

Wheatley Parish Council Open Spaces Committee

Minutes Monday 16th January 2023

Present: A Cooper (AC) (Chair), T Newman (TN), A Sercombe (AS), A Shepherd (ASh), L Tully (LT), P Willmott (PW).

Officer: M Legg (Clerk)

Members of Public: 2

Meeting opened at 7.30pm and closed at 20:27

No	Item	Action
64.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies had been received from Cllr Bignell and were accepted and approved by the committee.	
65.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Willmott, Wheatley Playing Fields Trust	
66.	TO APPROVE MINUTES from meeting held on 21st November 2022, were approved by the committee, and signed as a true record of the meeting.	
67.	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 9i/22-23 Allotment inspection date to be arranged,- 27iv/22-23 Anti-climb planting at bottom of 1 Gardiner Close fence- 30iia Site visit to Littleworth apron still to be arranged.- 34/22-23 – Additional benches (High St and The Triangle).- 59ii/22-23 - Coopers Close Footpath – no update.	
68.	TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Safety surfacing for Cullum Rd Rec has been completed. Fencing has remained whilst grass seed establishes.ii) Grass cutting contract details circulated. Deadline for responses 9th February.iii) Awaiting delivery of table tennis table in Church Rd Rec.iv) Silt removal at Ambrose Rise ditch, companies approached unable to get access to site. Still looking at alternativesv) New Grounds Maintenance Operative appointed.vi) Enquiry received for use of Church Rd Rec for personal training.	
70.	TO DISCUSS LITTER AND FLY TIPPING IN THE VILLAGE <p>Waste has appeared outside the laundrette. The litter crew are doing a sterling job across the village.</p> <p>Member of the public asked whether there was a location for the waste leaves as he was concerned over the amount that were on the footpaths. The council confirmed that a small compost area was available in the memorial garden.</p> <p>The council had been short staffed and without a leaf blower for some time. Staff were doing their best to clear as much as possible (many leaves from non-council trees) but were not able to cover the whole village,</p>	
71.	TO DISCUSS TREE WORK <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Tree surveys received and actions. The Clerk had received three tree surveys. The Clerk had contacted SODC, seeking approval for work in the conservation area and had contacted three arborists seeking quotes for the work. The critical work for St Mary’s Churchyard had been authorised under delegated powers, following a discussion with the Clerk and Chairman of the council. Arbor Tree Specialists (£480+vat) would be undertaking the work as soon as possible (ii) Tree planting. The remaining saplings were to be split between the (Howe Trust and Littleworth Nature Reserve. Volunteers were planning on planting in Littleworth Nature Reserve on 18th January.iii) Other trees	

72. TO DISCUSS FOOTPATHS IN THE VILLAGE

The committee discussed the paths between Ambrose Rise, Farm Close Rd. It was noted that tree work along the footpath between Crown Rd and Orchard Close had been carried out, so the streetlight was now clear.

73. TO DISCUSS PLAY/RECREATION AREAS

- i) ASB at Church Rd Rec – no further reports.
- ii) Quarterly Play area inspections – reports received.
- iii) Repairs and maintenance - continues.
- iv) Smoke free play areas/recreation grounds – conversation expanded to discussing byelaws, to address this and similar issues. Current signage discourages smoking already and committee decided that no further action was required.

74. TO CONSIDER SEASONAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORK

Work schedule will include addressing the back log of two-persons jobs.

75. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ITEMS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION

Squatter has moved to other fields. Landowners have been made aware.

76. DATE FOR WALKABOUT FEB 2023

Committee agreed to meet on Saturday 25th Feb 10.30am at Wheatley Playing Fields.

77. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Wheatley Playing Field Trust– have added ‘dog fouling signs’ on the main gate to the fields.

Sustainable Wheatley are hoping to work with other focused village groups to help cultivate and share wildflower plants.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 20th March 2023