



Open Spaces Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 15, 2024.

Present: Alison Sercombe, Andrew Cooper, Paul Willmott,

Officer: Clerk

Members of the Public: 0

The meeting opening at 19:30 and closed at 20:25

24-25	Item	Action
#20/24-25	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – apologies were received from Cllr Newman and Shepherd, these were accepted and approved, unanimously.	
#21/24-25	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none	
#22/24-25	TO RECEIVE MINUTES from Open Spaces Committee meeting on 20th May 2024, were approved by those present and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.	
#23/245	TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ACTIONS Clerk to source new trees for planting in 2024/25 season.	Clerk
#24/24-25	TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK And includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. New GMO has started and settling inii. Manual removal of weeds around village and reminded community about the role they can play in helping keep frontages clear.iii. OCC Super Users now able to report and escalate blocked drains and gulliesiv. Land Registry documents have been sent and receipt acknowledge, process should take 9-12 monthsv. No further correspondence received regarding culvert in Littleworth Nature Reserve. Members agreed for the clerk to contact SODC, as the flood authority to see if they can engage OCC on addressing concerns with the culvert.vi. No further correspondence received regarding request for removal of charity bins in SODC car parkvii. Feedback from meeting with TVP. Cllr Sercombe and the Clerk met with Sgt Pavey to discuss issues and TVP priorities. ASB and parking were amongst the topics discussed.viii. Silt has been removed from Ambrose Rise ditch.	Clerk
#25/24-25	TO DISCUSS TREE WORK <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. To receive quotes for tree work for St Mary's Church yard and Farm Close Rd Recreation Ground. Quotes had been received from two of the four companies approached. Members approved quotes from Arbor Tree Specialists for both areas, (£855 & £750 exc. VAT), providing response to query for Farm Close Rd does not exceed the total cost of £1,500.ii. Update on other tree work. Clerk confirmed that work on the playing fields will be carried out at the end of August. The initial contractor had not responded to requests and following agreement by the committee at the previous meeting, the next preferred contractor had been appointed.	

#26/24-25 TO DISCUSS PLAY AREAS & RECREATION GROUNDS

- i. Ongoing maintenance –Recently sections of the play structures have been treated and painted. The gate to the entrance of Church Rd Rec has been forced in the opposite direction and repairs were being instigated. Minor tree work has been carried out in St Mary’s Churchyard, as per SLA, some of this work opened up previously inaccessible sections of the churchyard. Clerk has been contacted by some of the volunteers regarding use of the compost heap. Grounds team have reported mower damage to one of the football goals. Witnesses reported this to have been caused by the mowing team. Contractors have been contacted and insurers details have been shared.
Clerk to instigate a claim
- ii. Play area inspections – annual play inspections due in July/August.

Clerk

#27/24-25 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SMOKE FREE PLAY AREA COMPETITION

Wheatley Primary School had shared all the posters submitted by the pupils. Cllr Sercombe and the Clerk had reviewed these and identified several designs, these were supported by members. Clerk to convert designs onto templates.

#28/24-25 TO DISCUSS MANAGEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS AND FOOTPATH

The initial ground survey work on the allotments has been completed. The Clerk is in the process of contacting residents, with the results. Contractors will return to install wooden stakes marking the boundary. These will be replaced with stone markers, in the coming months.

#29/24-25 TO DISCUSS LITTLEWORTH FIELD CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Over ninety responses have been received already. Cllr Sercombe and the Clerk recently engaged with Wheatley Guides; mood boards were taken to the play & activity day. The Clerk is investigating the possibility of a consultation event on the field but has had limited comments from the local school. Cllr Sercombe agreed to raise this again with Wheatley Primary School.

#30/24-25 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BIODIVERSITY PLAN

The Clerk gave a summary of recent activities supporting the councils Biodiversity Plan including Grounds team continue to collect and plant seeds, expanding blue bells, poppies and other native species. Wildflowers have continued to bloom on London Rd. Seasonal plants have been installed in village square and the memorial gardens. The use of herbicides has been reduced. Sedum roof on new bus shelter is doing well.

#31/24-25 CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION

- i. SODC had released information about their capital grants. Members felt the deadline was too short notice, to put a successful bid together.

#32/24-25 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i. Cyclocross event planned at Wheatley Park School on 6th September
- ii. Howe Trust have reported thefts of produce from the allotments

#33/24-25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 16th September 2024