



Wheatley Parish Council Open Spaces Committee Minutes for Monday 17th July 2023

Present: A Cooper (AC) (Chair), A Sercombe (AS), A Shepherd (ASh), P Willmott (PW).

Officer: M Legg (Clerk)

Members of Public: 5

Meeting opened at 19.30pm and closed at 20:50

23/24	Item	Action
17.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –	
18.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none	
19.	TO APPROVE MINUTES from meeting held on 15 th May 2023 were signed as a true record of the meeting.	
20.	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS none	
21.	UPDATE FROM THE CLERK INCLUDING: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Consultation on public access to footpath through Littleworth Allotments. The consultation was being delivered in line with previously approved proposal and will be carried out between 27th July and 31st September.ii) Smoke free play areas – waiting for a response from primary school, which will likely be in sept.iii) Annual play inspections planned for July/Augustiv) Update on grounds work carried out – Clerk gave an update including manual weed removal in main areas, hedge trimming, play area maintenance. Chairman was appreciative for the work of the grounds staff.v) Grounds Maintenance quote to be submitted to D Wilson Homes.vi) Recent fly tipping. Issues have been minimal, issues raised on social media and reported when appropriate.vii) Allotment visits to be arranged.viii) Current issues – agreed to purchase A-frame ladder and alternative, targeted weed killer to support GMO work.	
22.	TO REVIEW NO MOW MAY 2023 AND PLANS FOR 2024 Council was keen to support the initiative but felt that the ecological benefits were not great enough to counter the health and safety issues for staff. Clerk will liaise with grounds staff and contractors to make a revised proposal for 2024, which will likely include managed areas of long grass.	Clerk/GMO
23.	TO DISCUSS WPC'S BIODIVERSITY DUTY Clerk had flagged this to councillors via an update, highlighting the councils future responsibilities in 2024. Committee agreed to create a working group to meet in September and focus on the council's requirements. Clerk to arrange	Clerk/WG
25.	TO DISCUSS FOOTPATHS IN THE VILLAGE Grounds Maintenance have been carrying out maintenance on WPC owned footpaths and have been sharing communication with landowners reminding them on their responsibilities. Clerk will respond to D Wilson Homes to clear Coopers Close.	Clerk

Members of the public were interested in the progress on the application for right of way status for footpath between Littleworth and Windmill Lane. The council had no update on this as it was being dealt with by OCC.

26. TO DISCUSS PLAY AREAS & RECREATION GROUNDS

- i) Land registration for Church Rd Rec. Committee agreed for the Clerk to continue to investigate this and approach LCR to see what assistance they may be able to offer.
- ii) Quarterly Play Inspections quotation £750+vat, approved.

27. TO DISCUSS TREE WORK

- i) Tree surveys – **Clerk to organise 2023 surveys with contractor.**
- ii) Tree work – SODC have granted approval for work to Village Green. Committee approved quote to undertake recommended work to the Robina.

Clerk

28. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON LITTLEWORTH FIELD

Councillors urged to consider how we approach residents to discuss potential and ideas for the field. Topic to be discussed again at next committee meeting.

29. TO CONSIDER OPEN SPACE BUDGETS FOR 2024-25

Committee discussed potential costs for new fencing, Littleworth project, and considered a 10% increase across Open Spaces cost codes. The committee were also mindful of potential grass cutting recharge reduction from OCC.

30. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ITEMS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION

- i) Overgrown hedges from private properties. Cllr Wilmott has reported, again, properties in Crown square.
- ii) Emails providing suggestions for Littleworth Field were noted and will be revisited at the appropriate time.

31. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – none

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18th September 2023