

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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

MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 25th April 2022 at Washington Village Hall (Dore Room).

PRESENT: Cllr S Buddell (SB), Cllr B Hanvey (BH), Cllr A Lisher (AL), Cllr G Lockerbie (Chairman) and Cllr J Luckin (JL).

ALSO: Clerk to the Council Ms Z Savill

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 0

ABSENT: 0

The Chairman opened the meeting at 18:30 hours and welcomed JL as a new Member to the Committee.

1. Receive apologies for absence and Chairman's announcements

All present. The Chairman announced that he and his wife would be moving away outside the area at the end of this year or beginning of next year. But he would remain on the council until that time. He confirmed his willingness to stand again as the Chairman of the Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Council at next month's elections at the APCM (Annual Parish Council Meeting) but would step aside if other nominees came forward. Members were sorry to hear the Chairman would eventually be leaving and they joined BH in wishing him well for the future.

2. Declaration of interest and Dispensations.

SB declared a personal non prejudicial interest in items 7: HDC grant to Millford Grange Jubilee Party and item 8: Dog fouling at Millford Grange Country Park. Reason: He is resident and a director of the Millford Grange (Storrington) Management Company Ltd.

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

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the minutes of the last meeting on 21st March 2022 which were duly signed by the Chairman. JL enquired about the Washington Scarlet apple tree mentioned in the last minutes and if it had been identified on the allotment plot 11A. The Clerk advised that it was later confirmed as another species of apple and that the tree had died. From parish council records,

there would appear to be only one Washington Scarlet tree remaining in the village, possibly at the school. JL offered to make enquiries.

4. Public Speaking

None.

5. Allotments

To Receive the monthly inspection report of the Allotment and consider any recommended action

The Chairman gave a report of an inspection for April. It was noted that plots were being well maintained and cultivated but the pathways and the main fairway needed to be cut. Clerk to notify the Tenants and Stewards.

Tenancy Agreement received for Plot 1.

It was noted that the signed Tenancy Agreement for Plot 1 and rent and deposit have been received from the Tenant, Mr G Turner.

To Consider consent for a shed and greenhouse on Plot 1

Members considered a request from Tenant, Mr G Turner to place a 6 x 4 shed and 6 x 8 greenhouse on his Plot 1. A location plan of the structures were previously circulated together with written confirmation of no objection from the Stewards or the neighbouring plot holder. There were no other structures on the plot. Following a discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the shed and greenhouse as described, in accordance with the Tenancy Agreement. This would include the removal of said structures and any footings by the Tenant at the end of the tenancy if it was not renewed.

For information:

2022 Rents

Members noted the clerk's report showing that all rent payments have been received for 2022.

Allotment Waiting List

Members noted there are 4 remaining on the Allotment Waiting List, 3 of whom live in the parish. There have been no further enquiries since the last meeting.

6. First Extension Graveyard

To Receive the monthly inspection report of the First Extension Graveyard and Consider any recommended action.

Members noted that JL had conducted an inspection and that there were no recommendations for action.

To Review the inspection regime of the First Extension Graveyard

It was noted that AL will be stepping down from the Committee at next month's APCM and that JL has kindly agreed to take over his role of monthly inspections of the graveyard. Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree the new arrangement. They thanked AL for his work in this role and JL for volunteering future inspections.

7. To Report on any matters arising from the last meeting and agree any recommended action.

- **CLAG 3 Poster on the Recreation Ground:**

On the instruction of this committee, the clerk notified the Chairman of the Chanctonbury Action Group (CLAG), Mr Russ Fowler earlier this year to remove the banner from the fencing. Mr Fowler has since requested consent to keep the poster in place until the planning application is decided on the Rock Common quarry proposals.

Members expressed concern that the poster's location on Parish Council property could be prejudicial to its impartial consideration of any future considerations relating to the development at Rock Common. **RESOLVED** unanimously to request that CLAG removes the banner promptly. Clerk to write to the CLAG Chairman.

- **Application to adopt the phone kiosk in The Street following a material change.**

HDC has not confirmed the kiosk's listed status. But they advised that if it is listed in its own right, planning consent is not required for BT to remove the telephony prior to adoption. Clerk to make further enquiries to be discussed at the next meeting. BT has been asked to halt the consultation process for adoption until further notice.

