

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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

Draft MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2016 at Washington Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Whyberd (Chairman), Cllr Milner-Gulland and Cllr Newman

ALSO: Z Savill (Clerk to Washington Parish Council)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Washington Parish Councillor Lesley Britt.

ABSENT: Cllr Dore (unwell) and Cllr Muddle, Cllr Thomas (work)

Cllr Whyberd opened the meeting at: 19:10 hours

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Whyberd was elected chairman of the committee following a proposal by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Milner-Gulland.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Thomas (work)

3. Declaration of interest and Dispensations.

None declared

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

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the 18th April, 2016 were **accepted** as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Public Question Time

Cllr Lesley Britt informed the council that a local resident at North Farm Cottages may be prepared to repair the allotment gate at low cost. The clerk informed councillors that two cross sections of timber needed repair or replacement. Local handyman George Fielder had informed the clerk that it may be a complex task requiring more specialist skills. Councillors were happy for the clerk to make alternative arrangements with the other local resident if George was unable to carry out the work

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

Chairman's Annual Report from Cllr Whyberd, had been circulated to councillors before the meeting.

7. Allotments

To discuss the tenancy of plot 7 which has become available.

The clerk was instructed to contact the first person on the waiting list who is within the parish, and offer them the tenancy. The clerk informed councillors that the tenant of No 7 wished to be refunded the £50 which they paid for the shed from the previous tenant. Councillors were of the opinion that the payment was a private arrangement between the tenant and previous tenant, and therefore no payment should be made by the council. The clerk to inform the outgoing tenant accordingly.

To receive and discuss any update regarding possible planning restrictions on parking by the allotments and in Sandhill Lane, and the proposed installation of a yellow line outside the allotment gate.

Cllr Whyberd informed the meeting that Senior Planning Compliant Officer, Helen Sissons had informed the clerk that a new case had been opened into the alleged breaches in relation to parking by the allotments, outside the Kia Garage agreed curtilage, and in Sandhill Lane, and that she would be in discussions with WSCC as she believed they were also looking into the issue. The officer advised that any reports of alleged breaches should be reported to her, and any photographic evidence cannot be considered unless it is time and date stamped. Cllr Newman warned that the parking near the junction of the slip road to the allotments and the highway, and the dumping of vehicles, posed a particular danger, and that a collision was only a matter of time. The clerk informed councillors that the parking allegations were on the agenda of the P&T meeting on May 23rd. The clerk to contact Helen Sissons to find out the outcome of her discussions with WSCC.

8. Recreation Ground and Parish Property

Ground Maintenance

Cllr Whyberd informed the meeting that Andrew Gale had completed the 2015.16 tree work at the allotments and submitted a final invoice for £800. The clerk to inspect the tree works to confirm they were satisfactory, before making the payment.

Cllr Whyberd confirmed that Danny Flynn had completed the ditch clearances on the Recreation Ground and that the work appeared to be

satisfactory, particularly the ditch by Jockeys Field which was now very deep and water was flowing nicely. He commented that some youngsters had positioned an old disused gate across the ditch for access to trees at the back of the allotment and that the council would need to investigate further. The maintenance of the hedges and grass appeared to be up to date, and mini mole drainage of the Recreation Ground was anticipated in July or August. The clerk informed councillors that George Fielder would be lightly cutting back nettles along the footpaths as he did last year.

Village Hall

Youth Shelter

MUGA

To discuss the repair of the MUGA court gate

Cllr Whyberd informed councillors that George Fielder had been unable to repair the broken latch on the MUGA and had informed the clerk that Mr Lee Harris, a welder who lives in Washington opposite Kia Garage, would be able to do the repairs. The clerk is awaiting contact from Mr Lee to discuss repair costs.

Children's Play Area

To discuss and receive any update on the application for S106 funding for the provision of improvements to the Children's Play Area, and the sale of HDC skate park equipment.

Cllr Whyberd informed Councillors that the clerk had submitted the s106 funding application for consideration by HDC in early June. He confirmed the clerk's report that the mini skate park equipment was no longer available for purchase. The clerk informed councillors that Horsham advised her that the proposals for the children's play area may need planning consent, and that application costs would be half the full rate because of the Parish Council status. Councillors agreed that she should make an application.

For information only:

Annual inspection of children's play area

The clerk informed councillors that the annual inspection of the children's play area and recreation ground by RoSPA Play Safety Team is to take place in June on a date to be confirmed.

Cost of the inspection is £90.00 plus VAT for up to 5 items of equipment. Anything over is charged at £3.50 plus VAT per item. There is a further charge of £42.50 plus VAT if a member of the Parish Council or clerk wishes to accompany the inspector. The Committee **AGREED** that it was not necessary for the inspector to be accompanied.

Wasp nest

Cllr Whyberd reported that the clerk had requested that George Fielder investigate reports of a possible wasps nest in a piece of wood equipment on the children's climbing frame, but had not found any evidence of a nest.

Bus Shelters

Parish Noticeboards

8. Footpaths and Bridleways

To receive and consider a report that razor wire has been used to repair fencing by a footpath on the chalk quarry at Washington

Cllr Whyberd reported that he had received information from a local resident that razor wire had been installed to make safe path 3606 along the top of the chalk quarries off the Bostal. Councillors were concerned that this seemed an extreme measure but acknowledged the necessity to having some form of fencing. Cllr Newman agreed to a site visit to confirm the reports so that the clerk can contact the landowner at Wiston to discuss a more suitable alternative.

9. Conservation issues

10. Any other Open Space, Recreation & Allotment and Footpaths & Conservation issues

that may arise OR items for the next Agenda

To receive any update from HDC regarding the formation of the mini country park on land north of Millford Grange.

The clerk informed councillors that she had been informed by Hazel Corke at HDC on 5th May that work had not yet started on the Country Park and that the Country Park Management Scheme should have been implemented prior to the occupation of the 39th Dwelling. The officer confirmed that it appeared a number of occupied dwellings may well have exceeded 39 and as such the Planning Obligations Officer would be contacting Barratt in this regard. She was not aware of any discussions that had taken place between Barratt and the National Trust but confirmed that in accordance with the legal agreement, it is the owner of the land who will be responsible for its maintenance.

For information only

Cllr Newman commented that a Land Rover appeared to have been abandoned in the slip road to the allotments for the last two weeks. The clerk was instructed to report the vehicle to PCSO Carol Boniface.

The Meeting Closed at 19.45 hours

Date of the next OSRA Committee meeting 20th June 2016

Signed.....

Date.....