

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting 20th October 2020 at 7:30pm Online Meeting via Zoom

Present: Councillors Ballantine, Chambers, Clayton, Green, Gregory, Myers, Walsh, Washington and Worth.

Clerk: Amanda Massingham

Members of Public: 0

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A20.21 Apologies were made by Cllr Clare and they were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A20.22 None

3. MINUTES

A20.23 The minutes of the meeting of 15th September 2020 were AGREED as a true record and were signed by the chairman.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A20.24 None.

5. UPDATE REPORT FROM THE CLERK

A20.25 The Clerks report was NOTED. The Deputy Clerk reported that the defibrillator battery at Ashbrook had been changed. Councillor Green challenged the cost of replacement batteries and queried if re-chargeable batteries are an option. It was confirmed that re-chargeable batteries are not an option and that all batteries need to be changed every 4 years whether the device has been used or not. The Deputy Clerk continued to report that Councillor Worth's memorial tree has been planted in the orchard, Arboriculturist Simon Payne had been instructed to do an additional tree survey at the pond due to some fallen limbs, the cesspool at Ashbrook was under investigation due to leaking, the bi annual bench audit was currently taking place and the winter planting had been done at the village entry points and Manor Waste planters. Councillor Walsh reported that the Clerk had advised him that the quote for the cesspool had been received and the repairs would cost £1.7k. The committee AGREED that the works should proceed without delay. Councillor Myers queried when the dead tree at the orchard will be replaced, it was confirmed that it would be replaced when Heritage Fruit Tree's do their maintenance visit in December.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

A20.26 The correspondence from a resident thanking the grounds team was NOTED. Councillor Clayton referred to the additional comments about dog waste around the village. Councillor Worth reported that our social media campaign is on-going and that Buckinghamshire Council have been contacted to arrange dog warden patrols around the village.

7. FINANCE

To consider the list of payments and sign cheques.

A20.27 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) Hampden Meadow Trees

To receive an updated final proposal from the Climate Action Wendover Group.

A20.28 Councillor Worth reported that he had meet with the Climate Action Wendover Group and explored new planting areas following the feedback from the last Amenities meeting. He confirmed the new location was a line of tree along the bottom end of Hampden Meadow to ensure there was no uninterrupted vista across the meadow. No objections were raised by the Committee. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to allow the planting as per the proposal.

b) Playpark Inspection Reports

To review the recent inspection reports and quotations for Ashbrook and Hampden Meadow Playparks.

A20.29 The quotations were NOTED by the Committee. Councillor Chambers reported the work should be completed as the inspections had been commissioned by the Council and the repairs would need to be done to avoid any liability issues. Councillors Chambers added that it would be useful to understand any guarantees associated with the repairs. The Committee AGREED that the all the repairs should be done in line with the quotation. As the costs are in excess of the delegated spend powers of the Committee it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that all the repairs are completed, and seek guidance from the full Council in terms of funding. The Deputy Clerk reported that the dedicated account 4440 Play Equipment Repairs and Maintenance only had £4174 left in the account, and the full net amount of the repairs was £16,740. The details would be forwarded to the Clerk for the November Parish Council meeting.

9. OTHER MATTERS

a) Memorial Bench

To consider a new memorial bench application.

A20.30 The application for a new bench along the Aylesbury Road close to the old Raj Indian restaurant was NOTED. Councillor Clayton raised issues with the bench request being outside residential properties and reminded the Committee of previous complaints when a bench was located along Pound Street. Cllr Gregory raised the idea of having a round bench around an existing tree, the Committee then agreed that a memorial tree may also be a positive memorial. The Deputy Clerk added that a memorial tree along a Highway would be difficult as permission would need to be granted by Buckinghamshire Council and a cultivation license would need to be obtained. It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the application by suggesting a memorial tree could be planted in one of Wendover Parish Councils open spaces or a memorial plaque could be added to an existing bench in the immediate area, the bench at the junction of Wharf Road was suggested.

b) Gator Repairs

To consider a quotation for gator repairs.

