

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITY LAND COMMITTEE

Report of meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2013 commencing at 7.30pm
in the Council Chamber, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8DS

The meeting is open to members of the public and press

Present:

Cllr D Johncock - Chairman	Cllr C Jordan
Cllr S Herron	Cllr B Sadler
Cllr S Digby	Cllr J White
Cllr I Forbes (Agenda item 5 and 7 – 13)	

Also present: Cllr J Herschel, Cllr K Wood (Agenda item 5 and 7 -13) and Mrs J Smith (FHRA)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Bailey (away on business) and Cllr L Willis (family).

Cllr I Forbes and Cllr K Wood had advised that they would be joining the meeting after attending a meeting at Wycombe District Council.

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

There were no declarations made.

3. Widmer Pond

Members were asked to note that the Clerk had been in contact with the original contractor who laid the path around the pond. After taking advice, the loose stones were removed and the surface is now holding firm.

At the moment there was no need for a new surface to be laid, however, the path will be checked regularly to ensure that it remains safe and bonded.

4. Railway Land

Members were asked to note that the decision of Council on 7 November was to proceed with the recommendations of the Working Party report and to date the handrail on the steps at Bridge Bank Close had been installed and two contractors had been taken to site on 22 November to quote for removal of the trees at Bay Tree Close.

It was RESOLVED that;

Cllr White re-form the Working Party and undertake the annual inspection as per their report and present their findings to the next Amenity Land Committee meeting in February.

Members were also asked to note that the Chairman of the Committee was working on a revised management plan which would incorporate recommendations of the Working Party. The Plan will be presented at the next committee meeting.

Due to the absence of Cllr Forbes, the Chairman of the Committee delayed agenda item 5 and moved on to item 6.

6. Spring Lane, Flackwell Heath

Members were asked to note the Cultivation License obtained from Buckinghamshire County Council relating to the above and consider a way forward for the site.

Members were asked to receive a verbal report from the Clerk on the difficulties of managing the site with the grounds team and at present the lack of budget for a contractor.

Cllr Herschel advised that he, with the Community Payback teams, had cleared the site and felt that maintaining the area would take between 12 to 15 hours a year and that perhaps a contractor should be asked to quote for the work.

Mrs Smith advised that rubbish and drug related items had been found in the brambles, this had been reported to the police.

It was RESOLVED that;

A site visit be arranged so that Cllr Johncock, Cllr Herschel, Mrs Smith, the Warden and the Clerk could assess the requirements of the site.

Cllr Forbes and Cllr Wood joined to meeting at 7.50pm

5. Tylers Green Common

5.1 Tracks on the Common

Members were asked to note the comments in the report from the Working Party relating to remedial works to a track on the Common.

It was noted that any work undertaken on the tracks would be seen as a change in policy and could set a precedent.

It was RESOLVED that;

The two major potholes indicated in the report be filled and that the Clerk be asked to seek further legal and insurance advice regarding track works over a village green.

Members were also asked to note a complaint relating to the paths over the back common, which had become impassable due to the surfaces being washed away.

It was noted that one path across the Common was definitive and the Bucks County Council Rights of Way team would make the surface good. An Earmarked Reserve had been set up for works on the Common and this could be used the paths.

It was RESOLVED that;

Cllr Forbes prepare a report on the paths for the next Amenity Land Committee in February.

7. Kingswood Management

Members were asked to receive a verbal update from the Clerk following a meeting with our Forest Manager from UPM Tilhill. A report from the Forest Manager had been received and will be sent to committee members.

Members were advised that Tilhill Harvesting were still interested in thinning the wood even though they had not managed to schedule Kingswood this year as planned and in order to firm up commitment to thin a deposit would be paid and a timescale set to guarantee the work. However, if the timescale was not met the council would be able to go to another contractor for the thinning work and Tilhill would lose their deposit.

It was noted that this had been the second year when income from thinning had not been forthcoming and members felt that an alternative company should be approached to manage the wood.

It was RESOLVED that;

The Clerk to asked to continue the search for alternative forestry management companies.

8. Totteridge Common

A request had been received from a resident on the Totteridge side of Kingswood asking permission to purchase a sign that would indicate their property's location.

