

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting

18th January 2022 at 7:30pm

St Anne's Hall, Aylesbury Road, Wendover HP22 6JG

Present: Councillors Stephen Worth (Chair), Jennifer Ballantine, Sheila Bulpett, Julie Williams, Diane Washington, Sam Walker, Ruth Malleson and Julie Lloyds-Evans. Non-Committee Member Councillor Jo Durden-Moore.

Clerk: Amanda Massingham

Members of Public: 8

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A21.093 Apologies were made by Councillor Standen and they were ACCEPTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A21.094 None.

3. MINUTES

A21.095 The minutes of the meeting of 21st December 2021 were AGREED as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A21.096 It was AGREED to bring forward item **9.a Helicopter Playpark**. Several members of the public spoke in anger regarding the removal of the Helicopter Park playground at the Princesses Mary Gate estate. Issues raised included:

- The equipment was removed with out notice, some panels had been vandalised, but most of the equipment was in good condition and there was no need to remove.
- The need for outdoor play equipment is crucial to wellbeing factors, this has been highlighted during the pandemic.
- The teenagers should be held accountable, RAF Halton did write to John Colet School, but there was no response and it was not followed up.
- Concerns were raised in relation to the future of the Pirate Park, and what could be done to ensure this playpark is not removed.
- Residents would be willing to conduct evening patrols to tackle the anti-social issues.
- Key stakeholders had been contacted, but other than the Parish Council, no one had responded.
- It was suggested that the playpark was originally installed, as a joint venture project between the District Council and the RAF when the Barlow Road playpark was removed. The use of S106 monies was unclear.

Councillor Worth reconfirmed that whilst the Parish Council was aware of the vandalism issues since October, the Council had not been informed of the removal last week, until residents reported it. The Council had been in conversation with RAF Halton with the idea of the park being gifted to the Council. This request was refused owing to land issues. The Helicopter playpark is owned and maintained by MOD, but the land on which its sits in owned by Annington Homes. The issue had been escalated to the

Buckinghamshire Councillors and Rob Butler MP. Rob Butler has spoken to the Minister for Defence Procurement, and an investigation is underway, with the understanding that a response from the MOD must be forthcoming within 28 days. Councillor Walker reported that he had requested some documents from the land registry to determine the ownership and lease arrangements to try and establish if and who was allocated any S106 funds. The Deputy Clerk reported that the Parks and Green Infrastructure Officer at Buckinghamshire Council had been contacted to determine the rules and or guidance in terms of maintenance and longevity when S106 funds are used. Councillor Malleson suggested that the RAF should share the correspondence it has had with Annington Homes. It was also confirmed that RAF Halton were asked to attend the meeting or at the very least provide a statement, the following statement was received:

RAF Halton is in discussion with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) following the removal of the equipment at the Haddington Play Park. We recognise the Play Park is well-located for children of both Service and civilian families, but the area has become the centre of unsocial behaviour and vandalism, which had led to considerable repair costs and a risk of injury to children that required swift preventative action. Once all of the issues concerning the site are understood, DIO will host an engagement opportunity at RAF Halton to discuss the matter with the local community and the Parish Council.

The discussions concluded with the Council confirming that they would continue to engage with the key stake holders and report back at future meetings.

5. UPDATE REPORT FROM THE CLERK

A21.097 The Deputy Clerks report was NOTED. The Play Around the Parishes family fun day had been booked to take place on Monday 8th August 2022 at Ashbrook. Maintenance for the Community Orchard will take place late February to prune the pip fruit trees. The two new notice boards have been installed at Ashbrook. The Playground Inspection repair quotes will be added to the March agenda.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

A21.098 The 4 items of the correspondence about the Helicopter Park were NOTED during Public Participation. The Deputy Clerk reported that further correspondence had been received since the agenda was released last week, the contents of which mirror the feelings from the residents in attendance.

7. FINANCE

To consider the list of payments and sign cheques.

A21.099 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the list of payments and they were duly signed by the Chairman. The online payments would be made the following day.

8. OPEN SPACES AND HAMPDEN POND

a) Wendover Cricket Club Lease

To receive an update from Councillors Walker and Worth.

A21.100 Councillor Walker reported that a draft lease would be circulated to the Committee by the end of the week. Once comment is received, a copy will be sent to the Cricket Club. The final draft will be added to the March agenda.

b) Hampden Pond

To consider a quote to relevel the pond path along the perimeter of Church Lane.

A21.101 The quotation to re-level the pond path on the Church Lane side of the pond was NOTED. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote and to fund from the remaining Pond EMR and 4410 Groundworks budget.

9. OTHER MATTERS

a) Helicopter Playpark

To receive an update on the removal of equipment at the Helicopter park and consider any actions.

A21.102 This item was discussed during Public Participation.

b) Devolution Agreement 2022-2023

To review and sign the Buckinghamshire Council Devolution Agreement for activities from 1st April to 31st March 2023.

A21.103 The contents of the agreement dated 11th January 2022 were NOTED. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the contract variation agreement; it was signed by Councillors Worth and Bulpett.

c) High Street hanging Baskets and Entry Point Troughs 2022-2023.

To consider a quote from Windowflowers to continue with the floral summer and winter planting and maintenance contact.

A21.104 A background of how the hanging baskets have been managed over the last couple of years was provided by the Deputy Clerk, the biggest issue relates to the volume of watering that is required during the summer months when the grass cutting tasks increase. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation for the baskets and troughs for summer and winter 2022-2023. Budget had been forecasted against account 4112.

d) Open Spaces Working Group

To receive an update and any recommendations from the working group.

A21.105 Councillor Standen was not present at the meeting. Councillor Bulpett reported that there had not been a working group meeting in recent weeks.

10. MATTERS TO REPORT

A21.106 Councillor Bulpett reported that some Councillors joined the Climate Action Wendover group at the January local produce market and over 150 tree whips were handed out to residents.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

A21.107 Items should be forward to the Deputy Clerk. Councillor Washington queried plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Councillor Bulpett reported that ideas will be discussed at the February 2022 Parish Council meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A21.108 The next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee is 15th March 2022. It was NOTED that updates relating to the Helicopter Park may need to be reported the Parish Council meetings scheduled for 1st February and 1st March 2022.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

A21.109 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 8:20pm.

Stephen Worth

Signed by
Chair to the Amenities Committee

Date: 15th March 2022