

## STILLINGFLEET PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE

8 AUGUST 2023

Attendees: Councillors: Juan Brooks (Chair), John Cook, Richard Daniel, Nigel Kemp,  
Clerk: Ruth Swales

VGC2301 The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

VGC2302 **Future Management of the Green**

- i) In the light of David Atkinson's comments at the PC meeting on 3 August, the Committee discussed various options of how the Green might be managed going forward. The Committee agreed that the dredging of the beck by the Drainage Board (IDB) had created the ideal ground for the prevalence of the docks which needs to be addressed. The Committee noted that the Environmental Higher Level Stewardship Agreement (HLS) permitted the management of certain weed concentrations. The Committee recognised the status of the VG as a designated SINC and agreed that the natural nature of the village green is a defining feature in the character of our village. Therefore the Committee agreed it should scope out what is needed to improve its health and physical appearance.

ii) The Committee agreed the following Action Plan:

D Atkinson	To cut, strim and bale the Green as soon as weather permits
Cllr Brooks	To approach the IDB to ascertain their level of responsibility for treating the docks bordering the beck and obtain a cost estimate.
Cllr Brooks	To invite a representative from DeFRA to undertake a site visit and advise what actions are recommended to improve the biodiversity of the Green in order to satisfy the HLS objectives.
VGC	To obtain an estimate for undertaking whatever action is recommended to restore the natural health of the Green
Clerk	To obtain an estimate from David Atkinson of what 5 cuts of the Green per annum during the growing season would cost should the VGC decide to pull out of the HLS.
VGC	When all options have been fully scoped and costed the VGC to consider whether to gather community opinion on the way forward.

VGC2303 **Church/VI Car Park (opposite Dale Court)**

Following feedback from residents the Committee considered what action should be taken to better maintain the car parking area to ensure parked cars do not cause an obstruction to passing agricultural equipment. Cllr Cook advised that the current width of the carpark and width of the road isn't really fit for the size of modern cars and agricultural vehicles but urged that action is necessary to make it more passable particularly during the summer combining season.

The following Action Plan was agreed:

Chairman's initials

Cllr Daniel	After the summer cut the kerb area of the carpark is to be sprayed to clear weeds and make the kerb clearly visible
Clerk	To investigate appropriate signage advising that cars are parked right up to the kerb
Cllr Cook	To remind regular users of the carpark to prevent causing an obstruction
Cllr Brooks	To post an appropriate reminder in the Parish Magazine and on the Community chat.
Cllr Daniel	To obtain a cost estimate of what stones would be required to complete the re-surfacing.

**VGC2304 Drainage issue outside School House/Hope**

Following further observations by a resident the Committee discussed what action to take to establish the cause of the water emerging from the crack in the road bordering the Green outside the School House.

The following Action Plan was agreed:

Cllr Kemp	To speak to Sean Duggan to understand the waste water drainage arrangements for Hope Cottage and establish how it complies with what was approved as part of the planning application
Cllr Kemp	To speak to the owners of the School House to understand the waste water drainage arrangements for their property
VGC	To decide on next steps to formulate a plan for remedial action.

**VGC2305 Risk Management issues**

The Committee agreed the following actions:

Cllr Daniel	To investigate what action is required re the reported broken limb of an Ash Tree at Rose Cottage, York Road and consider whether a tree safety assessment is appropriate.
Cllr Cook	To ask Trevor Hall to repair/replace the broken slat on the bench at the corner of the Village Green.

**VGC2306 Stones on verges of the Green**

The Committee considered what further action could be taken regarding concerns expressed re the continued placement of stones by some residents on the verges of the Green recognising that such action could cause a trip hazard.

The following Action Plan was agreed:

Clerk with assistance from Cllr Sears	To draft a letter to residents who have placed stones on their verges to remind them that the Council would hold them liable for any resultant injury claim.
Cllr Sears	Upon the re-drafting of the Council's Drains and Access Policy, to include a clause in any future easement prohibiting the placement of stones on the Council owned verge.

Cllr Brooks	To include the Council's stance on this matter in any future community communication regarding the future management of the Green.
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Signed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 8 August 2023	Juan Brooks  CHAIRMAN	October 2023
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