BOUNDARIES OF KILN FIELD.** A meeting had been held between Redrow, the Town Clerk and Dave Bourner. Redrow would be putting up a fence on their boundary and Dave Bourner had had a discussion earlier with the Town Clerk about putting our own fencing up to protect the ditch and trees and to prevent people throwing rubbish over garden fences. Roger Finniss commented that there is heras fencing but it limits the wildlife. The fencing along the path that goes down to the bridge across the ditch needs replacing. It was suggested that post and rail fencing would be much more wildlife friendly. It was agreed that we need to measure up and replace the stock fencing as we need a definite boundary to our plot. The maintenance team will purchase a measuring wheel. Jean Sugden commented that if people are aware that the land belongs to the town and not to the builders then maybe they would look after their dogs better.

- 5. NEXT STEP AT KILN FIELD, AS LACK OF FLORAL DIVERSIFICATION SEEN OVER LAST 12 MONTHS (INCLUDING OTHER VERGES).** Roger Finniss reported that there are no longer any orchids in Kiln Field. It is dominated by Knapweed and Yellow Trefoil. We would need a lot of wildflower mix and systemic spray to kill weeds and start afresh. Roger Finniss suggested that we need an expert to look at Kiln Field to advise the

next step forward and suggested that we contact Colin Reader from Horham in East Sussex. Colin is the owner of Wild Flower Lawns and Meadows and he gives advice, for a fee, on creating wild flower areas. Lisa Lovelidge is also concerned about the bees at Kiln Field.

- 6. FINAL CLARIFICATION ON WHICH GRASS VERGES SHOULD BE LEFT TO WILDFLOWERS.** The grass verges which will be left to wild flowers are the wildflower meadow at the bottom of St. Michaels Recreation Ground, Appledore Road at Homewood Playing Field, Craythorne, the verge opposite the Fat Ox, Westwell west of Plummer Lane to Cranbrook Road junction and Chalk Avenue. Jean Sugden asked if "no parking" signs could be put up at the land entrance to Chalk Avenue. It was also suggested that Colin Reader also gives us advice about the grass verges when he visits Kiln Field. Lisa Lovelidge that we need publicity informing the public about the grass verges being left to wild flowers and should speak to Richard Harvey about issuing a press release around May time.

Lisa reported that the wooden posts need replacing on the little green in Shrubcote as the posts are rotting and people will start parking on it.

- 7. POSSIBLE USE OF COPPICING AND USING SOME AVAILABLE WOOD FOR PROJECTS.** Roger Finniss asked if they could cut some of the Ash, Chestnut and Sycamore wood and uses it for bat boxes and bug hotels. Dave and Roger would do a survey of the wood and see what they can use.
- 8. DRAINAGE OF ST. MICHAEL'S RECREATION GROUND INTO THE DENE.** Roger Finniss reported that the ground is diabolical going into the Dene. Roger Finniss found the culvert just before Christmas and said that it should be draining better than it is. An email had been sent to David Hartley at Ashford Borough Council but we were still waiting for a reply. Lisa Lovelidge would ask Callum Knowles to chase up David Hartley for a reply.
- 9. SUSSEX LUND GRANT.** We would be unable to apply for a grant from Sussex Lund. Lisa Lovelidge would make a request to Callum Knowles, Kate Walder and Mike Hill about a grant contribution.
- 10. INVOLVEMENT OF SCHOOLS AT KILN FIELD.** Emails had been sent to several schools in the area explaining what we were doing at Kiln Field and how we would like the involvement of the schools. To date, no replies had been received. It was suggested that we speak to Tash Mahoney as she might have more idea of other schools to contact. There was the suggestion of approaching special schools and Jean Curteis suggested we contact Kench Hill. Another idea was to have an Open Day at Kiln Field maybe around May time.
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** Roger Finniss would like to know who owns the orchard that's still left standing and adjoins on to our wood as orchards are disappearing in Kent. Lisa will ask Callum Knowles to speak to Guy Day. Once we find out who owns the orchard, we will email the Tree Officer at Ashford Borough Council to find out if we could protect the whole orchard.

Jean Sugden suggested talking to Richard Masefield to ask if he has the name of someone re fruit trees and orchards. Lisa will ask Callum Knowles to speak to Guy Day.

- 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The date of the next meeting is set for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020.