

# Wheatley Parish Council

## Open Spaces Committee Minutes Monday 21 September 2020

**Present:** Cllrs 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:** 1

**The virtual meeting opened at 7.35pm**

**18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Bignell** **Action**

**19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none**

**20. MINUTES AND ACTIONS** from meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

**21. UPDATE FROM THE CLERK**

- i) Annual maintenance of horticultural machinery has been carried out and equipment is now back in use
- ii) Farm Close Road Rec project delayed slightly and start date moved to 24<sup>th</sup> September
- iii) Cleaning of play areas have taken places every 3 weeks. A review is required to see if this is to continue.
- iv) Recruitment of Grounds Maintenance Operative has concluded.
- v) Contractors have recently carried out weed spraying, cutting back of overhanging trees along footpaths.
- vi) Update on Old Road to Littleworth footpath – Cllr Lamont was able to give a detailed update on this project.
- vii) OXTOG presentation and volunteer opportunities; Snow Wardens, Sign Cleaning, Rights of Way. Cllr Lamont would share this with Wheatley Wanderers.
- viii) Grass cutting reduced to one cut a month for remainder of season, meeting scheduled with contractor.
- ix) Wheatley Christmas Fair has been cancelled -
- x) Tree Surveys results – Clerk to seek quotes for work and to complete

**22. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE TO PLAY AREAS**

Work has continued to address issues that were raised in the annual inspections. This was shown in the spreadsheet previously circulated. Outstanding issues continue to be addressed and repaired.

To monitor issues more closely the Clerk proposed implementing quarterly, operational inspections that are more detailed than the weekly inspections. Clerk had discussed this with ODS and who had quoted a cost of £125 per inspection (for all three sites), with a view for council staff to shadow their staff, and take over these inspections, once council staff have completed the necessary training. This was approved.

**The meeting was opened to the public at 19:55**

Resident – raised the following issues:

- i. Footpath along Farm Close Road – Committee will consider this in the future
- ii. Blocked drain in Kelham Hall Drive – has been reported to OCC/SODC.
- iii. Station Road footpath – nettles and hanging trees
- iv. Farm Close Road Patio – new employee will be taking on some of these tasks
- v. Planter in village square – left as it was due to the ongoing project
- vi. Disposal of green waste – resident suggested that the Howe Trust may be able to offer green recycling opportunities and resident could help with transporting the waste to Windmill Lane

**23. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM VILLAGE SQUARE WORKING GROUP**

Several proposals had been passed to the committee by one contractor. Cllr Lamont had been seeking further information from another contractor, he was also concerned over the varying surfaces on the site and was asking whether the area could be resurfaced. Footpath access would need to be maintained, as would access for vehicles to the shops. Date for the working group to meet again to be arranged for early to mid-October.

**24. TO CONSIDER AUTUMN ‘SPRING CLEAN’ EVENT**

Clerk made suggestion of arranging a village event, in line with the Great British September campaign. This was agreed with a date of 17th October 2020. Clerk to contact SODC to see if litter pickers are available. Cllr Tully suggested contacting Co-op to see if their staff could get involved using their community hours.

**Clerk to communicate this event to councillors and public.**

**Clerk**

**25. TO DISCUSS ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN CHURCH ROAD**

Flytipping had been reported to SODC, but issues remained with visitors sliding down the slope. The committee favoured defensive planting rather than fencing the area off. **Councillors to have a site meeting to discuss.**

**Cllrs**

**26. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON ALLOTMENTS**

Clerk confirmed that all allotment fees had been paid. It was agreed that the **Clerk would meet with Cllrs Cooper, Lamont, and Willmott to discuss the tenancy agreements**

**Clerk**

**27. TO DISCUSS FOOTPATHS IN THE VILLAGE**

Covered earlier in the meeting. Cllr Lamont confirmed that the path to Ladder Hill had been cleared of nettles.

Cllr Cooper had been confronted by resident of Miller Rd who has been advised that he can remove any overhanging items and dispose of them appropriately.

**28. TO DISCUSS REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENTS**

The local branch are still keen to have an event of some kind and the Clerk has already advised a member of the Royal British Legion committee that the council need to be presented with a risk assessment, site plan and public liability insurance for the council to consider granting permission. However, this would need to be presented at the October or November meetings.

**Committee approved the Clerk contacting additional members of the organising committee.**

**Clerk**

**29. TO DISCUSS BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2021-22**

Cllr Willmott asked for survey and any associated work to be considered to the Poplar trees at Holton Playing Field, which were previously worked on in 2014. Improvements to Church Road Recreation Ground with potential costs of £80-90,000.

Footpath between Farm Close Road and Kelham Hall Drive costs to be sought, and investigation to root pruning. In the interim uneven footpath signs to be installed.

Village Square second phase of improvements.

**30. TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER AREA OF OPEN SPACE**

Cllr Lamont raised issues of parking on the apron at Littleworth industrial estate and asked committee to monitor the issue.

**31. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ITEMS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION**

- i) OCC land west of allotments – update from conversation with county council officers and have asked for tree surveys to be carried out.
- ii) Requests to use parish council land.
- iii) Cullum Road rec private areas
- iv) TOE funding – information previously circulated.

**32. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION - none**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 16th November 2020**