

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

WORKS, SERVICES & PLANNING COMMITTEE

"Cherish the past, adorn the present, construct for the future"

Meeting to be held on Thursday 11 October 2012 commencing at 8.00pm after a special meeting of the council in the Council Chamber, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe HP10 8DS

The meeting is open to members of the public and press

Committee Membership:	Cllr J Herschel - Chairman	Cllr C Jordan
	Cllr D Onslow - Vice Chairman	Cllr B Sadler
	Cllr J Bailey	Cllr J White
	Cllr C Dodds	Cllr M Wilkes
	Cllr I Forbes	Cllr J Johnson

Members of the committee are summoned to consider the following business:

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of members' interests in Items on the agenda.
3. Street furniture and planting
 - 3.1 Royal Mail posting boxes
 - 3.2 Street name signs
 - 3.3 Road safety and information signs
 - 3.4 Tree planting
 - 3.5 Elimination of alien, invasive plant species
4. Kingswood Cemetery safety considerations
5. Traffic Calming
6. Revive the Wye
7. Council depot fencing and CCTV
8. Committee priorities
9. Litter collection volunteer scheme
10. Current budget review and budget considerations for 2013/2014
11. Questions from council members and the public
12. Accounts for payment.

Street furniture and planting

The committee is tasked with working with third-parties to both improve the local environment. This includes both 'hard' and 'soft' issues in the public realm that impact on our residents.

3.1 Royal Mail

Members are asked TO NOTE that the council has provided Royal Mail with details of the locations of all red posting boxes in the parish or on our boundaries and asked that they be re-painted. Royal Mail has previously said that post boxes would normally be painted every three years. Ours have not been painted for at least 10 years and are in very poor condition.

3.2 Street name signs

Wycombe District Council is responsible for the provision and maintenances of street name signs. Members are asked TO NOTE that the council has provided a further list to them of street name signs that need cleaning, painting or replacement. This has been an on-going project for us, little but often, and almost all street name signs are now in 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' condition.

We have repeatedly expressed our thanks to the Waste and Cleansing Team at WDC, responsible for street name signs, who in spite of tight budgets have been supportive of the project and more generally for a very responsive and high standard of litter removal within the parish, especially fly-tipping.

3.3 Road safety and information signs

Transport for Buckinghamshire is responsible for providing and maintaining road safety and information signs. Members are asked TO NOTE that we continue to provide details of signage that needs attention or replacement; and that the overall condition has steadily improved since the council has, with the support and encouragement of TfB, taken a direct interest in reporting signage in poor condition. Members are asked to continue to advise the office of any signs or posts they see that are less than 'acceptable'.

Members are also asked to advise the office of any white or yellow street lining that needs re-doing.

3.4 Tree planting

At the meeting of the committee members were asked to suggest locations where the council could as part of our on-going programme of planting trees on council-owned or leased land. Members are asked TO ENDORSE the following locations that have been suggested:

- Lombardy poplars in front of the fence on Knaves Beech Way so as to soften the impact that the newly rebuilt and enlarged household storage warehouse has on the street scene
- Evergreen holm oak trees beside the boundary path of the Oakwood recreation area
- At Clearbrook Close in Loudwater to replace trees taken down in the past few years and one waiting clearance this winter

Members are asked TO NOTE that two memorial trees will be planted on the Back Common at the northern end of Rays Lane: one by the P&TGRS for the 2012 Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee and another by the British Legion to replace the failed King George V Silver Jubilee tree near Widmer pond.

3.5 Elimination of alien, invasive plant species

Parts of the parish suffer from the impact of alien invasive plants: Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam and the council has previously agreed that we should in a measured way and over a reasonable period of time seek to eliminate them within the parish: clearing it from council-owned sites and in the public realm (on verges, open spaces and in water courses) and supporting local residents by providing advice and helping if necessary fund through grants suitable chemicals/treatments on private land.

We have over the past few years focused on the removal of Japanese Knotweed and most of the major stands have been eliminated, or nearly so. However there are two stands in the River Wye where it would be more effective and less onerous in terms of training and permits if we were to use a licensed contractor. There are two other major stands on council-owned land where it may be also advantageous to use a contractor, one on a steep bank on Totteridge Common and another on the Back Common where a survey has shown the presence of an unusual Japanese Knotweed hybrid.

