



Washington Parish Council Open Spaces (Recreation, Allotments, Footpaths and Conservation) Committee Meeting

**MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, held on 20th February, 2017 at
Washington Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr D Whyberd, Cllr K Newman, Cllr R Thomas, Cllr Milner-Gulland

ALSO:

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 0

ABSENT: Cllr J Wright

Cllr Whyberd opened the meeting at: 19:00 hours

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Wright (unwell)

2. Declaration of interest and Dispensations.

None declared

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

The Meeting of 23rd January 2017 was cancelled due to inquoracy and urgent
business deferred to Full Council Meeting on 9th February, 2017.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public present

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising.

6. Allotments

The clerk has received rent payments for 2016.17 season from 12 of the 16 tenants.
Clerk has issued reminders for outstanding rent. Clerk reported that there
has been no interest from tenants to form an association to manage the allotments.
Cllr Newman reported that he had seen four or five new cars parked along the slip
road by the allotments, and opposite the entrance gate earlier in the day. Cllr
Thomas commented

that so long as they were taxed, the police would not take any action. Clerk suggested that Cllr Newman raise the issue when he meets with other members of the Working Party to discuss the speed loop survey and parking issues around the village, on 8th March.

7. Recreation Ground and Parish Property

To discuss and recommend a contractor for the annual maintenance work on the Washington Recreation Ground, Children's Play Area and associated public areas including the boundaries.

Clerk received 3 out of 5 quotations received for the Recreation Ground maintenance for the forthcoming year and circulated these prior to the meeting:

- Sussex Land Services Ltd £3,625 plus VAT = £4,350.00
- D J Flynn Services £3,584.00 plus VAT = £4,300.80
- Tim Jordan Ground Maintenance Ltd plus VAT = £4,124.69

All quotations based on the Schedule of Works circulated to Councillors, and to include drainage of ditches bordering the Recreation Ground.

NOTED that the agreed 2017.18 Budget allows for £5,000 on grass, hedge cutting, repairs, weed killing associated with the Recreation Ground. Draining the Recreation Ground was carried out in 2016 and not required for another 3-5 years.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the quotation of £3,584.00 plus VAT from Mr D J Flynn Services.

This was on the basis that Mr Flynn has performed a good service in the past and is known to the parish. Recommendation to be considered at the Full Council Meeting on 6th March 2017.

To Receive and Agree payments

Before the meeting, Clerk circulated an invoice from Mr George Fielder for maintenance work in and around Washington village during 2016 for the sum of £266.25. This is similar to his invoice for £268.35 in 2015.

RESOLVED to AGREE Mr Fielder's invoice of £266.25 for works in 2016.

Ground Maintenance

Cllr Newman reported a noticeable improvement in the condition of the Recreation Ground since drainage works carried out by Mr Flynn, and that more children were using the facility.

Village Hall

For information only

A letter appealing for volunteers to help run the Hall, was delivered to Washington Residents on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee in the New Year. At the time of the meeting, no one had come forward.

Youth shelter

For information only

Clerk reported that Mr Flynn would be removing the shelter within the next week, as instructed by Councillors at the FC Meeting on January 9th 2017.

Mr Will Pickford had arranged to use some of the timber and roofing materials to repair Vera's Shelter, and picnic table in the children's play area.

Vera's Shelter

For information only

Clerk reported that Mr Will Pickford has agreed to carry out the ongoing maintenance of Vera's Shelter and to re-paint the telephone box in Sanctuary Lane. He would arrange with Mr Flynn to use some of the timber and roofing materials of the Youth Shelter to repair Vera's Shelter, and picnic table in the children's play area.

MUGA

For information only

Clerk instructed J Electrical Services to carry out the annual safety inspection of the MUGA lights and village street lamp, as in previous years. Quotation for £150 inc VAT circulated to councillors before the meeting.

