

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITY LAND COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday 13 September 2012 commencing at 7.30pm
in the Council Chamber, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8DS

Present:	Cllr K Wood - Chairman	Cllr C Jordan
	Cllr J Johnson - Vice Chairman	Cllr M Patel
	Cllr B Sadler	Cllr S Digby
	Cllr J White	Cllr I Forbes
	Cllr L Willis	Cllr D Johncock
	Cllr J Herschel	

Mrs Elizabeth Johncock was also present

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

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

There were none.

3. Amenity Lane Site visit Update

The Clerk gave a short report back to the committee of the site visit which took place on 5 July 2012.

4. Widmer Pond

Members were asked to note that concern had been expressed by residents relating to the number of fisherman at the pond. The bottom path in particular has been taken over by the fisherman making it impossible to pass. It was felt that the 'professional' fisherman should be discouraged from fishing in the pond as it was originally hoped that it would be for children's use. Members were asked to consider a recommendation to ban fishing from the paths, this was agreed and signs will be put up round the pond asking that no fishing be done from the lower path and the bank above.

The Clerk has been in contact with Thames Valley Aquatic Services who remove the fish on the council's behalf; this will be scheduled for later in the year. In the meantime the pond will have to be registered with Defra, Thames Valley Aquatic Services will be assisting in the registration process.

5. Queens Ride in Kingswood

Members were asked to note that the bridge had now been completed by Bucks County Council and that the bridleway was open. Further clearance work will take place to enhance the area. It is intended to produce a photo story about the Queens Ride for the next newsletter.

6. Orchard Green, Flackwell Heath

Members were asked to note that tree thinning has been scheduled for this winter in order to encourage growth as the trees mature. The Chairman of the committee and the Clerk visited the site prior to the meeting to see how many trees this would involve. It was reported that SEC have been contacted to inform them of the power line in the trees, it is hoped that they will come to the site and take down the trees concerned. A Focus On leaflet has been distributed to the surrounding houses to advise of the works to be undertaken.

Next year the hedge on the front of the site will need to be properly laid as it is weak in a few areas.

7. Jubilee Garden at School Green, Flackwell Heath

Further to the site visit in July, members were asked to consider and approve one of the quotes gained for the fence between the garden and the community centre. The clerk was asked to check that the quotes received were for solid railings and that a budget was in place for this expenditure.

8. Clearbrook Close, Loudwater

Residents have raised concerns about large vehicles gaining access to work on the ground behind the properties; this has been an on-going issue. Members agreed that a gate be installed to restrict the width of the access, however still allowing the grounds team to gain entry. The Clerk was asked to seek quotes for a gate.

9. Rays Lane, Tylers Green

Members were asked to consider the request received from a resident to clear the lay-by opposite Rose Cottage, which at present is being used to hold soil from building works at another property. Historically this had not been a lay-by the bank had just worn away. It had been discussed during the site visit and it was agreed that the area be left as a bank.

10. Kingswood Woodland Management Plan

After meeting with Tilhil during the summer and reviewing last year's work programme from the Forestry Commission it was clear that further work is needed to improve the ride maintenance. It is a condition of the grant the council receives from the Forestry Commission and it is now felt that the work already completed by the grounds team on the ride and glade management now satisfies the grant criteria.

Further work by Tilhil has been booked in for clearance of 'scrub corner'.

11. Kingswood Car Park - tarmac surface

Members were asked to note that quotes have been received for the work necessary to put the car park surface in good order, these are in the region of £40k. Further discussions with Dan Sexton from Wycombe District Council have taken place regarding possible assistance with the cost of repair. Wycombe District Council have requested that more test pits be dug to establish the surface make up and we await further information. The council do accept that the existing surface is only suitable for a car park not for large lorries moving heavy bins.

The options discussed with Dan at the meeting regarding the recycling centre were that the parish council repair the car park and rent the space to Wycombe District Council for the bins at a weekly charge. Wycombe District Council take over the maintenance of the car park completely, this would include the cost of the repair required to the surface or that Wycombe District Council would be asked to remove the bins and the car park would revert to being a car park for the wood.

Dan was unable to give comment on any of the above suggestions but said he would discuss the matter further with his manager at Wycombe District Council. We await feedback from the meeting.

There has been an attempt to control the fly tipping at the site with increased visits. The idea of CCTV had been discussed with Dan at the meeting however, due to the car park being used

as a pick up and drop off for the junior school the forms needed to be completed and the legal requirements would make this an extremely expensive exercise.

12. Questions from council members and the public

CLlr Johncock updated members on the Jubilee Garden. The original school plaque had been given to the history group in Flackwell Heath and as the garden is on the site of the old school it was thought to be a good idea to place it on the site.

CLlr Johncock had already been in contact with the Clerk who had in turn contacted Wycombe District Council regarding any planning permission requirements. The brick structure on which the plaque will be mounted comes under permitted development if the parish council are happy for the construction to go ahead.

CLlr Johncock advised that he was in the process of seeking costings for the work to be undertaken and would report back at the next meeting.

Mrs Johncock was pleased to hear about the railings for the garden, however she advised that the planting on the community centre side of the fencing was a problem. The Sumac plants have extremely large root systems and could possibly cause problems with the bedding in of the railings.

After a short discussion, it was decided that a conversation with the Community Centre management team would be useful to keep them advised and approach the garden jointly.

Mrs Johncock also advised that the Christmas tree would be arriving mid October.

13. Accounts for Payment

Accounts for payment were circulated at the meeting and cheque numbers 7601 to 7615 and the direct debit payments to Southern Electricity and E-On were agreed.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 8.30pm

Date of the next meeting of the committee: Thursday 22 November 2012 at 7.30pm

Signed Dated

