

Wheatley Parish Council

Open Spaces Committee Minutes Monday 16th November 2020

Present: Present: Cllrs P Bignell (PB), A Cooper (AC), D Lamont (DL), D Lawrence (DLA), A Shepherd (ASh), L Tully (LT), P Willmott (PW).

Officer: Michelle Legg, Clerk to the Parish Council (Clerk)

Members of Public: 0

The virtual meeting opened at 7.30pm

No

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

35. MINUTES from meeting held on Monday 21st September 2020 were signed, by the chair as a true record of the meeting.

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Site meeting still to take place in Church Road Rec although C-19 is restricting this

36. UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

- i) New Grounds Maintenance Operative making positive impact to team and outside areas and list of planned tasks/areas to be worked on.
- ii) Farm Close Road Rec play installation complete and invoice paid
- iii) Lockdown 2.0 Play areas remain open
- iv) Bus Stop repairs – contractor awarded job and work to start w/c 14 Dec or earlier.
- v) Burial Ground working group – virtual meeting to be arranged
- vi) Allotment lease review – virtual meeting arranged for 25th November
- vii) Christmas tree ordered and installation planned
- viii) Coopers Close Footpath – agreement currently with legal teams
- ix) Kimber Close trees and shrubs – awaiting response from site managers

37. TO REVIEW RECENT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- i) Big Clean 2020. This year's event was postponed and had little time for promotion. This will be addressed in 2021 along with a priority list of areas/tasks to be created in advance, this will be created with walkabouts. The event could be twice a year – late Spring, early Summer, and late Autumn with a sign up beforehand with a selfie competition for children. Cllr Tully was happy to have posters displayed outside property to help communicate events. Clerk to add item to the meeting agenda January.
- ii) Remembrance Sunday – although the public events were cancelled Remembrance Sunday was observed by some in the memorial gardens and the Chair laid a wreath on behalf of the parish council. Those in attendance (morning or afternoon) were seen to be socially distancing.

38. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR WORK IN PLAY AREAS

- i) Replacement of basket swing at Cullum Rd Rec. Cllr Lamont proposed Company A (£5,863), this was seconded by Cllr Willmott and was approved by the committee. **Clerk to liaise with contractors**
- ii) Repairs to Church Road Rec – committee approved quote for contractors in carry out repairs to large play equipment as well as a repair to safety surfacing. Equipment from original installer had already been approved by the committee . **Clerk to liaise with contractors.**

39. TO CONSIDER CONTINUATION OF PLAY AREA CLEANING (COVID-19). This will Continue for another three weeks. Clerk to arrange with contractor to carry out next clean and will liaise with maintenance staff to see if they can carry this out once they

have completed training. **Clerk to action.**

40. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM VILLAGE SQUARE WORKING GROUP

Additional companies have been approached for quotes, other to be approached before Christmas. Cllr

41. TO DISCUSS TREE WORK AND ASSOCIATED QUOTES

- i) Church Road Rec – work to be carried out mid-December
- ii) Tree survey for Footpath between Station Rd and Farm Close Road results. Councillors considered the quotes for the four companies. The Clerk raised the points of good communication with residents and the wider community. As well as future consideration on a replanting plan and Clerk to liaise with arborist on planting. Cllr Willmott proposed Company A (£3,360) , this was seconded by Cllr Lamont and approved by the committee
- iii) Further tree surveys planned for Farm Close Road Rec, St Mary's Close and Littleworth Green.

42. TO DISCUSS SNOW WARDEN SCHEME FOR VILLAGE

This opportunity on partnership working with Oxfordshire County Council, had been shared with councillors, who were not keen to support it directly. **Clerk to share this opportunity with the community.**

43. TO DISCUSS RESUMING OPEN SPACES WALKABOUTS

The Chair was keen to resume these walkabouts when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Anyone that is walking around the village during the restrictions can identify or check out areas of concern and report to the Clerk or Chair. Cllr Shepherd suggested splitting the village into sections and covering them throughout the year. Committee were in support of this and confirm locations at the January meeting, if COVID-19 restrictions allow.

44. TO DISCUSS BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDING ANY NEW PROJECTS FOR 2020-21

- i) Church Rd play area refurbishment and improvements £20,000 a MUGA was suggested by a member of the community. Further consultation to be carried out.
- ii) Memorial Garden heritage £1,000, this was approved for expenditure in 2020-21
- iii) Chipper – look for rental rather than purchase initially to assess needs.
- iv) Village Square – may need additional funds to deliver the project.

45. TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER OPEN SPACES WITHIN THE VILLAGE

- i) Leyshon Rd – state of verges that have been left after developers have carried out their work. Cllr Shepherd has already addressed this with OCC Cllr Bearder and his concern were shared by other councillors.
- ii) Littleworth playing fields – nothing to update on.
- iii) Allotments – flooding has been an issue over the weekend, OCC are unable to carry out additional drain clearance outside of their cycles. GMO to take assist.

46. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ITEMS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION

- i) Grass cutting for November postponed due to wet conditions.
- ii) Government guidance on COVID-19 received

47. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION - none

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18 January 2021