

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on **Thursday 2 November 2023** at **7.30pm** at the Council Office, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe Bucks HP10 8DS

Present:

Cllr L Willis (Chairman)	Cllr I Forbes
Cllr L Webb (Vice-chairman)	Cllr C Jordan
Cllr J Gurney	Cllr S Digby
Cllr L Johncock	Cllr H Darch
Cllr S Herron	Cllr D Johncock
Cllr K Wood (ex officio)	

Also present: Mr J Shaw (Chiltern Rangers) and two representatives from the Loudwater Bowls Club

OS/23/027 **Apologies for absence**
There were no apologies.

OS/23/028 **Declarations of members' interests in Items on the agenda**
There were no declarations made.

The committee was asked to welcome Mr John Shaw, Chiltern Rangers who discussed a project to deliver community-based biodiversity with a view to creating joined up landscapes. John explained about the government funding which would pay for 2 years of work towards improving 100 sites in Buckinghamshire. He also mentioned that no sites had been identified with the parish for the first phase. It was suggested that John come back to the next committee meeting in January to further discuss the project.

Mr Shaw thanked the committee and left the meeting at 7.55pm

Standing Orders were suspended with the approval of the committee and the agenda item brought forward.

OS/23/029 **Loudwater Bowls Club**
Members welcomed the two members of the club who advised that there were currently only 18 members and that they were finding things hard, as they were not able to undertake any of the winter activities that other clubs due to the site being dark. The drainage ditches had been causing issues as they were overgrown. The clerk advised that the clearance had been scheduled now that the wildflowers and grasses had died back. They were grateful for the £1,000 grant that the parish council had approved.

They thanked the committee and left the meeting at 8.05pm

Members were asked to note report from Cllr Jordan following the last meeting of the Bowls Club.

OS/23/030 **Allotments**
Members were asked to note that there were no vacancies at either site.

At the time of the meeting there were 12 people on the waiting list for Ashley Drive and 8 on the waiting list for Chapel Road.

OS/23/031 **Playgrounds**
1 Ashley Drive Recreation Ground, Tylers Green
1.1 Central Hedge

Members were asked to note that the work on the central hedge would commence once the grass cutting had finished for the season.

1.2 Play Surface Repair

Members were asked to note that a quote had been obtained for a repair to the play surface around the roundabout at the above site to give an idea of cost for budgeting purposes. The surface is lifting and is becoming a trip hazard.

- Quote One for an area of 77sqm at a cost of £8,140.00

- Quote Two for an area of 255sqm at a cost of £22,938.00 which would replace the whole central pad.

The clerk would endeavour to obtain two further quotes for consideration at the next committee meeting.

1.3 Freshair Fitness

Members were asked to note that the new air skier would be installed at the site on 10 November.

2 Straight Bit Recreation Ground, Flackwell Heath

2.1 Replacement Boat

Members were asked to note that the installation of the boat was complete.

2.2 Telecommunications mast

Members were asked to note that a survey that would entail trial bore holes of 2cm diameter was due to take place. Following the Informal Meeting held on 24 October it had been highlighted that at the planning stage it may be necessary to look for legal support. Members were asked to consider the option of legal support.

It was RESOLVED that;

The option of legal support be recommended to the next full Council meeting any if required.

2.3 Flackwell Heath Bowls Club Site Visit

Members were asked to note that the date of Wednesday 22 November at 10.30am had been suggested for the visit to assess the car parking and access pathway.

3 Boundary Road Recreation Ground, Loudwater

3.1 Winter Planting

Members were asked to note that the planting discussed at the last committee meeting to act as a barrier on the bank would be undertaken over winter. The plan would be to plant spiky plants to dissuade children from walking towards the edge.

3.2 Play Surfacing Replacement

Members were asked to note that the safety surfacing at the play area in Boundary Road was beginning to break up due to grass ingress. A quote had been obtained for the complete replacement (325sqm) in the sum of £29,124.00, this being for budgeting purposes.

The clerk would endeavour to obtain two more quotes for consideration at the next committee meeting.

OS/23/032

Treeworks

Members were asked to note that the following works had been ordered.

Track 6, Tylers Green (opposite the village hall)

Reduction of the Lime trees along the track and removal of an overhanging Ash branch in the sum of £3,000.00. The work to commence on 3 November – 7 November.

King's Wood

Boundary trees – fell 6 and tidy 2 and Rushbrooke Close – fell Ash tree to the side of a property and remove Willow limb overhanging the garden in the sum of £4,525.00. The work to commence 30 October – 2 November.

OS/23/033

Oakland Way, Flackwell Heath

Following the last committee meeting the clerk had been in contact with the LAT for Flackwell Heath to gain permission for the installation of bollards on the verge to dissuade parking. Buckinghamshire Council have no funding to undertake the work, but are happy for the parish council to do the work. A Licence 50 would be required at a cost of £719.00 which would give permission for the works. There would also be a requirement for at least 4 bollards at a cost of £156.00 each.

Members were asked to consider the next course of action.

It was RESOLVED that;

The Licence 50 be completed and the purchase of 4 bollards be approved.

OS/23/034

Skate Park Update

Members were asked to receive a verbal update from Cllr D Johncock and Cllr L Webb. The survey was now concluded with the following responses received;

8% out of parish

47% Wooburn Green

21% Bourne End

24% Chepping Wycombe – further breakdown – 19% Flackwell Heath/5% Loudwater

The next step would be the analysis of the data as a text box had been added to each question.

Cllr Johncock had asked for a Working Group meeting but no date had yet been fixed.

OS/23/035

Derehams Lane Recreation Ground

Members were asked to note the revised drawing. The suggestions were not written in stone and were still for further consideration and discussion before going to pre-planning. Members were asked to note that a Working Group meeting had been set for 9 November.

OS/23/036

Committee Finances

1 Income and Expenditure Month 6

Members were asked to note committee income and expenditure to Period 6 (September).

2 Draft Budget 2024/25

Members were asked to consider the draft budget. Cllr Forbes tabled some amendments;

Cost centre 101 nominal 4037 and increase of £310 to balance

Cost centre 103 nominal 4037 reduction of £2,000 – there is an EMR for emergency works

Cost centre 107 nominal 1001 reduction of £1,000 – a more realistic figure due to nursery numbers

Cost centre 108 nominal 4401 increase of £1,690 – to allow for increase.

It was RESOLVED that;

The above amendments be approved and that the draft budget should be recommended to the Finance & General Purposes committee dependent upon any further suggestions.

Members were asked to make further suggestions for the budget lines, these would be required by Friday 17 November for inclusion on the Finance & General Purposes agenda.

OS/23/037

Questions from committee members and the public

Cllr Wood advised that she was still chasing Red Kite over the corner of Branch Road.

Cllr Darch thanked the grounds team for installing the memorial boards and replacing the memorial tree on the Back Common.

OS/23/038

Accounts for payment

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

It was RESOLVED that;

the accounts for payment be approved and cheques numbered 11191 to 11196 be signed and that direct debit to E-on Next) be approved for payment.

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 11 January 2024 @ 7.30pm tbc

Signed: 

Dated: 19 December 2023

Pending expenditure transactions

[illegible]

Income received since last committee meeting over £500.00

Income received since last committee meeting over 2,500.00			
CR		Burials	
			0.00
			2,906.00
			0.00
			2,906.00

Signed:

Date: 2.11.23

The RFO confirms that all goods and services have been received and that the invoices are accurate. We have compared the invoice against the direct debit and payoff payments as above, along with the relevant purchase order details against the cheques