



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

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

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

ALSO: Miss Z Savill, Clerk of Washington Parish Council

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 0

ABSENT: Cllr Wright

Cllr Whyberd opened the meeting at: 19:09 hours

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies

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 minutes of the meeting on February 20th, 2017 were **AGREED** as a correct record and **duly signed** by the Chairman.

4. To Receive and Agree nominations for an additional member of the Committee

Councillors were sorry that Cllr Newman will be stepping down at the APCM.

The Committee currently has five members, and Standing Orders permits up to six.

Cllr Whyberd reported that Cllr Lisher had put his name forward for nomination.

Cllr Whyberd moved that his nomination is accepted. All in favour.

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Lisher to the Committee.

5. Public Question Time

No questions raised.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

None raised.

7. Allotments

Rent 2016.17:

Rent is outstanding from one plot holder. Clerk to issue a further reminder.

Request to form an Allotment Association:

NOTED that there is a lack of interest from plot holders to form an association. Only one person replied to Clerk's enquiry, and was opposed to the idea. The proposer (plot 8) was only interested if there was unanimous support.

RESOLVED that the matter is withdrawn.

8. Recreation Ground and Parish Property

To Discuss and Agree any further works to headstones in the First Extension Graveyard.

NOTED that Gumbrills completed priority repairs of headstones last year at a cost of £1116. Contractors had informed the Clerk at a subsequent site meeting that no further safety work was necessary and that there was no risk to the public. This was confirmed in a letter, and circulated to Councillors before the meeting. The Council had budgeted £4,000 for all tranche works to be undertaken.

Cllr Whyberd moved that no further work was necessary as the headstones had been made safe. All in favour.

RESOLVED that no further work is undertaken, AND advise the PCC that the contractors highlighted a number of unstable headstones in the church's neighbouring graveyard.

To Agree quotations for the Annual Safety Inspection of the Recreation Ground and Children's Play area.

The Clerk had only received one of the two quotations requested for the annual inspection, and one for a post-installation RoSPA inspection of the new play equipment. Cllr Whyberd moved that a post installation inspection should not be necessary as the works are covered under the contractor's and manufacturer's warranties. All in favour.

RESOLVED to defer a decision on the annual inspection to the next Committee Meeting pending all outstanding quotations, AND not to proceed with a post installation inspection.

To consider a request for man-made surface underneath the picnic table area in the Children's play area.

Councillors discussed a request from Mrs Liz Horwood, from Washington, to have

the wet, boggy grass area around the picnic table, replaced with a man-made surface, so that it would be usable.

NOTED that this had been proposed by parents in the initial consultation to improve the Children's Play Area.

Cllr Newman commented that the original image of the proposed works in 2014 showed the exposed areas to be a blue-green colour, indicative of a man-made surface. He had been surprised to find at the site meeting that there would be large sections of turfed areas. The Clerk reminded members that these were indicated in the specifications and quotation which had been agreed by both the Committee and Full Council last year.

The Clerk had not been aware of any previous agreement as it was before her time with the PC, and it had not been raised by Councillors. It was a strict requirement by HAGS-SMP that the site meeting was held after the quotation was agreed. Any product changes would be subject to further cost and delays. The Clerk advised that a man-made surface in the picnic area would likely cost in excess of £2,500, if carried out by HAGS-SMP.

Cllr Whyberd enquired if the whole of senior area was meant to be turfed. The Clerk advised that there would be made-made grass matting underneath the senior equipment, as indicated in the specifications, and agreed to follow this up with contractors. An eco-mulch surface would be laid in the toddler equipment area.

Cllr Thomas suggested that the Council resolves the source of the drainage problem in the picnic area first, before committing to the expense of a new surface.

Cllr Newman reported that the contractors had suggested a French drain, and this could be included in a quotation from HAGS-SMP. They had raised the ground level of the senior play area to improve drainage.

Cllr Whyberd moved that it was necessary to have an idea of costs for the replacement surface area, and drainage solution, and to contact WSCC Highways for advice and any support. All in favour.

RESOLVED to consider quotations for the works to be carried out at a later date, AND to consider any response from Highways, at a subsequent meeting.

Ground Maintenance

For information only

NOTED that Mr Flynn has agreed to carry out the Parish ground maintenance this year, and has thanked the Council. Councillors thanked Mr Flynn for his generous offer to gift a replacement picnic table in the Children's Play Area.

Village Hall

Nothing to report

Youth shelter

For information only

NOTED that the youth shelter has now been removed by Mr Flynn, and the concrete base to be removed shortly. The Clerk reported that the shelter no longer requires insurance cover, and has been removed from the Parish Asset

Register.

Vera's Shelter

NOTED that Vera's Shelter is looking much tidier. Mr Pickford informed the Clerk that he will treat the wood when it has dried out thoroughly, and paint the phone box.

MUGA

Nothing to report.

Children's Play Area

For information only

NOTED that junior play equipment had been installed, and the area turfed. Works on schedule for completion end of March.

Bus Shelters

Nothing to report

Parish Noticeboards

For information only

NOTED that Barratts has installed the new noticeboard at Millford Grange.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

To Consider any additional paths to be added to the Public Rights of Way 2017 Works Programme for Washington.

The Public Rights of Way report of completed maintenance and inspections of footpaths in Washington 2016 was circulated. Councillors considered the proposed 15-month schedule of works for 2017/18.

Cllr Milner-Gulland was surprised that path number 2665, which crosses the bridge, was missing from the schedule. He commented on its thick muddy conditions, and in certain years it had been overhung with vegetation.

RESOLVED that path number 2665 is included in the Capital Improvements Programmed for 2017.

For information only

National Trust - Green Link Footpath

NOTED that local resident Mr Josh Raymond would be contacting NT about removing the barbed wire fencing from the new footpath behind East Clayton Farm. He is proposing an open path which he believes is in keeping with other countryside paths. Mr Raymond agreed to contact the Clerk with the NT's response so that the Council may consider adding it to a subsequent Agenda.

Ivy blocking pavement, The Pike, Washington

NOTED that WSCC Highways have cut back overhanging ivy along the pavement by the Triangle.

10. Conservation issues

Nothing to report

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

Cllr Whyberd moved to approve a hire request for a birthday party on part of the Recreation Ground over the weekend of July 28-30th.

RESOLVED to approve the hire request on condition that the Hall is licensed to sell alcohol.

The Meeting Closed at 19:40 hours

Date of the next OSRA Committee meeting 24th April 2017

Full Council Meeting 3rd April, 2017

Signed.....

Date.....