

SHEPHERDSWELL GREEN SPACES GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2025

VILLAGE HALL

Attendees

Nigel Baker (Chair), Luca Jones, Aidan Softley, Denise Baker, David Cox, James Perfect, Barry Crush, Sindy Denyer, Carole White, Julia Harper, Bomber Fagg, Sue Taber, Kat McArdle

Apologies

None.

Gemma Caister-Softley has withdrawn from the group.

Minutes of last meeting held on 20 January 2025

Agreed as a true record.

Updates from previous minutes

Small Works Contractor to be approved at PC meeting on Weds 19 February, after which seeding of all four goalmouths should take place.

Confirmed that there are four dog poo dispensers in the community – three in Shepherdswell and one in Coldred. Still awaiting bags for Shepherdswell. Coldred get their supply direct from DDC.

Mark Watson (Chair of PC) is very happy with the Group's draft Constitution.

Nigel noted that Canterbury City Council have recently refurbished two of their play areas – at a cost of £120,000; Sindy suggested that we enquire where this funding came from.

Nigel has submitted an item for March edition of PC Magazine, inviting new members of the community to join the Group.

Nigel confirmed that there is no item relating to the Cricket Square on this week's PC Agenda.

Review and agree Constitution for SGSG

With one small amendment, the draft Constitution was agreed by all members of the Group. Official copies will be signed by elected Officers as soon as possible – a copy will almost certainly be required when opening a bank account. Chairman will retain a file copy, and a further copy will be forwarded to Parish Clerk.

Election of Officers

Following election of Chair at last meeting and agreement of new Constitution, the following members were elected by unanimous vote. Elected to serve for 12 months, all will be required to stand for re-election at an Annual General Meeting to be held in March 2026.

Chair Nigel Baker

Vice-Chair Kat McArdle

Secretary Luca Jones

Treasurer David Cox

These four members comprise the Group's Management Committee, and will meet a minimum of three times per year.

In addition, Denise Baker has agreed to undertake the role of Minute Taker for the Group.

Bank Account for SGSG

A Community Account will now be opened, with two from four signatories to be utilised (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer).

Nigel will undertake an initial survey of accounts available in the following banks – Metro, Nationwide, Lloyds. Will make final decision via email. Timescale of two weeks.

Update on meeting with Funding Advisory Company

David provided a brief update on his recent virtual meeting with a charity which supports voluntary/charity groups in their efforts to secure funding grants from external bodies. Further discussions will be undertaken once bank account is in place.

Review Report: Annual Inspection of Recreation Ground 2024

Following brief discussion, it was agreed that the Group needs to flag up the critical high risk item that has been identified in the latest report. Nigel will raise at the PC meeting later this week.

The Group also proposed that a repair/replace strategy is put into place by the Parish Council so that a regular maintenance programme can be established. This will allow a focus on items that have been flagged as Moderate Risk before they become a more urgent problem.

Opportunity to plant new trees

David presented his brief report, exploring options for replacing trees that will soon be felled following PC decision. The Group agreed that more mature trees should be planted as a replacement (i.e. at least 1.5 metres) and include a variety of species. Aidan outlined one

possible nursery that could be approached – he has used before – and he will forward details to Nigel.

Sindy suggested the tree to be felled adjacent to Scout Hut should be replaced with a tree commemorating King Charles' Coronation. All agreed that this would be a good idea.

As a general point, David stated that the general condition of The Plantation requires remedial attention. There is space for additional trees to be planted on the lower part of the Plantation.

James suggested that felled trees should be chipped and spread along the pathway to make it more stable.

Next Steps/Action Plan/Decision Log

STORAGE CONTAINER (for Spartans FC): initial searches have flagged an opportunity to apply for 75% funding from the Football Foundation. This will be followed up by Denise, in consultation with James and Bomber. The 25% balance will be sought from the PC. Two quotes will be obtained; one already in place, suggesting £6,000 which includes dismantling old, purchase and installation of new. Further, a letter of support will be required from the PC, confirming their consent as landowner. Possible funding avenues from KCC (David Beaney) and DDC (Jamie Pout) will also be pursued.

PLAY AREA: further thought required for this, and a small Working Group will be established to research further and undertake a more detailed proposal. The PC Chair supports our position that this is a longer term project, requiring funding over more than one financial year.

REED MEADOW: Sindy suggested two further trees to be planted alongside the cherry tree already in place adjacent to the WI Bench. Sue confirmed that there is a working group meeting on 3 March at 1:00pm if anyone wishes to attend.

MEADOW VIEW: Proposal for two cherry/maple trees to be planted

COLDRED FORUM: Mark Watson is facilitating a meeting between Nigel and the Chair of the CF to explore how we might collaborate, or at least understand our respective roles.

SCOUT & GUIDES HUT: Bomber circulated plans prepared by Jenner; costings increased by 5% for inflation now total £135,000. However, this takes no account of the possibility of including a bunk area for the Scouts; this will require a joint meeting between Spartans FC and the Scouts before any further action can be taken to try and move this forward as a viable project.

Moving forward, an Action Plan and Decision Log will be compiled for SGSG. This 'live' document will be presented at every meeting, along minutes, as a mechanism to track progress with developing work streams. Hope to have a first draft ready for the Group's next meeting in March.

Any Other Business

Nigel will circulate the statement that he has prepared for the Parish Magazine, so that Mrs Moon from Sibertwold Primary can encourage parents to become involved.

Mrs Moon to be invited to the group's next meeting in March.

Dates of Future Meetings

All starting at 7:00pm

Monday 17 March (Village Hall)

Monday 14 April (Village Hall)

Monday 19 May (venue tbc)

Monday 16 June (venue tbc)