

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 16th October, 2017 at
Washington Village Hall**

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

ALSO: Zoe Savill Clerk of the Council

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 2

ABSENT: 0

Cllr Whyberd opened the meeting at: 19:15 hours

1. Apologies for absence

None received

2. Declaration of interest and Dispensations.

None received

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

The minutes of the meeting on 18th September, 2017 were **AGREED** as a correct record and **duly signed** by the Chairman.

4. Public Speaking

No members spoke.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes (For information only)

No matters arising

6. Allotments

It was NOTED that the applicant for the vacant plot 11B has withdrawn interest because he is moving outside the area.

There are 2 plots available: a half plot and a full plot to anyone living in the parish
Rents have been received from half the tenants for the 2017.18 season

RESOLVED that the clerk will send rent reminders and advertise the two plots on the Council's website and noticeboards.

7. Recreation Ground and Parish Property

To Consider a new pathway on the Recreation Ground

Members discussed the creation of pathway around the outside of the Children's Play Area to link the existing paths to St Mary's CE First School. It forms part of a wider proposal by the Planning & Transport Committee to clear vegetation from the pathways along the London Road near the caravan park. This is so that children can walk more safely to school, especially those living north of the A24. The scheme is supported by the school and WSCC Highways.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND approval of the pathway subject to costs.

To Consider making a Scheduled Monument application for the ancient parish boundary.

Cllr Milner-Gulland reported that the remains of the ancient Anglo-Saxon boundary-bank of Washington in Longbury Hill Wood, is a rare, and possibly unique, feature and which should be protected from any threats of damage which may occur unknowingly. He explained that it is situated slightly south of Rock Road and appears to be in the area of a proposed forestry access and loading bay, planning application ref: DC/17/2117, but is obscured by Rhododendron scrub.

Members NOTED that the woodland is designated a protected Green Space in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, and that the Council has requested an archaeological survey of the area in its planning response to DC/17/2117.

The Chairman proposed that the Council seeks to protect the Ancient Parish Boundary, and members agreed. He thanked Cllr Milner-Gulland once again for his successful application for the recent designation of the stretch of Greensand Way, less than half a mile away (almost adjoining), to the north of Rock Road, as a Scheduled Monument. It was later reused as part of the same Anglo Saxon boundary of Washington estate owned by Gyrth (Godwinson), brother to King Harold II, and parish.

A map and a statement of the designation has been posted on the Historic England website. Cllr Milner-Gulland's article on the Scheduled Monument was circulated and will be published in the Council's forthcoming newsletter.

RESOLVED to make a Scheduled Monument application pending outcome of the request for an archaeological survey of the area.

To Discuss correspondence on village cricket at Washington

The clerk circulated a letter from Nick Pottinger that the village cricket club has disbanded after 30 years because of a lack of players. Members NOTED the letter and the sad loss of the club.

RESOLVED to advertise the availability of the cricket ground on the Council's website, and if space is available, in the Council's forthcoming newsletter.

To Consider quotations for parish tree works

Quotations for the parish tree works and additional survey were circulated.

RESOLVED to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the quotation of £2,975 inc VAT by Andrew Gale.

To Consider a quotation for repairs on the Recreation Ground and Play Area

A quotation for non-urgent repairs identified in the annual inspection report was circulated. Another quotation from a local contractor was outstanding. Members NOTED that some of the repair costs were far in excess of expectations.

RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to seek a revision of the quotation and chase up the second quotation for consideration at the next meeting.

To Consider a quotation for repair of the village sign

Quotations were circulated.

RESOLVED to appoint Tim Ralph on written confirmation of his quotation.

To Review a Report of Parish Assets

Members NOTED the Clerk's maintenance report on parish assets and the Washington Recreation Ground Charity, and the current and projected budget and expenditure.

RESOLVED to discuss projects for the year ahead at the Council's budget review in November.

To Approve Payments for Agreed Quotations and Works

Clerk reported that works are satisfactory and the hedges were looking very neat. Invoices were circulated before the meeting for the following:

RESOLVED to **AGREE** the following payments totalling £788.40 be **APPROVED**:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>£Amount</u>	<u>Min Ref app'v works</u>
01.10.17	DJ Flynn	Grass/hedge cutting	673.20	<u>20.85.1</u>
02.10.17	Stella Russell	Litter collection Sept	115.20	<u>18.30.3</u>

For information only

Recreation Ground

Members NOTED the following:

Picnic Table and bench

The Chairman thanked Danny Flynn for donating and installing the new picnic table bench in the Children's play area.

Mr Flynn reported that the pile of grass cuttings noted in the parish tree report were the result of clearance work undertaken by members of the community in previous Village Day events. It was unrelated to the grass cutting work. Grass in the basketball area was the result of players treading wet grass from the field onto the hard surface.

Mr Flynn reported that he had purchased a new and improved blower to clear grass away from pedestrian/hard surface areas.

Benches - restoration

George Fielder has restored the bench by the cricket roller, added wood preservative to the bench by the children's play area, and will be treating other benches when the weather improves.

Tree warden - inspection course

The parish tree warden will be attending the Arboricultural Association's basic tree inspection course on October 25th at Wokingham.

Defibrillators

Batteries fully charged.

Ground Maintenance

September's mowing and hedge-cutting had been completed satisfactorily. Members had approved payment of invoice £673.20 for the works to Danny Flynn

Village Hall

Nothing to report

Vera's Shelter

The telephone box painting is close to completion.

MUGA

See item 7 - quotation for repairs.

Children's Play Area

See Item 7 - quotation for repairs.

Bus Shelters

See item 7 - maintenance report

Parish Noticeboards

See item 7 - maintenance report.

First Extension Graveyard

See item 7 - quotation for tree works.

8. Footpaths and Bridleways

A member of the public has reported an overgrown bridleway 2665 near Rowdell, Home Farm. It has been reported it to the WSCC Public Rights of Way Team.

Conservation issues

ClIr Milner-Gulland reported that the Autumn grass-cutting of the Triangle is overdue.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would report to WSCC.

9. Any other Open Space, Recreation & Allotment and Footpaths & Conservation issues that may arise OR items for the next Agenda (information only)

A member of the public requested emergency repair of the flickering street light on the Pike.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would instruct J Electrical to carry out the repair.

The Meeting Closed at 20:10 hours

Date of the next OSRA Committee meeting 20th November, 2017.

Full Council Meeting 6th November, 2017

Signed.....

Date.....