

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITY LAND COMMITTEE

Report of meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2016 commencing at 7.30pm
in the Council Chamber, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8DS.

Present:

Cllr I Forbes - Chairman	Cllr L Willis
Cllr C Jordan – Vice Chairman	Cllr H Darch
Cllr L Johncock	Cllr B Sadler
Cllr J White	Cllr L Pinner
Cllr K Wood (ex-officio)	

Also present: Mr C Smith (Deputy Clerk)

AL/15/47 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Cllr S Digby was not present (late apology received from Cllr S Digby – absent due to illness).

AL/15/48 Declarations of members' interests in items on the agenda

Cllr I Forbes declared an interest in Cheque 8788 (P&TG Evening WI Newsletter Delivery).

AL/15/49 Delegated Actions

Members were asked to note that the Chairman of the Committee and the Clerk authorised work to make safe trees in the Railway Land behind the house of Mr & Mrs Dix as per the resolution made in the Amenity Land meeting of 19 November 2015. The additional cost on the tree safety work that had already been agreed at £890 was £577.50

and

that the Chairman of the Committee and the Clerk authorised tree safety work (Priority 1 Hazardous) to trees behind 17 Hillside Close. The cost was £250.

Cllr White informed the members that Mr & Mrs Dix have requested a meeting with him. Cllr White will report back on their comments.

AL/15/50 Penn Parish Council/Chepping Wycombe Parish Council Joint Meeting

Members were asked to note the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2015. Members were also asked to note that it was agreed to hold a joint site visit of the Front Common pond area in Spring 2016. Penn PC will be suggesting some dates.

The Chairman asked the Members to note that the meeting was a success and that the joint site visit will include a discussion on the re-building of the steps and the extension of the path around Widmer Pond.

AL/15/51 Amenity Land Site Visit 2016

Members were asked to consider a request by the Chairman of the Committee to move the date of this year's Site Visit from Thursday 7 July 2016 to an earlier date due to holiday commitments.

It was RESOLVED that;

After consideration by Members that the new date of the Amenity Land Site Visit would be Thursday 30 June 2016.

AL/15/52

Widmer Pond

Members were asked to note that the remedial work to the pond path has been ordered and that we are still awaiting a start date due to the inclement weather. The work will be completed during this financial year.

Members were also asked to note the proposal for the extension of this path. The Warden estimates the cost of this work to be in the order of £4,000 to £5,000. This matter will be discussed at the next Penn joint meeting.

AL/15/53

Railway Land

7.1 Tree Safety Inspection

Members were asked to note that the tree works required following the Tree Safety Inspection by the Warden have been completed.

7.2 Boundary re-instatement

Members were asked to note that we have received one quote of £5,700 for the re-instatement of the council boundary with the installation of fencing comprising of posts with two single wires along the length of the northern boundary. Other companies refused the opportunity to quote primarily due to health and safety concerns. The boundary has been measured at 940 metres. Price did not include for gate openings and assumed a straight run.

Cllr J White asked the Members to consider that some of the residents that have houses backing on to the Railway Land were given lifetime access to the Railway Land at the time that Chepping Wycombe Parish Council purchased the land. There is a need therefore to clarify which of the many gates are legal.

It was RESOLVED that;

Boundary re-instatement would be deferred until access rights have been clarified and that discussions on this issue would form part of the next Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 6th April 2016. Cllr J White agreed to assist with this clarification.

AL/15/54

Tylers Green Common

8.1 Boulders on Back Common

Members were asked to note that the boulders to protect the edge of the Common are still on order, and will be installed as soon as practicably possible on receipt. Due to the length of time the order is taking an alternative supplier has been sought.

8.2 Tracks

Members were asked to note that the Clerk and the Warden are satisfied with the plans to resurface the track opposite the Village Hall and to dig a new soak away adjacent to the track. This work is being funded and carried out by the residents. Original plans to review the effectiveness of drainage works to this track have been postponed until the resident's works have been completed. The postponement of the review has been approved by the residents.

Members were also asked to consider and, if so minded, approve the clearing of the drainage gully and filling it with seconds in order to make the track opposite the Village Hall safer for pedestrians and, in particular, children. This work would be carried out by the grounds team and would cost approximately £200.

It was RESOLVED that;

After consideration by the Members, the drainage gully should be cleared and filled with seconds at a cost of approximately £200.

8.3 Walnut Tree Donation

Members were asked to consider and, if so minded, approve the planting of a sapling walnut tree to replace the diseased memorial tree that was removed from the Front Common approximately three years ago. The sapling tree has been donated by a local resident.

It was RESOLVED that;

The sapling walnut tree would be planted.

8.4 Tree Opposite Tylers Green Village Hall

Members were asked to note that we have requested planning permission to remove the chestnut tree opposite the Village Hall. The tree has a fungal disease. Assuming planning permission is granted, the tree will eventually be replaced. The timescale for replacing the tree is dependent on whether the existing tree roots or the surrounding soil contains a fungal disease.

