

**Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 12th February 2019, Rackenford School**

**Present:** Cllr G Lamb (Chairman), Cllr J Cox, Cllr T Hyland, Cllr R Mathews, Cllr D Parry, Cllr S Warne

**In attendance:** W Sweet (Clerk), NDC & DCC Cllr J Yabsley, members of the public x 2

**1819-105 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr S Child

**1819-106 Declaration of Interests** - None

**1819-107 Open Forum** – No comments

**1819-108 Purchase of leaving gift** It was **RESOLVED** to buy Karen, the outgoing Clerk, gardening vouchers to the value of £100. Cllr Lamb to organise.

**1819-109 The Common**

**a) Scrub clearance:** Cllr Lamb reported that he had not received the draft specification for the scrub clearance from Mr Nicholson. However he had received an unsolicited call from Rob Shaddick who had offered to undertake the scrub clearance free of charge. Mr Shaddick was present at the meeting, along with his colleague, Mr N Jones, and assured the council that from his point of view this was standard work and he had all the appropriate licences, H&S etc. He would draw up a scope of work based on this evening's discussions/subsequent site meeting. Cllr Yabsley said that although the work would be done FOC the correct procedures still had to be followed and queried whether planning permission was needed for this work. It was agreed that he would ask NDC Planning Department the following day on behalf of the Parish Council and let the Clerk know the response. He will also ask if PP would be needed for subsequent stages of the project.

Following discussions on what exactly needed to be removed, it was agreed that councillors who were available would meet on the Common at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 14th February with Mr Shaddick and spray the areas for removal. If needed another meeting will take place on site at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday, 17th February. Cllr Mathews asked that the de-scrubbing work avoids disturbing the spawning frogs in pools along the back straight of the Common. Following receipt of the scope of works, the Council will send a letter to Mr Shaddick authorising him to undertake the work. Mr Shaddick was thanked for his very generous offer which the Council **RESOLVED** to accept.

The Clerk/Cllr Lamb will liaise about the current grant application to DCF which will now not be needed for this stage of the project.

Cllr Lamb asked that any burnable timber is removed from site. He also asked Cllr Yabsley whether he could ask NDC to provide a mini skip as there is quite a lot of rubbish on the Common. Cllr Yabsley said he would ask but that if a litter pick was arranged and black sacks used NDC would collect those.

**b) Drainage works** Various drainage options/problems were discussed including the road water from Meadow View which runs onto the Common. Highways will not assist with this as it is an un-adopted road. It was suggested that the drainage and hard landscaping are planned together as the landscaping could help alleviate some of the problems with drainage. Mr Shaddick commented that there was no point in trying to solve the drainage problems by going downwards as there is impermeable clay beneath the Common.

Meeting closed 20.58

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

**Signed as a correct record:**

**Date:**

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