

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

WORKS, SERVICES & PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Report of the meeting to be held on Thursday 11 October 2012 after in the Council Chamber, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe HP10 8DS

Present:

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 J Johnson	

Also present: Cllr D Johncock, Cllr M Patel, Cllr S Digby, Cllr L Willis, Annabel Howard (Maidenhead Advertiser)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr I Forbes

2. Declarations of members' interests in Items on the agenda.

There were none.

3. Street furniture and planting

3.1 Royal Mail

Members NOTED 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 as they are generally in a poor condition.

At present Royal Mail have accepted the request and we are now waiting to be notified of the date the work will commence.

3.2 Street name signs

Members NOTED that the council has provided a further list to Wycombe District Council of street name signs that need cleaning, painting or replacement. This has been an on-going project and almost all street name signs are now in 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' condition.

Cllr Sadler advised of the need for a Village Hall sign in Tylers Green. This will be placed on the TfB signage improvement schedule.

3.3 Road safety and information signs

Members NOTED that we have provided Transport for Buckinghamshire details of signage that needs attention or replacement; and that the overall condition has steadily improved. Members were asked to continue to advise the office of any signs or posts they see that are less than 'acceptable'.

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

3.4 Tree planting

Members ENDORSED 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 noted that two memorial trees are to 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.

Cllr Johncock advised that two cherry trees in Flackwell Heath had been suffered strimmer damage and now looked dead. Carolyn Leonard from the Flackwell Heath Resident's Association had been in contact with the clerk and was now in contact with Bucks County Council regarding the replacement of the trees.

3.5 Elimination of alien, invasive plant species

Members were advised that 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.

The clerk made contact with Japanese Knotweed Control who will be sending in a formal quote for the works.

Members ENDORSE and CONFIRMED the policy of working towards the control and, if reasonably achievable, the eventual elimination of these invasive plant species from within the parish.

4. Kingswood Cemetery - safety considerations

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

The clerk and warden were asked to progress this work.

5. Traffic Calming

Members NOTED 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.

Cllr Onslow is currently putting together a list of locations within each ward so that the wheelie bin stickers can be distributed to roads that suffer from speeding through traffic. A piece will also be put in the newsletter asking residents to contact the council with suggestions.

6. Revive the Wye

Members NOTED that at a recent meeting of the project's steering group the parish council was commended for its active role in helping the project.

Members were advised that the major issues that still need addressing are:

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

The following programme of work for 2012/13 was endorsed by members:

- 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
- to 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. Biffa will be approached for a contribution towards the costs.

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. It has also been drawn to our attention by TVP that other burglaries have occurred in Cock Lane.

The wire mesh fencing provides no great deterrence, it is easily cut through and will because of its age need replacement.

Members AGREED that replacement of the existing fencing with palisade fencing should be action as soon as possible on the grounds of securing the site. The cost is estimated at about £11,000 to be met from savings in the current year Works Services and Planning budget.

Members also AGREED to provide CCTV for the depot and yard from the existing WS&P budget from unspent monies. The cost is estimated to be in the order of £500.

The clerk to proceed with the order for CCTV.

8. Committee Priorities

Members RECEIVED a short presentation from the committee's chairman on the need to review and refresh the committees' priorities and also review the opportunities available to us for grant funding from the LCP budget and other sources.

Members were advised that it had become clear that all applications for funding were assessed against each council's documented priorities and in order to maximise grant opportunities it is essential that we properly document our priorities and how they meet the needs of our communities.

9. Litter collection volunteer scheme

Members AGREED 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

10. Current budget review and budget considerations for 2013/2014

Members RECEIVED a report from the committee chairman in respect of the current committee budget and were given for their CONSIDERATION 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.

Members were asked to contact the clerk if they had any queries regarding the proposed committee budget for 2013/14.

11. Questions from council members and the public

Question from Cllr Johncock: What was happening about the possible re-siting by the FHRA of the noticeboard at School Green, Flackwell Heath.

Answer from chairman of the committee: As previously advised consideration will be given to their request as part of the council's signage improvement project

Question from Cllrs Jordan and White: if the council could do anything to ensure the health and safety of the person resident in Magpie Wood

Answer from Cllr Johncock who advised that in his role as a district councillor that he would make enquiries at Wycombe District Council and feedback to Cllrs Jordan and White.

Question from Cllr White: whether the committee would endorse his request to prepare proposals for new permissive footpaths in the parish and for him to approach landowners to see if they might be minded to allow them.

Answer: Members AGREED.

Cllr Onslow as NAG Chairman passed a letter of thanks to the chairman of the council for the council's grant of £250.00 which the NAG intend to use towards bicycle training within the parish by TVP.

12. Accounts for payment

It was agreed that the accounts for payment and direct debits be approved for payment and the cheques be signed.

The chairman of the committee thanked members for their attendance and the meeting ended at 9.55pm.

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

Signed Dated.....