

**Minutes of Environment Committee held on**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7pm at Mill House Cocks Rd Eye IP23 7NT**

**Persons present**

Cllrs Byles, Cooper, Smith, Robins, Ribchester and Hudson

1. Apologies for absence received from Cllr Crispin.
2. Planning for the future – strategic planning- planning ahead over a three year period as suggested by Cllr Gould. A lot of discussion – the following emerged 1. Ideas to improve the green at Oak Crescent by an adult outdoor gym, the planting of bulbs, upgrading the pocket playground in Oak Crescent and 2. Ideas to develop the Green Cemetery by landscaping with trees, and extra mowing- this would bring in extra income to the Town Council.
3. 20 mph – the Committee noted an email from David Stiff of SCC that the 20 mph project has been put back for a few months because of staff shortages at SCC.
4. Funerals and Cemetery update – Cllr Cooper reported to the Committee that there was a mistake on the cemetery plan which dates back ten years and led to a grave digger digging a grave in the wrong location. Luckily he was stopped and directed to the correct location. However he had worked on digging the wrong grave which was a large double one.  
**Resolved** unanimously to recommend paying the grave digger Mr R Stammers of The Old Bungalow, Barnyards Green Laxfield IP13 8PU £175 an ex gratia payment. Cllr Cooper assured the Committee that the Cemetery plan has been updated and this will not happen again.
5. Mobile Speed Sign – **Resolved** unanimously to recommend paying a sum not exceeding £2,000 towards the cost of a mobile speed sign for Eye. The history of this matter is that it was agreed by ETC to spend £1250 on a mobile speed sign and that Cllr McGregor would contribute £1250 from his locality budget- Minute 9(c) of the Eye Town Council meeting dated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015. However due to changes in staff at SCC and our Town Clerk leaving this purchase was never pursued. In the meantime the cost has increased to £2800 – this is a rough cost as the firm calculates its prices in euros.
6. Cemetery and Allotment fees increase. These were discussed and it was agreed they will be considered in detail next meeting.

7. The Cemetery Chapel closed for insurance reasons. A lot of discussion about this because of the cost of employing the toilet cleaner to open and close the Chapel which she is prepared to do balanced against the need to have the Chapel open for people using the Chapel. If the chapel was open every day of the year it would cost roughly £3650 per annum. It was decided to have the chapel open on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays and when funerals are held (these are the times when the Chapel is in most use) which would cost £1180 per annum (Saturday Sunday 8 bank holidays and 8 funerals) **Resolved unanimously** to recommend increasing the hours of the toilet cleaner to include opening and closing the chapel in the cemetery on Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays and when funerals are held for a cost not exceeding £1500
8. War Memorial cleaning. The War Memorial is looking a bit scruffy and the Street Cleaner will give it a clean so that the names at the base are legible. Important to do because the commemoration of the end of the first world war takes place next year. **Resolved unanimously** to request the street cleaner to clean up the War Memorial for a cost not exceeding £300 – line 50 of the Budget.

The meeting closed at 10pm. It was held at a private residence because it had been hoped to have a meal together in the Town Hall but the ovens in the Town Hall did not work – so exceptionally the Committee met at a private residence.

### **Resolutions to Town Council**

1. To note the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017
2. To consider whether to pay an ex gratia payment of £175 to Mr R Stammers grave digger of Old Bungalow Barnyards Green Laxfield Suffolk IP13 8PU, who dug a grave in the wrong location of the Cemetery because the Town Council's map of the Cemetery was incorrect.
3. To consider whether to increase the Toilet Cleaners hours by 118 hours per annum at a cost not exceeding £1600 per annum to open and close the Cemetery Chapel at weekends, bank holidays and when funerals are held.
4. To consider whether to pay £2000 towards the purchase of a mobile speed sign in Eye