

# Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

*Founded in December 1894*

## **Meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Remotely, starting At 1.00 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Gathern, P Barker and Wiffen  
Also Present: Aniko Szocs (Clerk) 1 Member of the public

The meeting started at 1.00pm.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Alexander. Cllr Alexander also notified the committee that Wednesdays are no longer a suitable time to meet. Future meeting dates might be reviewed and changed to accommodate attendance.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Gathern (Item 8)

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were duly approved.

<b>Proposed: Cllr P Barker</b>	<b>Seconded: Cllr Wiffen</b>	<b>In Favour: all</b>
<b>Vote against: 0</b>	<b>Vote Abstain: 0</b>	<b>Motion carried</b>

### **4. 2020 and COVID**

The Clerk reported that during the first lockdown due to the pandemic the play areas were closed to the public. Some of the equipment were removed to discourage use and tapes put up along with signs notifying the public of the closure. However, play areas are now open, but residents are reminded to keep to social distancing, and ensure they are using face coverings and hand sanitising. The parish council is now maintaining in-house most of their open spaces, this enables the council to apply a more environmentally friendly approach.

### **5. Future Planning**

The committee discussed plans and actions for 2021, these includes but not limited to:

- Improving communication with residents regarding environmental related topics/issues, this will be done using the parish council website and newsletter
- Adopting a Biodiversity Action plan and Strategy Plan
- Adopting a Climate Emergency Parish Plan
- Identifying space for bee friendly plants
- Reduce CO2 emission

- Include biodiversity in the decision-making process.
- Work with stakeholders including Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council
- Converting bus stops and install bee friendly roofs.
- Hold garden competition.
- Create map to show trees in the parish.

## **6. Kent Plan Bee**

Kent County Council has a grant pot available to help with the cost of installing bee friendly bus roofs. The grant is currently closed but will be open in the new finance year. The Clerk to apply for funding once available.

## **7. Walkabout**

The committee agreed to carry out a walkabout to identify areas for planting pollinator friendly plants. It was also agreed that Cllrs will submit areas before hand and a representative of Kent Wildlife Trust will be invited to the walkabout so they can give advice in regards to the chosen location.

## **8. Allotments**

Despite the challenges of 2020 the allotments were well maintained throughout the year and at the latest inspection it was found winter ready. Well done to all allotment holders for maintaining their plot to such a high standard. It was noted that there is a difficulty in obtaining seeds.

## **9. Items for information or Agenda for next meeting**

- Walkabout
- Kent Plan Bee

## **10. Date and venue of next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, 03<sup>rd</sup> March starting at 1.00 pm held remotely.

The meeting closed at 14.30 pm