Children's Play Area

For information only

Clerk reported that she was still awaiting confirmation of the start date of works in March from the contractor. Cllr Newman reported that he emailed Mary's School, Washington about the new play area and arrangements with the contractor. He said they have agreed to inform parents and request that children stay off the newly grass-seeded areas for two weeks once work is complete. Bark chippings to be replaced from the play area would also be available to the school. Clerk to advise, and to request catalogues for rugby and football posts from HAGS-SMP.

Bus Shelters

For information only

Clerk enquired about the ownership of the bus shelter outside Millford Grange, as she is updating the parish asset register for insurance purposes.

NOTED that it is owned by Barratts.

Parish Noticeboards

For information only

Cllr Whyberd reported that the noticeboard at Millford Grange was still not in Place, despite assurances to Cllr Heeley by Mr Malcolm Wescott of Barratts in an email on 9th February. He had apologised for the delay as the noticeboard is bespoke and made to order. Keys would be forwarded to Cllr Heeley following installation.

First Extension Graveyard

For information only

Mr Flynn removed the stump of the felled Holm Oak in January. Clerk requested that Mr Flynn tidy the area on completion, ensuring all sawdust and branches/leaves are removed, following a request by councillors at the Full Council Meeting in January. Mr Flynn reported to the Clerk that the remaining

sawdust will reduce over time, and is necessary to fill the large hole left in the ground by the tree stump for safety reasons. Cllr Whyberd commented that it would probably reduce more quickly because of the recent heavy rain.

Village Street Lamp

For information only

Clerk had located and reinstated the missing inspection cover for the village street lamp.

8. Footpaths and Bridleways

To Receive a petition for the National Trust path linking Warren Hill with Millford Grange to be routed along Sanctuary Lane and Sandy Lane.

The Clerk had circulated correspondence with attached petition from Mr Josh Raymond of Sanctuary Lane. It is signed by 9 other residents whose homes look onto the National Trust field where the path crosses, behind East Clayton Farm. Members NOTED the complaints that the path and its barbed wire fencing, spoils the landscape. Some of the petitioners also feared it would lower the value of their homes and would infringe their privacy. Mr Raymond has offered to carry out a wider survey amongst residents to test opinion, if the PC is in agreement.

Cllr Whyberd told OSRA Members that there was no question the path should be moved or the need for another survey. He said the Parish Council had worked hard for over two years with the National Trust landowners, and other consultees, to agree its current position through the middle of the field, away from residential properties, and that it is barely discernible. The fencing, funded by Barratts which has developed the neighbouring country park and link path, would eventually be screened by native hedge planting. Cllr Whyberd explained that the alternative suggested routes are not viable as there is no public access right to Sandy Lane, and in the previous long held discussions Sanctuary Lane was not considered safe for walkers. The NT land is also private and as landowners, they had the right to create a permissive path without consulting the residents or the public. Part of the rationale for the path is that it delivers the last link of a sustainable and environmentally attractive footpath between Washington and Storrington, providing a natural amenity for the wider community and meeting wider government-led policy to encourage walking.

The Clerk circulated further correspondence from Mr Mike Gould of the Heath Common Residents Association, Mr Richard Hurley of the Sandgate Conservation Society, and Chairman of the PC, Cllr Heeley, which re-iterated their support for the path.

Members NOTED that Mr Raymond had contacted district councillor Paul Marshall to find out if Barratts had properly met its original planning obligations for the provision of a path as part of the conditions of the Millford Grange development. The Clerk pointed out that this is a misunderstanding as this refers to the link path in the country park, and not the path in the NT field.

RESOLVED that Members re-iterated their support of the NT path in its current location as previously agreed in 2014 for the reasons given in previous discussions. NOTED that the petition incorrectly stated that Sandy Lane is a bridleway when it is private access only.

For information only

Clerk reported the overhanging ivy along pavement near the Pike at the beginning of February. Highways due to respond within 10 working days

9. Conservation issues

Nothing to report

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

The Meeting Closed at 19:35 hours

Date of the next OSRA Committee meeting 20th March 2017
Full Council Meeting 6th March, 2016

Signed.....

Date.....