

Wheatley Parish Council Open Spaces Committee Agenda

Monday 18th January 2021

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

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

Members of Public: 1

The virtual meeting opened at 7.30pm

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

50. MINUTES were signed as a true record of the meeting held on Monday 16th November 2020.

51. UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

- i) Lockdown 3.0 Play areas remain open but other facilities/activities to close.
- ii) Burial Ground working group – virtual meeting to be arranged.
- iii) Correspondence regarding tree works on Station Rd/Farm Close Rd footpath
- iv) Park Hill unofficial parking area,
- v) Update on interpretation board in Memorial Gardens,
- vi) Basket swing at Cullum Rd to be replaced w/c 18th Jan,
- vii) Allotment gate to be locked at end of month in line with permissive footpaths legislation.

Item 55iii was discussed at this point, as a member of the public was present and wished to speak.

55. TO DISCUSS TREE WORK AND ASSOCIATED QUOTES

- iii) Tree work on footpath between Station Rd and Farm Close Rd to begin w/c 8th Feb. Letter drop carried out and notices to be displayed shortly. The resident addressed the committee and shared concerns over the lack of replanting plans. The committee and the council were committed to replanting, but it felt that it was unable to give a specific date, due to the planned work and preparatory work needing to be undertaken before replanting could be considered. Replanting plans will also be reliant on suitable weather conditions.

52. TO DISCUSS BIG CLEAN 2021

With current C-19 restrictions likely to be in place during the Spring the committee decided to postpone the event until the Autumn. The committee wanted to seek the views of the community and will run an information gathering activity in May and will review potential activities and dates at their June Committee meeting.

53. TO CONSIDER WORK AND ASSOCIATED QUOTES IN PLAY AREAS

A quote had been received to facilitate quarterly play area inspections. The quote was approved by the committee (£600p/a).

54. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM VILLAGE SQUARE WORKING GROUP

The project had stalled due to the C-19 restrictions and the committee wanted

to try and address this. The Clerk offered to co-ordinate an in-house sub-group to try and identify issues and help to move the project forward. Clerk to arrange a meeting with sub-committee.

55. TO DISCUSS TREE WORK AND ASSOCIATED QUOTES

- i) St Mary's Close and Littleworth Green. Committee approved Company B (£1,860). **Clerk to notify companies.**
- ii) Tree surveys for Farm Close Road Rec – waiting for these to be carried out. Results will be discussed at the next available meeting.
- iii) Discussed earlier in the meeting

Clerk

56. TO REVIEW TREE POLICY – No changes had been made and was approved.

57. TO REVIEW ALLOTMENT LEASES AND CONSULTATION.

The committee discussed the draft revisions of the allotment lease, that had been circulated. The committee discussed the issue of cultivation and the only addition was to include 'only' within section 4.3.

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the updated draft to the allotment holders for their comments.

58. TO DISCUSS WILDFLOWER SEED PLANTING ON GRASS VERGES

The council considered the quote received at the time. Councillors were keen to progress this project and to improve the area highlighted and approved the quote (£1,147.20).

59. TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER OPEN SPACES WITHIN THE VILLAGE

- i) A request was made via Cllr Shepherd for a basketball hoop in the village. The Clerk advised that this could be looked at with the improvements at Church Road Rec.
- ii) Roots of trees causing issues along the footpath by Ambrose Rise Ditch. Cllr Shepherd thought a root prune may be required, but this could cause an issue for the tree, and sparked a conversation over further tree works that may be required. Cllr Cooper, Shepherd and Lamont to review the site. C-19 restrictions to be followed.
- iii) Miller Road – pile of tree cuttings. Clerk advised of the situation and hopes to have this removed soon. Concerns were also raised again about the state of the verges in Leyshon Rd. Contractors were due to reinstate the ground once they had left, but other contractors had since been on site. The Clerk has addressed the issue of cars parking on verges and dropped kerbs in the latest edition of the Wheatley News.
- iv) Footpaths OCC contractors have been working in the village relaying footpaths. residents were leafleted but the parish council were not made aware of this work.

60. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ITEMS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION

- i) C-19 guidelines from OPFA
- ii) Emails and phone calls re tree works along Farm Close Rd/Station Rd

61. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION - none

Meeting DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 15th March 2021