Members are asked TO ENDORSE AND CONFIRM the policy or working towards the control and, if reasonably achievable, the eventual elimination of these three alien species from within the parish.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Kingswood Cemetery - safety considerations

Members are asked TO NOTE that the steps leading down to the Memorial Gardens are just within the health and safety limits; however the handrail does not conform. Members are asked TO AGREE on the grounds of health and safety to the replacement of the handrail from this year's budget.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Traffic Calming

Members are asked TO NOTE that the possible re-distribution of 'It's 30 for a reason' signs by BCC to LCPs is still awaiting the results of the pilot project.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Revive the Wye

Members are asked TO NOTE that at a recent meeting of the project's steering group the parish council was commended for its active role in helping the project in achieving its goals in making the River Wye and its feeder streams, in particular Marsh Brook (the 'back stream'), special places that people can enjoy and in which wildlife can flourish:

- To protect and enhance the natural environment and setting of the River Wye, its tributaries and back streams
- To encourage the creation of access corridors along the river
- To raise awareness of the River Wye and matters related to it.

The major issues that need addressing are:

- silted up river bed gravels
- excess vegetation
- presence of alien fauna and flora
- the removal of rubbish

Members are asked TO ENDORSE the following programme of work for 2012/13:

- continued support for the Chiltern Chalk Stream Initiative and the Environment Agency in improving water flows, habitat improvements, fish and invertebrate populations by working alongside them and providing modest financial support through funding the use of Community Payback groups (safety equipment, tools and materials)
- continue clearing excess vegetation from along the banks of the River Wye and Marsh Brook (the back stream) where they run through the parish
- continue clearing rubbish and debris from the streams
- undertake, using a licensed contractor, clearing alien Japanese Knotweed along stream banks: in particular in Boundary Park on the bank beside the Loudwater Boys Club and in London Road opposite the Biffa depot. The costs of this exercise, estimated to be no more than £1,200 to be funded from the committee's 2013/14 budget for third-party working.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Council depot fencing and CCTV

At the last meeting of the committee members were advised that we have in the past 18 months experienced four break-ins to the council depot yard. In the first instance an attempt was made to steal the tractor and in another the red diesel fuel tank was emptied of what remained in it while awaiting the arrival of a new tank.

TVP have also drawn to our attention that other burglaries have occurred in Cock Lane. Given that the wire mesh fencing provides no great deterrence, is easily cut through and will because of its age need replacement members are asked TO AGREE that provision is made to replace the mesh wire fencing with more secure palisade fencing and make budget provision for it in 2013/2014. The cost is estimated at about £11,000.

In the meanwhile members are asked TO AGREE to provide CCTV of the depot and yard from the existing WS&P budget. The cost is estimated to be in the order of £500.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Committee Priorities

Members are asked to receive a short presentation from the committee's chairman of the need to:

- review and refresh the committees' priorities; and
- review the opportunities available to us for grant funding from the LCP budget and other sources

AGENDA ITEM 9

Litter collection volunteer scheme

Members are asked to CONSIDER and AGREE the following charitable payments for the collection of litter within the parish.

Miles Green	£150.00	Penn Trust for The Common
Lady Jane Heath	£50.00	Penn Trust for School Rd/B474 Church Rd triangle
Michael Dewey	£60.00	Alzheimer's Society / NSPCC for Treadaway Hill
Jeff Herschel	£60.00	RNLI for Juniper Green
Mrs A Smith	£60.00	Christian Solidarity Worldwide for Footpath at Oakwood & Buckingham Way & Ring Road
John & Jackie Gurney	£110.00	RNLI for Derehams Park

AGENDA ITEM 10

Current budget review and budget considerations for 2013/2014

Members are asked to receive and consider a report from the clerk and the committee chairman in respect of the current committee budget and proposals for the 2013/14 committee budget to be presented to the F&GP committee for their endorsement at their next meeting on Tuesday 23 October 2012.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Questions from council members and the public

A maximum of fifteen minutes will be given to members of the public, who may make representations, ask and answer questions and/or give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. If the chairman of the meeting agrees, representations and questions may be taken at the beginning of the meeting. Members of the public wishing to speak at the beginning of the meeting should inform the Clerk of this request as soon as possible.

Accounts for payment

Accounts for payment are to be circulated at the meeting for consideration by councillors.

Members are reminded to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interests in any items submitted for payment.

Date of the next meeting of the committee Tuesday 18 December 2012 at 7.30pm