

**ST MARY HOO PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE AMENITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28 MARCH 2008 AT  
THE FUNCTION ROOM, FENN BELL INN AT 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Bob Beckey                      Chairman  
                  Cllr Paul Hassell  
                  Mr Andrew Laphorn                      Tree Warden  
  
                  Mrs Roxana Brammer                      Clerk

**Item** *Action point*

**1                      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Mrs Kit Johnson, who was indisposed and Tim Weedon.

**2                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ALTERATIONS TO THE REGISTER**

None.

**3                      MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**4                      MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**5                      POND**

Cllr Beckey said the Parish Council had asked for a report of work carried out so far, work still to be done and a budget forecast. A clearing weekend had been organised by the residents on behalf of the Amenity Committee. The low level weeds and overgrowth had been cleared along with the rotten wooden fence to the road elevation. This had highlighted the need for works to the fence. Laverocks the tree surgeons had visited and trimmed trees, reducing the overhang to the pond and roads, however BT still need to advise as to tree hanging on their cables. A contractor had been engaged to treat and clear moss to footpath. A natural fill of water is taking place to the pond, bringing it up to acceptable levels, and ducks now visit frequently.

**Fence to road elevation**, it was proposed for a working weekend to take place May Day weekend, to re-site existing posts and fit new rails to upper and lower positions, this would require concrete £90; galvanised tubing £170; galvanised fittings £100; paint, brushes and reflective markers £55. This would be reclaimed through rural liaison grant.

**Fence to green elevation**, it was proposed to fit new wooden posts with matching galvanised rails to upper and lower position, this would require concrete £80; galvanised tube £100; galvanised fittings £80; wooden posts

£170; wood treatment £25. Approval for these works and expenditure would be sought within 6 weeks of completion of road side fence, moneys to be recovered from rural liaison grant.

**Ongoing maintenance** of grass, plants throughout summer by volunteer labour with minimal expenditure for materials less than £50.

**Draining & Dredging**, to take place September/October. It was expected the hire of a pump would be necessary to drain the pond unless it had dried out in a dry summer. The cost would be £300 for one day and this would be recovered from rural liaison grant.

**Future Maintenance** will involve regular maintenance of trees over the years by tree surgeons and cutting of grass and upkeep of plants etc by volunteer labour. A sum should be identified and included in the annual budget.

It has been discussed that once works are finished and it is once again a pleasant place that a bench could be installed on the village green.

**6 CONSERVATION AREA**

Cllr Beckey reported the recently installed sign appeared to be missing. He would look for it and re fit. Some maintenance would be necessary in the spring. The Clerk would contact Groundwork Medway Swale to undertake a site visit with a view to producing a management plan.

**7 DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 21 April at St Mary's Church at 7 pm if considered necessary.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No matters were raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55 pm

Signed .....Chairman

On the .....day of .....2008