

## **SHEPHERDSWELL GREEN SPACES GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2 JUNE 2025**

### **MOBILE – REVIEW OF GREEN SPACES IN THE VILLAGE**

#### 1. Attendees

Nigel Baker (Chair), Luca Jones, Denise Baker, David Cox, James Perfect, Sindy Denyer, Bomber Fagg, Lynne Ring, Julia Harper, Sue Taber, Chris Burke

#### 2. Apologies

Carole White, Kat McArdle

#### 3. Reed Meadow

This space, along with Meadow View, now falls under the oversight of SGSG following decision at recent (May) Parish Council meeting. The following is a summary of comments captured from SGSG members during a walk about.

#### Key discussion points:

- Work undertaken by now disbanded Working Group was noted
- Newly laid areas of grass adjacent to Carpenters Yard and within the overflow car park urgently need to be mown and perhaps added to the regular specification of works undertaken by Harmer. [PHOTO 1 and 2]
- This area is regularly used by parents and young children who are accessing the Village Hall for Nursery and Playgroup
- Newly planted 'nursery' area requires ongoing maintenance; members of SGSG have committed to cutting the grass using hand shears in order to protect the delicate saplings, but this is an ongoing solution
- Areas of nettles and tall grass near to the nursery and brambles at all access points require urgent clearance; similarly, the pathway alongside the allotments is overgrown in places [PHOTO 3]
- Support for the planting of wild flowers – location requires more discussion
- Consideration should be given to planting of Memorial trees along the southern edge of the meadow, rather than installing Memorial benches
- Planting of several mature trees should be considered in order to create the framework for small protected areas where benches could be added
- Purchase of a number of mature Plum trees has already been agreed, to be planted in the vicinity of WI Bench – still awaiting delivery and installation

- Consider a small outdoor gym and/or relocating some elements of the existing play area on the Rec Ground

#### 4. Recreation Ground

- No action has yet been taken to complete tree felling following inspection undertaken in 2024

- New trees should be selected in order to add variety of colour eg Maple, Birch, Cherry

- Scout Group has asked for a Birch tree to be planted outside the Youth Hut as a replacement for the tree to be felled, commemorating the Coronation of King Charles III. It is suggested that the felled tree could be recycled as a totem pole, incorporating carvings by Scouts/Guides

- Site visits have been arranged in June for Play Area companies to meet with SGSG, explore ideas and create costed designs of a refurbished play area; these designs will form the basis of subsequent consultation with children and the community prior to discussion with the Parish Council. All agreed that a new 'rubberised' surface should be included in the design, allowing much improved access for all, alongside a range of new play elements drawn from comments made by children. All member supported the need for a new fence to replace the existing wooden structure. Elements that are no longer required in this play area could be recycled and re-sited to a smaller play area at Reed Meadow.

- The hedge running alongside the Youth Hut is very overgrown

- Trees, nettles and brambles are encroaching onto the grass in numerous locations across the Recreation Ground and require urgent clearance. This element of maintenance should be an ongoing part of the contract specification with Harmer.

- Consider installing another waste bin next to the Youth Shelter and Basketball area

- Chair of the PC has asked SGSG to keep the unfinished extension works to the Youth Hut on its list of future projects

- Cricket Square remains under review. Chair of PC is coordinating a meeting to discuss asap, and this will include Chair of SGSG. New plastic fencing was noted and will be inspected as part of a planned visit by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents).

- Goal posts still need to be moved and worn areas in the goal mouths re-seeded. Unfortunately, this will now be delayed until the autumn due to start of the cricket season.

- Work is ongoing to replace the Spartans FC trailer - bids have been submitted to Dover DC and the Football Foundation to purchase a new container, with installation hopefully completed before the end of summer (otherwise delayed until next year)

- The footpath leading to steps onto lower field needs to be dug out and re-laid. It is understood that this was previously agreed by PC, but has never been completed. The existing 'path' is uneven and very dangerous when the ground is wet. [PHOTO 4]
- On the lower field, the trees and undergrowth surrounding the football pitch present a danger to players and general public. Work is required to cut back all perimeter undergrowth. In addition, the nettles all along the bank between upper and lower fields require clearance and ongoing maintenance [PHOTOS 5 and 6]
- Seeding of both goal mouths on the lower field must be completed urgently, so that they are ready for the new season at the beginning of September.