- **Trees on National Trust (NT) woodland bordering Georges Lane bridleway:** The NT has reached an agreement with a resident regarding concerns about NT trees near his property. The NT anticipate an inspection of some of the trees along the bridleway by a specialist in May, and will update the PC on the findings. They have acknowledged the Parish Council's report of a broken bough from the recent storms which is still hanging over the bridleway.

- **HDC £200 grant towards parish Jubilee celebrations on the weekend of 2nd 3rd June.**

HDC has approved a £200 grant to the PC to give to the Jubilee street party at Millford Grange. There was the option to split it evenly with a similar but as yet unconfirmed event planned at Heath Common but the organiser had still not come forward.

Following a discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to award half the grant to the Millford Grange party. The remainder to be held in contingency should the one at Heath Common be confirmed before the next Full Council meeting on 9th May.

8.Recreation Ground and Parish Property

To Agree a quotation for the Council's 3-year Tree inspection

Members discussed and **RESOLVED** unanimously to engage Andrew Gale Tree Consultancy Ltd (AGT) for the survey of the Council's tree stock in October at a cost of £650. AGT agreed to advise on the Council's Tree Risk Management Survey at the time of the inspection to include a rolling programme of recommended works.

To Report an update on the Parish Tree Warden and Agree recommended action.

It was noted that the Parish Tree Warden had not confirmed when he will be returning to his role since stepping back in 2019 for health reasons. Following a discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to find out if he is returning, and if not, to make enquires on engaging someone to take over his role.

To Discuss planting a tree in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee

Members discussed various options for a Jubilee tree on the Recreation Ground, including a free specimen of choice from Horsham District Council as part of its Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

RESOLVED unanimously to order the largest standard copper beech (*Fagus Sylvatica Purpurea*), with a Himalayan White Barked Birch (*Betula Jacquemontii*) in reserve, from HDC's stock. Clerk to seek quotes for planting to be approved at the next Full Council meeting on 9th May.

To Report the following for information:

Ground Maintenance: As instructed at the last meeting,, the clerk has engaged RWE Gardening services to address fresh mole activity on the grounds.

Village Hall: Mr Rog Gerig (23rd March) Trustee, confirmed that the hot water leak from a pipe in the exterior wall of the hall, is repaired. It was noted that flooded area by the hall is drying out slowly.

Defibrillator at the Village Hall: The replacement gel pack for the hall AED has been fitted. The battery is 70% charged. The Council's insurer has closed the case of reported vandalism in January, there being no claims submitted.

Defibrillator at Pixies Corner: The battery is 70% charged and unit intact.

MUGA: The padlock code for the tennis net storage no longer works. Clerk to arrange its replacement .

Children's Play Area: The contractor has removed the signage to update the wording

Bus Shelters: The Council's two shelters by the A24 in the parish have been removed by WSCC as agreed.

Vera's Shelter: Nothing further to report

Parish Noticeboards: Nothing further to report. Awaiting quotation from contractor for refurbishment.

8. Footpaths and Bridleways

To Discuss concerns about dog fouling on the Millford Grange Country Park

Members discussed reports of increased dog fouling at the Millford Grange Country Park. It is open to the public but privately maintained by residents. Members noted that residents are frustrated by the abuse of the facility at their expense and the health risks, particularly for children in the play area. The management company reports that much of the problem is the result of walkers visiting the park from outside the area. At the last FC meeting, Cllr James Wright (HDC) agreed to look into the provision of dog bins, the preferred option. He also sought clarity on the legal position of locking the gates as a last resort which was shared with members before this meeting. It showed that part of the S106 agreement with the developer of Millford Grange made it a requirement for unrestricted public access through the park.

Following a discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to support the application by Millford Grange residents to Horsham District Council to provide 3 bins, the position to be determined in consultation with the management company. It should be pointed out that consideration should be given to the impact of the Covid pandemic on the Country Park, resulting in heavy use of its pathways.


9. Conservation Issues

There were no reports.

10. Any other urgent Open Space, Recreation & Allotment and Footpaths & Conservation issues that may arise OR items for the next Agenda To Report items for the next Agenda
No urgent issues were raised or items for the next meeting.

11. Date of the next meetings at the Washington Village Hall
Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 9th May 2022, 7:00pm
Parish Council Meeting: Monday 9th May 2022, 7:30pm
Open Spaces Committee: Monday 23rd May 7:00pm
Planning & Transport Committee: Monday 23rd May 2022, 7:45pm

There being no other business to report, the meeting was closed at 19:18 hrs.

Signed.....


Dated.....

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