

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

WORKS, SERVICES & PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Report of meeting held on Thursday 14 March 2013 commencing at 7.30pm
in the Council Chamber, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8DS

Present:	Cllr J Herschel - Chairman	Cllr C Jordan
	Cllr M Wilkes	Cllr B Sadler
	Cllr C Doods	Cllr J White
	Cllr I Forbes	Cllr J Johnson

Also present: Mrs Liz Johncock

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Bailey – attendance at Flackwell Heath Residents Association AGM and Cllr D Onslow – personal.

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

There were none.

3. Signage renewal

Members were asked to receive an update from Cllr Herschel on programme of signage. Quotations for notice boards, sign boards and finger posts have been requested for the first phase of the council's signage renewal programme.

Mrs Johncock made a representation on behalf of the Flackwell Heath Residents Association asking for an agreement in principle to the repositioning of the Parish Council Noticeboard on the Jubilee Garden. It was proposed by the FHRA that the noticeboard be moved to the other side of Common Road, near the millennium sign, facing outward so that the parish notices would be seen more clearly from the path.

Mrs Johncock was advised that the council were happy for the FHRA to seek quotes for the repositioning of the noticeboard with costing for granite setts to be laid in order to ease access. The topic would be considered after the committee's site visit.

Mrs Johncock thanked members and left the meeting at 7.45pm.

4. Community Payback permanent midweek group

Members were asked to note that the trial scheme of a permanent midweek group with the Probation Service had now started however out of three weeks we had only seen two groups. It had been made clear to the Probation Service prior to the start date that if, at any time, accommodating this group became disruptive to our staff the scheme would have to cease, it is essential that they are self-sufficient.

5. Replacement of Ford Ranger

Members agreed to the replacement of the Ford Ranger 4x4 utility vehicle in the next financial year.

The clerk and Warden will research suitable utility vehicles and then during the year when a 'best price' opportunity occurs - and after consultation with the chairman and vice-chairman of the committee - purchase a replacement vehicle.

6. Replacement of footpath lighting at Oakwood

Members were asked to agree to the replacement of 12 aluminium columns at Oakwood and their fitting with LED luminaires. The aluminium columns and their luminaires at Oakwood had previously been identified as needing replacement, this had been postponed until it could be done as a block and now these columns could be used as a trial site. However, Bucks County Council and Wycombe District Council have run trials over extended periods and have now adopted LED lighting as the standard for new and replacement lighting.

The cost of replacing the 12 columns at Oakwood and providing Stela 24 LED luminaires is approximately £13,000, which equates to £100 more per unit than if they were replaced using 70w SON fittings normally used by us. However this additional cost would be off-set by energy savings at current prices of about £11 a unit a year. In addition we will also make similar savings on annual maintenance charges, so that it is possible to amortise the additional initial cost in as little as 5 years.

Members agreed in principle to go ahead with the change-over to LED lighting, but the clerk was asked to look at alternative luminaires and suppliers before commencing the work.

7. Committee priorities

Members were asked to endorse the following committee priorities for commencement during the summer months:

- continued improvement of our environment and making good our estate: specifically with an emphasis on completing maintaining benches and community assets in Loudwater (2012/2013 project) and undertaking the planned 2013/2014 programme of work in Tylers Green. The committee has previously agreed to place an emphasis on the ward in which the following annual parish meeting is to be held. This rolling programme will help ensure that our assets are inspected and maintained every three or at worst every six years
- pressing ahead with the renewal of parish signage
- cleaning and painting the depot and workshop and the provision of a sink in the depot
- refurbishing of the council office kitchenette
- replace the rotten window frame in the garage attached to the Warden's house
- continue the programme to eradicate Japanese Knotweed from within the parish
- Members were advised by the Chairman of the Committee that contractors would need to be employed for some of the work as the grounds team were hard pressed to keep up with the maintenance of the grounds.

Members were happy to endorse the above programme of works, however it was suggested that rather than a student being used for the cleaning and painting of the depot a contractor should be asked to quote for the job.

8. Propositions from members:

Cllr. J White gave a short report of his proposition for a definitive path along the Railway Land. In the first instance it would be necessary to contact the owner of Fennels Wood to see if they would be prepared to allow the use of the land behind the school which at the moment cuts the path in half. The Clerk was asked to proceed with this letter.

Cllr White also advised that he was hoping to have a meeting with Corinne Waldron from the Bucks County Council Rights of Way Team to discuss general footpath issues.

Members agreed that the clerk should prepare a report for the consideration of the committee of both the feasibility and benefits to the council and the public for asking Bucks County Council Rights of Way to adopt the footpath along the railway land owned by the council.

9. Committee finances

Members were asked to note the current committee expenditure and income. There was nothing extraordinary to note.

10. Questions from council members and the public

There were no public present at the meeting. The following points were raised by members; It had been noted that the Bus Stop on Robinson Road, Loudwater opposite Magpie Wood had become a muddy mess. Steve Underwood (LAT) had been present at the recent Loudwater Forum meeting and would be looking at what could be done.

Stiles to gates project: this had come to a standstill. After meeting with Jonathan Clarke last November it had been reported to the council that there had been no support for the change of the stiles to gates at the Ashwells site from the landowners, Wycombe District Council. Cllr White advised that he would take this forward.

Bridleway around Wycombe Heights – a resident had raised a concern regarding the possible damage to the bridleway from the construction work on the golf course but it was pointed out that the planning application for the work had been refused.

11. Accounts for payment

It was agreed that the accounts for payment and direct debits be approved for payment and the cheques number 7811 to 7829 be signed.

The chairman of the committee thanked members for their attendance and the meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Signed **Dated**