



Wheatley Parish Council Open Spaces Committee Minutes Monday 22nd May 2023

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

Officer: M Legg (Clerk)

Members of Public: approx. 13.

Meeting opened at 7.30pm and closed at 20:35

23/24	Item	Action
1.	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – Cllr Sercombe proposed, Cllr Cooper. This was seconded by Cllr Willmott and approved unanimously.	
2.	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – Cllr Cooper, proposed Cllr Willmott, seconded by Cllr Newman and was approved unanimously.	
3.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none	
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Sercombe for Howe Trust, Cllr Willmott for Holton pavilion and Wheatley Playing Field Trust.	
5.	TO APPROVE MINUTES from meeting held on 20 th March 2023, were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.	Chair
6.	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS – 82iv22-23 Clerk is still seeking contractor to undertake silt clearance at Ambrose Rise ditch.	
7.	UPDATE FROM THE CLERK INCLUDING: i) Grass cutting and s101 agreement – grass continuing to be cut. Clerk queried why OCC have not increased the recharge and was informed that OCC do not have the budget. ii) Seasonal planting – in raised beds and planters. iii) No mow may – will continue to be monitored. iv) Grounds maintenance – team have been removing detritus and soil from around the highway edges, to reduce weeds, other areas will be sprayed in the coming weeks. Team continues to strim footpaths within the village Weather dependent tasks of painting metal work will be carried out. v) Table Tennis event at Church Rd Rec 30th May.	Clerk
8.	TO REVIEW COMMITTEE'S TERMS OR REFERENCE – Approved and to be submitted to full council for final approval.	
9.	TO DISCUSS FOOTPATHS IN THE VILLAGE i) Request for formal footpath through Littleworth Allotments to Littleworth Nature Reserve.	

The committee meeting does not normally facilitate a public session but given the public interest the Chairman of the committee allowed public to speak on the topic:

The resident seeking the footpath was given the opportunity to present their proposal to the council.

Resident – confirmed that the access to the main footpath via Kelly's Rd was over private land.

Resident – Kelly’s Rd, had previously submitted comments. Queried the decision process, which was clarified by the Chairman and the Clerk. Questioned the ability to progress given the covenant on the site. Cllr Newman stated that the covenant can only be implemented by the organisation that applied the covenant.

Allotment holder – has seen more wildlife on the allotment rather than the on the nature reserve. Covid saw an increase in the number of people using the current footpath. Concerned for safety, privacy as people peer into garden over their fence.

‘Friend’ of nature reserve – posted a poll on Facebook and confirmed that 90% of responses were in favour, with additional comments from other non-Facebook users.

Resident – suggests that footfall on the existing footpaths in the area have increased and suggest that footfall in the allotments would likely increase. Concerned over vulnerability and increase of awareness of vulnerability.

Resident of Kelly’s Rd – requested screening for security.

Resident – is aware of deer in the nature reserve, raised the point that more popular routes can help deter antisocial behaviour, as there is natural supervision.

Cllr Sercombe proposed that the committee consult the wider community before presenting a report to full council. Cllr Willmott seconded this proposal. Approved unanimously. **Clerk and Cllr Sercombe to progress consultation**

Clerk/AS

- ii) Request to formalise cut through Farm Close Rd – agreed not to support this.

10 TO DISCUSS ALLOTMENTS – Grounds team have been on site and carried out some seasonal work, the cutting will be shredded. Shredding has been delayed due to mechanical issues. This is being resolved and rescheduled with the hire company.

11. TO DISCUSS LITTER AND FLY TIPPING IN THE VILLAGE – Apart from issues in memorial garden. Quick responses from SODC contractors when items have been reported.

12. TO DISCUSS PLAY AREAS & RECREATION GROUNDS

- i) Consider Smoke free play areas. Council approved this. Clerk to contact company.
- ii) Annual Play Inspections – Committee were happy to proceed with RoSPA.

13. TO DISCUSS TREE WORK

- i) Tree surveys – surveys for 2023 to be scheduled in
- ii) Tree work – Clerk met with residents on Wren Close to confirm which of the trees were within the boundary of Wren Close. This left two trees for the council to undertake maintenance on. Clerk is waiting for liaison with the contractor on the Robinia in Farm Close Rd. WPFT have reviewed the surveys for the trees on the playing field.
- iii) Tree planting – nothing to report.

- 14. TO CONSIDER SEASONAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORK - noted**
- 15. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ITEMS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION** Clerk
- i) Various letters from residents regarding Item 9.
 - ii) Clerk and Chairman had received communications from residents regarding the green waste from recent tree and hedge trimming. Issues with shredders had delayed the work, but this will be completed from 23rd May.
- 16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** ALL
- Repairs for the lower pavilion – confirmed that WPFT will commission the work and invoice WPC for the sum agreed. £3,000 & VAT

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 17th July 2023