A20.31 The quotation from Farols for a net cost of £3158.31 was NOTED. Councillor Green queried the need of a gator and suggested a more robust vehicle is required. The Deputy Clerk reported that a provision of a new vehicle is included in next years budget and that the quote had also been shared with the Chair of Finance who was happy that a virement could be done from another Recreation Expenditure account at the next Finance Committee meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the repairs as per the quotation.

c) The Beeches Lighting

To consider a request from the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust.

A20.32 The request to run an electric feed from a streetlight was NOTED. Councillor Gregory queried whether the option of solar lighting as been explored by the trust. The Deputy Clerk reported that the contractors would need to be registered on the Highways Electrical Register Scheme to do the works, and whilst the trust have confirmed their inhouse staff are fully trained electricians, it has not been acknowledged that they are HERS compliant. Councillor Worth queried the cost the of electrical supply and how the costs would be recovered, the Deputy Clerk explained that we charge the trust of electricity costs for the 32 streetlights on their property/land and the costs would be captured in this charge. It was **RESOLVED** to allow the works to proceed as long as confirmation is received in terms of the contractor compliance.

d) 2021/2022 Amenities Budget

To consider budget lines and ear marked reserves for the draft Amenities budget 2021/22.

A20.33 The budget detail was NOTED. The Deputy Clerk reported that the Chairmen of each Committee had already seen and commented on the budget. The Committees would now individually review their aspects of the budget before a final draft is reviewed by the Finance Committee in November with a recommendation going to the full Council in December. Councillor Clayton quired the several EMR's, the Deputy Clerk responded as follows:

- Entrance Point White Gates £15k – This was the worst case scenario and 50/50 funding would come from the community board.
- CAW Trees £10K, plus Highways Tree £10K – It was confirmed that the CAW Trees provision was if the Parish Council were to adopt Walnut Tree Meadow
- No funds against Playground Improvements – When the file was reviewed by the chairs, the funds were removed as the open spaces working group is only just forming and it was unlikely that funds would need to be made available immediately based on their recommendations.
- What is Cloudy – Cloudy is an IT agency and communications had taken place to improve and replace the tablets that Councillors had recently been allocated. The chairs of the Committee deemed this an unnecessary spend, and were reluctant to include funding for this project as this difficult time for Parishioners in order not to raise the precept.

The Deputy Clerk further added that an EMR provision had been included for a new grounds team vehicle, however if the vehicle were to be leased the annualised lease cost would move to account 4425 Capital Expenditure. In addition a provision for arranging a contractor to manage the floral displays next year had been set at £2.5k, however an initial quotation will increase the cost to approximately £3.7k.

e) Change of use proposal London Road Skate Park.

To consider a proposal to create a food forest community garden.

A20.34 The proposal document was NOTED. Councillors discussed the proposal in detail and overall they viewed the proposal positively, however several issues were raised as follows:

- Who would manage the overall project, what would be required from the Parish Council?
- Concerns relating to parking and access, the proposal mentions a classroom.

- What are the benefits to the Wendover Community. If it is a Wendover asset and Parish Council is funding is required it needs to benefit the Wendover Community. The proposal states it would benefit Aylesbury and Wycombe.
- Does a land lease agreement need to be drawn up
- Due to concerns highly unlikely that the proposed timelines would be meet.

Councillor Clayton suggested that a meeting should be arranged with the proposer and members of the Amenities Committee to address the immediate concerns before the proposal is shared and or recommended to the wider Council. Councillors Clayton, Myers, Chambers and Worth AGREED to meet with the proposer. The Deputy Clerk was tasked with arranging an online meeting.

10. MATTERS TO REPORT

A20.35 None.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

A20.36 Items should be forward to the Deputy Clerk.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A20.37 The next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee is 15th December 2020.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

A20.38 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 20:35pm

Signed by
Chairman to the Amenities Committee

Date: 15th December 2020