AL/15/55

King's Wood

9.1 Winter Works Schedule & Forestry Commission Works Update

Members were asked to note:-

- 2 zone ride clearance and widening as part of the Winter Work Schedule had commenced and is being carried out by the grounds team. Due for completion by end of March 2016.
- tree removal works along the ride leading from the Dolphin Pub are due to commence on 29 February 2016. The lowest of the three quotes was selected at a cost of £2,470.00. Appropriate warning notices will be displayed. Due for completion on 16th March 2016.
- additional 2 zone ride clearance and widening will commence during the Winter of 2016/2017.
- we are awaiting Tilhill to advise us on costs and methods of tree removal and coppicing of the Larch Plantation.

9.2 All Ability Path

Members were asked to consider the merits of reinstatement of the all ability path in King's Wood due to the top surface having been washed away. The Warden estimates the cost to be in the order of £5,000 to £6,000.

Members voiced concerns over the short length of time (5-6 years) in which the original surface was eroded.

It was RESOLVED that;

The Clerk seek advice from appropriate organisations on design and maintenance options for the All Ability Path. Options and estimates to be provided for the next Amenity Land Committee meeting.

9.3 Signage Update

Members were asked to note that we have received one quote of £6401.80, as part of a larger quotation, for five lectern style noticeboards (including map printing) for King's Wood. The Clerk is pursuing two further quotations.

Members expressed concern over the length of time it was taking to get quotations.

It was RESOLVED that;

Quotations for signage be pursued as a matter of urgency.

9.4 Future Ideas

Members were asked to consider whether they had ideas on any future works within King's Wood for the period 2016 to 2017 and thereafter to the end of March 2019.

Cllr Darch raised the issue of the Skills & Thrills course going to waste.

It was RESOLVED that;

The Clerk and the Warden to investigate the options for remedial work and maintenance, and to report to the Members at the next Amenity Land Committee meeting.

AL/15/56 Jubilee Gardens – Granite Setts

Since the last meeting it has been confirmed that the Flackwell Heath Residents Association will be unable to contribute to the cost of installing granite setts. Members were therefore asked to consider, and if so minded, approve the request from the Flackwell Heath Residents Association to install granite setts at the base of the memorial bench. To date two quotes have been received in the sums of £980.00 and £850.00 for the works.

Members queried why there were only two quotations and not three.

It was RESOLVED that;

The Clerk to obtain a third quotation and to subsequently APPROVE the lowest.

AL/15/57 Magpie Wood, Loudwater

Members received a short report from Cllr Jordan on progress in Magpie Wood. The report was noted by the Members.

Members were asked to consider and, if so minded, approve the Management Plan for Magpie Wood.

It was RESOLVED that;

The draft Management Plan be APPROVED and be taken to the next Full Council as a recommendation for adoption.

Cllr White raised the potential issue of maintenance costs of the tarmacked road that runs through part of Magpie Wood and therefore, as a consequence, is owned by Chepping Wycombe Parish Council. The road is used by residents for access to their properties.

It was RESOLVED that;

The Clerk refer to the Deeds of Magpie Wood for any information on access rights and report back at the next Amenity Land Committee meeting.

AL/15/58 Tree and Fence Behind 2 Wheeler Close

Members were asked to note the work to repair the damaged fence has been completed for £240. We await confirmation from the residents that they are content with the repair.

AL/15/59 Draft Committee Budget 2016/2017

Members were asked to note and to propose any changes, within the overall net sum, the draft Amenity Land committee budget for 2016/17.

It was RESOLVED that;

The budget be unchanged and be taken to the next Full Council as a recommendation for adoption.

AL/15/60 **Committee Finances**

Members were asked to note the current committee expenditure and income.

AL/15/61 **Questions from council members and the public**

Cllr Johncock reported that one of the green litter bins in Jubilee Gardens had been knocked over.

It was RESOLVED that;

The Clerk determine ownership of the bin.

AL/15/62 **Accounts for Payment**

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

It was RESOLVED that;

Cheque numbers 8780 to 8796 be approved and duly signed and that the direct debit payments to EE, SSE, and Shell be approved for payment.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:43pm.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, 12 May 2016 at 7:30pm

Signed *Katrina SA Wood* Dated: 14 April 2016

[illegible]

Income received since last committee meeting:

CR		Flackwell Heath Minors	Rent	1,750.00	0.00	1,750.00
CR		Beacon Funerals	Burial fees	636.00	0.00	636.00
CR		Sunnydays	Pavilion Hire	518.00	0.00	518.00
TOTAL				2,904.00	0.00	2,904.00

Signed Garlobo Signed C D Jordan

Date 9/2/2016 Date 9/2/2016

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.