

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council.
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Washington Parish Council Open Spaces (Recreation, Allotments, Footpaths and Conservation) Committee Meeting

**MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, held on 21st August, 2017 at
Washington Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr D Glithero, Cllr A Lisher, Cllr R Milner-Gulland and Cllr D Whyberd (Chairman)

ALSO: Zoe Savill Clerk to the Council

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1

ABSENT: Cllr R Thomas

Cllr Whyberd opened the meeting at: 19:40 hours

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Thomas (work) and Cllr Glithero (late arrival).

2. Declaration of interest and Dispensations.

There were no declarations of interest

3. Approval of the Minutes of the last Open Spaces (Recreation, Allotments and Open Spaces meeting

There was no July meeting. The minutes of the meeting on June 19th 2017 were **APPROVED** as a correct record and **Duly Signed** by the Chairman.

4. Public Speaking

A member of the public asked if the sawdust from the felled Holm Oak could be removed or reduced because it remains unsightly, and if a new tree could be planted. She also asked if the ivy in trees and hedging overhanging the boundaries could be removed. She congratulated Connor Geal on doing an excellent job of cutting the grass.

The Clerk advised that the Council previously agreed to follow the advice of the tree surgeon to give the sawdust more time to settle. It filled a very large cavity from the felled tree, and replacing it with soil would be costly. Removal of the ivy and replanting of a tree would be considered in proposed works for parish trees next month.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. Allotments

To Consider the maintenance of vacant Plot 7

The Chairman reported that the prospective tenant for plot 7 has withdrawn his interest. The plot has been vacant for several weeks and has become overgrown. There is no one currently on the waiting list. The Clerk reported that some of the other tenants advised sub-dividing the plot to make it more manageable and attractive to future tenants.

Councillors **RESOLVED to AGREE** to delegate powers to the Clerk to approve a contractor to carry out clearance work AND to advertise the plot on noticeboards and the Council's website, initially as a whole plot. A tenancy agreement for a half plot would be considered on request.

7. Recreation Ground and Parish Property

To Consider the annual Play Inspection Report.

Councillors discussed the report and recommendations for minor repairs.

Councillors **RESOLVED to AGREE** that the Clerk obtain costings for the Committee to agree at its next meeting.

Cllr Glithero joined the meeting.

To Review the Council's management of its trees

Councillors reviewed the risk assessment policy of its trees following the recent incident of a falling Sycamore branch in the First Extension Graveyard.

The Clerk advised that the current policy of 3-year inspections by a tree specialist met the Council's legal and insurance obligations to assess and mitigate risk.

However, it is not possible or practicable to remove all threats. An annual inspection by a qualified volunteer such as the tree warden may serve as an additional safeguard. Training would cost in the region of £130.

The Parish Council renewed the 3-year inspection at its meeting last month and agreed this would be undertaken by Andrew Gale (Minute Ref: 12.77.4)

Councillors **RESOLVED to AGREE** training a volunteer for basic inspections. Clerk to write to the tree warden, and make enquiries with the Council's insurers. Findings will be reported to the next meeting.

Recreation Ground

The Chairman reported and thanked George Fielder for carrying out repairs to the perimeter fencing. Mr Fielder will replace damaged timbers on the bench by the

cricket roller. He is awaiting a spell of dry weather before applying wood protection to the benches.

Defibrillators

Clerk reported that the batteries of the defibrillators at Pixies' Corner and the Village Hall were fully charged on inspection.

Ground Maintenance

Nothing to report

Village Hall

The Chairman thanked George Fielder for re-positioning the damaged disabled parking sign in the car park.

Vera's Shelter

The Chairman thanked Will Pickford for re-painting the telephone box in Sanctuary Lane.

Councillors **RESOLVED to AGREE** payment of his £79.48 invoice for the works.

MUGA

The Chairman thanked Cllr Glithero for donating a new winder for the tennis net, and installing it for the parish at no charge.

George Fielder has replaced the damaged noticeboards on fencing by the entrance.

The clerk reported she has sought costings for repairs to the MUGA fence, the basketball guards and adjustment to the gate as recommended in the annual play inspection report.

Children's Play Area

This was discussed earlier in the meeting, as part of the Play Inspection Report.

Bus Shelters

Clerk reported that the damaged laminated panel has been removed from the Bus Shelter opposite Washington Cottages.

Parish Noticeboards

Nothing to report

First Extension Graveyard

Clerk reported that ground elder has been removed.

Clerk has instructed Andrew Gale to inspect the damaged Sycamore. The Chairman has approved any urgent works. A report will be circulated to Councillors for the next meeting.

8. Footpaths and Bridleways

Nothing to report

9. Conservation issues

To Consider management options for the Triangle.

Councillors discussed the clerk's report of a site meeting at the Triangle in July to consider management options and costs. It was attended by Cllr Milner-Gulland, Cllr Glithero, WSCC's Senior Community Solutions Officer Darren Rolfe and South Downs National Park Lead Ranger, Tom Parry, and the clerk. Mr Rolfe advised that he could help with the manpower and tools once the Council had agreed a clear objective and demonstrated community support. Mr Parry agreed to draft a management plan on the Council's proposals.

Councillors favoured minimum intervention to avoid disturbing the established woodland of the WSCC-owned land. Cllr Milner-Gulland proposed that the area around the ecologically unique chalk-fed stream is cleared to let in more light, as recommended in a 2015 ecology report. A woodland pathway could be created, and with the school's support, would make it more accessible for educational visits. More careful management of the Notable Verges by WSCC was also required. Cllr Glithero and a number of Milford Grange residents have volunteered their labour for the proposals. Some level of management has already been agreed in principle by the Parish Council in 2015, pending consideration of costs.

Councillors **RESOLVED to AGREE** the proposals subject to costs and management arrangements. Clerk instructed to make enquiries and report to the next OSRA meeting for consideration and recommendation to Full Council.

10. Any other Open Space, Recreation & Allotment and Footpaths & Conservation issues that may arise OR items for the next Agenda

Progress report of the provision of a picnic table in the Children's Play Area by Danny Flynn
Parish Winter Newsletter -Full Council

The Meeting Closed at 20:00 hours

Date of the next OSRA Committee meeting 18th September, 2017.
Full Council Meeting 4th September, 2017

Signed.....

Date.....