

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITY LAND COMMITTEE

Report of meeting held on Thursday 5 February 2015 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 I Forbes – Vice Chairman	Cllr C Jordan
Cllr S Herron	Cllr B Sadler
Cllr S Digby	Cllr J White
Cllr K Wood (ex-officio)	

Also Present: Mr & Mrs Elderton, Mr & Mrs Furness, Mrs Barber, Mr & Mrs Till, Mrs McDonagh and Ms Mason (all Tylers Green residents)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Johncock (holiday) and Cllr Willis (personal).

No apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bailey.

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

There were none.

Cllr Forbes, chairman of the meeting, suspended Standing Orders and with the agreement of the members present changed the order of the meeting as follows.

5. Tylers Green Common

5.3 Tracks

Further to recent requests received from residents living on the track opposite the Village Hall to improve the surface near the car park entrance, members were asked to consider potential remedial work.

Mrs Elderton was the nominated representative for the residents and she advised;

- the track had deteriorated over the years due to a lack of maintenance;
- lack of drainage made the track excessively muddy and the surface broken, this included the end of the track where vehicles need to turn;
- use by the Fun Run would probably create a Health & Safety issue due to the rutting and potholes;
- car park at the top of the track was well used and this would only increase if the yellow lining near the school happens;
- was there a budget line for track works or could some monies be ring fenced?
- Would it be possible for residents to be part of any working party in order to find a mutually suitable solution?

Both Cllr Wood and Cllr Forbes advised the residents that the parish council was not obliged to maintain the tracks and that a metal surface, such as tarmac, was not thought to be legally possible as the tracks were registered as village green. There was no specific budget line for the tracks over the Common.

Cllr Sadler suggested that the track be scraped and re-graded, however, this would only be a temporary solution.

The suggestion of residents being part of a working party was welcomed.

*It was RESOLVED that;
in the first instance, the Clerk obtain suggestions and prices, from a known contractor, for the surface and drainage issues on the track, also to take further legal advice and to report on the options to the next Amenity Land committee meeting.*

The members of public left the meeting at 8.05pm and thanked the committee for listening to their request.

3. Widmer Pond

Members were asked to note that quotes for the remedial work to the pond path have been requested and are awaited. The quotes are for the building up and re-grading of the path that was laid on our behalf in 2012.

4. Railway Land

4.1 Railway Land Visit – 27 November 2014

Following the resolution at the last committee meeting a site visit had been set up and attended by Cllr Johncock, Cllr White, the Warden and the Clerk in order to further review the need for clearing the strip along the northern boundary.

Cllr White added that further trees had fallen from Fennells Wood over the Loudwater School boundary and the school would also be contacting Ms Olsen to rectify the matter. The path that runs along the rear boundary of the school is not passable at the moment and a suggestion was raised, for future discussion, of the possibility of the parish council purchasing a strip of land within the school boundary to complete the path from Treadaway Hill to Bridge Bank Close.

5. Tylers Green Common

5.1 All Weather Path

Members were asked to note that following the approval from full Council of the contractor the work for the All Weather Path had been ordered. A start date was yet to be confirmed as ground conditions would need to be taken in account.

5.2 Posts on Back Common

Members were asked to note that high voltage power cables had been found running along the edge of the Common where the bollards were to be placed therefore installing posts would be inadvisable.

Members were asked to consider an alternative option from boulders, timber or the creation of a bund.

*It was RESOLVED that;
the Clerk purchase boulders to dissuade unwanted parking on the Back Common.*

6. King's Wood

6.1 Harvesting

Members were asked to note that some timber still remained in the wood and this would be removed by a local company. Tilhill Harvesting had attempted to remove the wood on three separate occasions and the use of a local company had been agreed with our Forest Manager.

6.2 Anti-social behaviour

Members were asked to note that a recent Thames Valley Alert advised that Operation Gravel, which had run for the first 9 months of 2014, had been successful in seizing a number of bikes and prosecuting a number of riders. The Operation had been closed down due to the decrease in reports of anti-social use of motorbikes in the wood.

Members are asked to note that there had been some recent motorbike activity in the wood and the police had been made aware.

6.3 Forest Way, Micklefield boundary fencing

Members were asked to note that the work had been completed to the boundary fence following approval of the quote at the last committee meeting in November.

7. Signage

Members were asked to note that some quotes for the ladder boards and fingerposts for Tylers Green Common and King's Wood had been received and these would be taken for further consideration to the Signage Working Party.

Members were also asked to note that as part of our Forestry Commission grant under Woodland Access an additional figure of £4,474.40 had been set for the provision of 9 fingerposts and 2 interpretation boards in the wood that needed to be spent by the end of March 2015. The interpretation boards were suggested for the Micklefield side of the wood.

8. Magpie Wood, Loudwater

Members were asked to consider the contents of the contractual documents relating to the purchase of Magpie Wood.

*It was RESOLVED that;
the documents be taken as a recommendation for approval to the next full Council meeting for signature.*

It was noted that Mr Turnock, ex-councillor, had indicated a wish to assist if any coppicing was required.

It was also noted that a piece should be written for the next parish newsletter asking for volunteers to set up a 'Friends of... ' group.

9. Grounds Team Winter Work Schedule

Members were asked to note that a report of the winter work will be brought to the next committee meeting, however the list of works has almost been completed.

The area at Spring Lane was mentioned for further discussion as to what works, if any, could be scheduled.

10. Committee Finances

Members were asked to note the current committee expenditure and income. It was noted that expenditure was slightly low.

11. Questions from council members and the public

There were no members of the public.

Cllr White suggested the possibility of contacting the Woodland Trust to see if they would be interested in assisting with the management of King's Wood.

12. Accounts for Payment

Accounts for payment were circulated at the meeting for consideration by councillors.

It was RESOLVED that;

Cheque numbers 8466 to 8479 be approved and duly signed and that the direct debit payments to E-ON, and EE be approved for payment.

The chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, 21 May 2015 at 7.30pm

Signed: Katrina SALWOOD Dated 16 April 2015