#### 5. Meadow View

- Not visited due to lack of time and fading light
- Sindy Denyer's previous report is attached for consideration and action

#### 6. Date of Next Meeting

(NOTE: NO MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST)

Monday 8 September, 7.00pm at the Village Hall

PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2





PHOTO 3

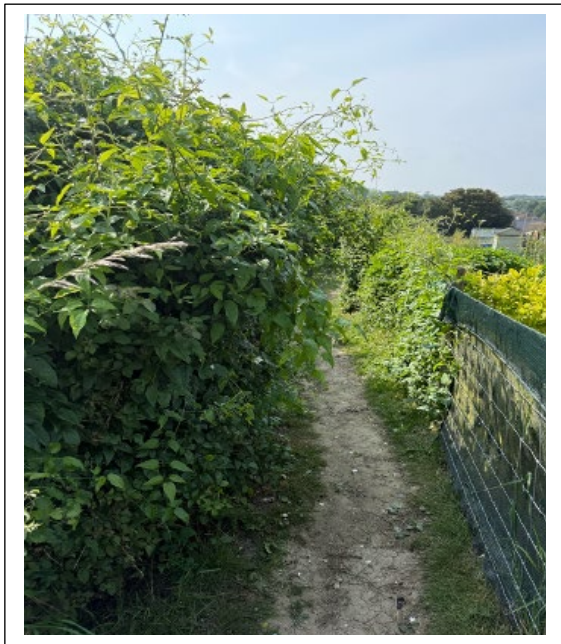


PHOTO 4

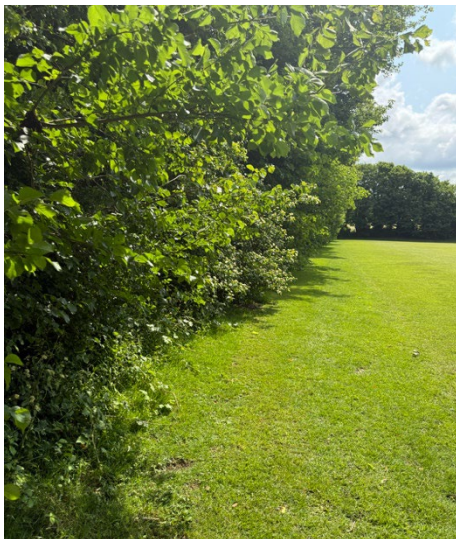


PHOTO 5



PHOTO 6

## Shepherdswell & Coldred Green Spaces Group

### Report on Meadow View Shepherdswell

17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

This review highlights the current state of Meadow View Shepherdswell and suggests improvements that can be made to enhance the area for the community. We suggest consultation to determine what improvements local parishioners wish to see in this green space.

Meadow View presents several opportunities for improvement, the following points outline the key areas that currently would benefit from attention:

1. **Over Run Trees:** Several trees in Meadow View are overgrown with ivy which needs to be removed to ensure future tree health and growth. Maintaining the health of the trees will also improve the overall aesthetics of the area which is unkempt in areas. See Figure 1.
2. **Fencing:** Fencing along the Eythorne Road boundary has rotted and fallen over requiring replacement.
3. **Picnic Bench:** The picnic bench is located in a corner of Meadow view close to the path and Eythorne Road. This seating area is close to the gate leading onto the busy Eythorne Road traffic which is a concern for children or pets playing in this area. The area surrounding the picnic table has become crowded by overhanging bushes and is shaded by surrounding blackberry bushes. There is no waste bin in Meadow View, so litter in this area can be a problem.
4. **BMX Track:** The BMX cycle track is no longer in regular use, and the circuit is becoming overgrown in places with bushes and bramble. There is an opportunity to improve use of this green space by levelling the BMX track and converting this area into a larger play & picnic area, adding benching etc. The area in the centre could be planted with a field maple or oak tree. Tree planting would enhance the natural beauty of the area and provide shade for visitors creating a more inviting space for relaxation and enjoyment of the surroundings. See Figure 2.
5. **Seated Area:** At the top end of Meadow View to the back of the bench seating, there is an area of suitable size to accommodate planting of a medium size tree like a Damson or Cherry tree. This would provide spring blossom for insects and autumn fruits for wildlife. See Figure 3.

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Figure 1 Over Run Trees- Ivy





Figure 2 BMX Track



Figure 3 Seated Area Planting