It was RESOLVED that;

A sign be made up as part of the council's signage project to fulfil the residents request and to suit the council. The sign to be paid for by the resident.

9. Beechwood Gardens/Clearbrook Close

Members were asked to approve the purchase and installation of a bollard to the amenity space at a cost of £200.00. Last year the council installed a gate to one side of the site and the bollard would complete the sites security. Residents have been gaining access to the rear of their properties over the site, sometimes leaving the ground damaged and a mess.

It was RESOLVED that;

The bollard be purchased and installed.

10. Draft Budget 2014/15

Members were asked to note the draft Amenity Land committee budget for 2014/15.

Increases were discussed on the following project budget lines for consideration at the first round of budget setting;

Railway Land – increase of £3,000 in light of the management plan

Kingswood – increase of £3,000 for signage and £5,000 for boundary fencing

Tylers Green Common – increase of £3,000 for paths

It was RESOLVED that;

The increases be inserted and the budget be taken to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee for further consideration.

11. Committee Finances

Members were asked to note the current committee expenditure and income. The committee is currently running a little under budget, however with the highlighted track work and tree work to be carried out on the Railway Land this will bring it back in line.

12. Questions from council members and the public

There were no questions from council members.

Mrs Smith re-iterated how keen her neighbours were on improving the Spring Lane site and also advised of the offer made to the owner of the Old Nursery site.

13. Accounts for Payment

Accounts for payment were circulated at the meeting.

Cllr Jordan declared a personal interest in the item - expense cheque number 8070.

Cllr Herron queried the amount paid for the warden's mobile phone advising that there were some better deals on the market at the moment. This to be followed up.

Cheque numbers 8068 to 8092 were agreed and duly signed together with the direct debit payments for Southern Electricity and Orange.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 8.50pm

Date of the next meeting of the committee: Thursday, 13 February 2014 at 7.30pm

Pending expenditure transactions

26-Nov-13

Chq	Invoice No	Supplier	Detail	Net	VAT	Amount
	46	BMALC	Induction training £350.00			
8068	AB45	BMALC	Book Local Council Admin £60.00	410.00	0.00	410.00
8070		C.Jordan	Wreath for Remembrance/Loudwater	25.00	0.00	25.00
8077		Expenses	Cllr M.J.Wilkes	105.00	0.00	105.00
8078		Expenses	Cllr J.Bailey	60.00	0.00	60.00
8079	13452	GDT Fire Services	Derehams Fire Extinguishers	30.00	6.00	36.00
8080	13451	GDT Fire Services	Office Fire Alarm/Extinguishers	70.00	14.00	84.00
8081	3475	J P C S	Ground Screws- MVAS	1,436.58	287.32	1,723.90
8082	VOID					
8083		Leafield Environmental Lin	Bollard/Green Dragon	410.00	82.00	492.00
8084	VOID					
	7131395	PPG	Topcoat Jubilee Grdns £51.31			
8085	7131393	PPG	Undercoat Jubilee Grds £27.91	66.00	13.20	79.22
8086	051113A	PC Business World	Access Software	88.32	17.66	105.98
8087	3321113	Scott Evans	Wardens Hse - Garage window	25.00	0.00	250.00
8088	148716	TBS Hygiene	Dog Bins - October	290.40	58.08	348.48
8089		Thompson Garden	Grounds maintenace Totteridge	80.00	0.00	80.00
8090	6085448	Three Counties	Photocopy charges	149.38	29.88	179.26
8091		UPM TilHill	Kingswood management fee	832.96	0.00	832.96
8092	827919	Viking	Stationery	279.24	15.75	294.99
D.D		Southern Electricity	Footway lighting	1,330.23	266.04	1,596.27
D.D		Orange	Wardens Mobile	32.65	5.88	38.53
			TOTAL	5,720.76	795.81	6,741.59

Income received since last committee meeting:

		UPM Tulhill	Kingswood Grant EWGS	2,186.00	0.00	2,186.00
				2,186.00	0.00	2,186.00

Signed  Signed 

Date 26 Nov 13

The RFO confirms that all goods and services have been received and that the invoices are accurate. We have compared the invoice details against the cheques, direct debit and payflow payments as above, which agree, and have therefore signed the cheques.