

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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

Draft MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th January 2016 at Washington Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr. RR Milner-Gulland, Cllr. R Thomas, Cllr. D Whyberd

ALSO: Clerk not present - minutes taken by Cllr Whyberd

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

ABSENT: Cllrs. N Dore (Unwell), D Muddle, K Newman.

Cllr Whyberd opened the meeting at: 19.10 hrs.

- 1. Apologies for absence**
None received.
- 2. Declarations 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),**
The Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the 16th November 2015 were **approved** as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Public Question Time**
No members of the public were in attendance.
- 5. Matters arising from previous minutes.**
There were no matters arising which were not covered by the agenda.
- 6. Allotments**
There were no matters discussed pertaining to the Allotments.
- 7. Recreation Ground and Parish Property**
To discuss and agree the appointment of a tree warden.
The parish have received an application from Mr David Hill who has volunteered to be the Parish Tree Warden. Mr. Hill has a large garden containing a number of trees and is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society.

The Committee **AGREED** that Mr Hill would be a splendid Tree Warden for the Parish and the chairman agreed to contact Mr Hill.

To discuss the 'mobile skate park' taster session on the 17th February and agree on how to advertise.

Cllr Whyberd informed the Committee that unfortunately Mr Donovan was unable to attend the training session on the 11th January, and that the clerk did not know of this until the 18th January. Arranging an alternative training session and advertising the Taster Session before the projected date of 17th February is now probably unworkable so another date for the Taster Session might have to be arranged. The matter is being actively pursued.

To discuss and agree proposals for drainage of the football pitch.

The clerk has asked if Ashington FC would follow up with the FA a request to provide funding for drainage (or anything else) of the Parish Council football pitch.

Cll Whyberd informed the Committee that Sarah Osborne of Ashington FC has offered to investigate whether the Football Association is willing to grant us some money to have the pitch drained, apparently this does occur and we might be able to benefit from this. Alternatively Sport England provides grants of up to £40,000 for pitch improvements. It would be necessary for us to demonstrate the requirement of more than one club for a grant to be possible.

The Committee AGREED to investigate the possibility of attracting more users of the area to make the case more positive.

Danny Flynn has provided a quote for drainage of the football pitch = £400 + VAT (mini mole drain). Plus £480 +VAT to clear ditches along 2 side of the field (allotment & Jockey Meadow).

It was decided that whatever the drainage of the area required, suitable ditches would be essential and thus the Committee decided to employ Mr Flynn to clear the ditches. It was also decided that the mini mole drainage of the pitch was not an appropriate procedure at present with the soil so waterlogged. The opportunities of grant provision would be investigated before the pitch was treated.

To discuss the quote for removal of the tree stump in the recreation ground.

Danny Flynn has provided a quote for this work £120 +VAT. The Committee decided that the trip hazard provided by this large diameter tree stump was minimal and that removal would not be attempted at this time.

Grounds Maintenance

Danny Flynn has quoted a figure of £3300 for grass maintenance for the forthcoming year which is unchanged from last year's contract. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 1st February.

Village Hall

Youth Shelter

For information only: The Cricket roller has been moved moved back to its original position. The Committee thanked Cllr Dan Muddle who organised a group of friends to move the roller.

MUGA
Children's Play Area

Cllr Whyberd commented that HAGS had been asked to provide a quote for refurbishment of equipment in the 'older' children's play area only, as this was considered to be higher priority. Cllr Newman had mentioned that parents were not very happy with a piece of equipment in the 'toddler's area' - HAGS have been contacted again to provide a quote dealing with this separately. This may potentially delay any refurbishment of the main area.

Bus Shelters
Nothing to report.

Parish Notice Boards
Nothing to report.

8. Footpaths and bridleways

Cllr Whyberd highlighted that two pieces of refurbishment of Washington footpaths were featured in the West Sussex Rights of Way department leaflet.

9. Conservation issues

To discuss any update on the management proposals for the Triangle.

Cllr Milner-Gulland commented that he was likely to meet Mr Tony Whitbread at a meeting within the next few days and he would raise the topic of the Triangle with him. Cllr Milner-Gulland was of the opinion that Mr Whitbread was generally in favour of the management of the area but was not sure how much assistance would be available from the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

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

There was no other business

The Meeting Closed at: 19.45 hrs

Date of next OSRA Committee meeting 15th February 2016.

Signed.....

Date.....