



Wheatley Open Spaces Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday, November 20, 2023.

Present: Cllrs Alison Sercombe, Toby Newman, Andrew Cooper, Paul Willmott, Anthony Shepherd.

Officer: Clerk

Members of the Public: 2

The meeting opening at 19:30 and closed at 20:22

#49/2023-24. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

- i. Compost area in memorial gardens have been improved.
- ii. Christmas tree due to be installed – had been installed that day. Thanks were shared for contractor who assisted with this.
- iii. Maintenance tasks completed and planned.
- iv. Update on Coopers Close Footpath – no update available
- v. Update on registering Church Rd Rec and the Village Square (High St). Documents have been submitted to third party and awaiting an update, although expect it may take 12 –18 months to complete.
- vi. s106 agreement for play area maintenance to be signed electronically once it arrives.

Cllr Shepherd had been approached by a resident concerning Ambrose Rise Ditch – Clerk gave an update on situation and Cllrs discussed options. Council was only responsible for the ditch and enclosed drains within its land. Clerk agreed to approach SODC/EA for further advice.

#50/2023-24. TO DISCUSS TREE WORK

- i. Tree work (Hornbeams on Village Square, Ambrose Rise and the Robinia) were due to be carried out late November/early December. One contractor had not responded so a second had been asked to carry out the work.
Clerk to arrange for quotes for tree work on PC land (not managed by WPFT) at Holton Playing Fields
- ii. Outstanding tree surveys will take place in early 2024. Slightly later than planned.

#51/2023-24. TO DISCUSS PLAY AREAS & RECREATION GROUNDS

- i. ODS had carried out quarterly inspections and carried out some repairs. Clerk had placed an order with Playdale for replacement items and spares.
- ii. Grounds staff continue to undertake weekly inspections and minor maintenance/repairs.

#52/2023-24. TO DISCUSS GRASS CUTTING FOR 2024

- i. Clerk gave a precis of her recent meeting with contractors. Committee agreed to leaving 1m around the outside recreation grounds. Large areas of long grass would be left in front of the cliff face and on the bank in Church Rd Rec.

- ii. Now that it had been confirmed that OCC were maintaining financial support for the s101 agreement the committee were in support of continuing with the agreement (1 cut per year). Highway verges and vision splays would be maintained in line with the current parish council schedule and specification.

#53/2023-24. TO DISCUSS SMOKE FREE PLAY AREA COMPETITION JAN 2024

Agreed to original proposal to be run in Jan-Feb Clerk and Chairman to compose literature and liaise with the primary school. Vouchers to be awarded as prizes. Hope for signage to be installed in Spring 2024.

#54/2023-24. TO DISCUSS MANAGEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS AND FOOTPATH

Clr Shepherd had met with resident from Kelly's Rd to discuss issues.

Committee reviewed the report written by the Clerk and agreed to the following actions:

- Seek a land surveyor to assist with defining boundaries. Suggested contacting local estate agents for recommendations. - Clerk to action
- Agreed to purchase stone boundary markers and to have these installed on the ground to define boundaries, where there is no obvious boundary.
- Allotment plot markers – committee preferred wooded stakes with routed lettering. Clerk to approach GMO to see if they were able to assist with this, or possibly to approach the local secondary school for assistance.
- Discussed potential planting to ease security concerns following council's agreement to extend public access to the permissive footpath. Berberis, Pyracantha, Copper Beech were suggested. Planting would be restricted to the slope and a section on top of the embankment and needs to be in keeping with the allotment tenancy.

#55/2023-24. TO CONSIDER POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- i. Draft Biodiversity Plan – approved and to be presented to full council in December.
- ii. Play Area Inspections – approved and to be presented to full council in December.

#56/2023-24. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION

Correspondence regarding memorial plaque/bench in memorial garden. Committee considered the request but felt that this may be better sited on Littleworth Field, once the council had signed the lease with OCC. Clerk to contact family.

#57/2023-24. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION - NONE

#58/2023-24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2024