

Minutes of an Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday 21st July 2016 at 6pm in the Civic Centre Eckington

Attendance

Councillors:- C.A. Gare; K. Deffley arrived at 6.07pm, C. Hunt; L. Kirton; B. Ridgway arrived 6.05pm and left the meeting at 7.05pm

Others:- Clerk R. Bullimore; M. Gazur(RFO); J. Green (Cemetery Spt.) left the meeting at 6.50pm.

OS 17/16 Apologies
J. Ridgway (Work).

OS 18/16 Appointment of Chair
Councillor Gare was nominated and duly appointed Chair of the Open Spaces Committee.

OS 19/16 Appointment of Vice Chair
Councillor Kirton was nominated and duly appointed Vice Chair of the Open Spaces Committee.

OS 20/16 Minutes

RESOLVED Minutes 1/16 – 16/16 of an Open Spaces Committee Meeting held 18th February 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the date of the meeting on the heading read 2nd June 2015.

OS 21/16 Cemetery

- a. Report from Cemetery Superintendent (John Green) – Due to the bad weather in May and June the cemetery staff are behind with the grass cutting. The tractor is in the workshop for repair, if it is not returned by Monday 25th July the Superintendent will hire a replacement mower.
- b. The Council has previously agreed to the Eckington & District Preservation & Historical Society Members request for a memorial to be installed in the cemetery to mark the first grave in Eckington cemetery. The Committee supported the location identified by the Cemetery Superintendent.
- c. There is still an issue with dog fouling. Prior to meeting Councillor Hunt and the Clerk watched a member of the public allow his dog to walk around the graves. When the dog owner was challenged by Councillor Hunt he received some verbal abuse. The dog owner left through the bottom entrance shouting abuse and he tore off the no dogs allowed sign which was attached the gate. RESOLVED Clerk to report the incident to the police. If the Superintendent can find out the dog owners address Clerk to send

- him a warning letter about his actions and unacceptable behaviour.
- d. Clerk informed the Committee that she had asked for quotations from three companies for a section of the road leading to the Chapel of Ease to be resurfaced and for the white lines to be repainted. She highlighted that a channel had be partly dug for a water connection to the Chapel of Ease and suggested the pipe should be installed before the tarmac was laid. RESOLVED Clerk to get quotes for the trench be mechanically dug out and to compare the cost to hire equipment for the cemetery staff to do the job. RECOMMEND the trench to be dug out using the cheapest most efficient option before the tarmac is laid.
 - e. Councillor Gare identified an issue with the footpaths where the nature trail was to start. Clerk to find a solution to improve the condition of the surface of the footpath.
 - f. Councillor Gare raised concerns about dead branches on the trees. The Superintendent informed the Committee that inspection and maintenance of the trees is carried out annually.
 - g. The Committee approved Paul Burdett's request to install owl boxes at the cemetery.
 - h. The Superintendent advised the Committee that the direction signs that had become loose have been removed and will be reinstalled as soon as possible.
 - i. The Committee asked why the staff did not finish cutting the grass in one area before moving on to a different area. The Superintendent said it was because the mowers were used to cut the grass in between the graves and the tractor was used to cut the large areas of grass and the tractor is in the workshop awaiting repair. The Superintendent assured the Committee that all the sections of the cemetery will be completed to a satisfactory standard once the tractor has been repaired.
 - j. The proposed hawthorn hedge and the shrub beds will be planted in autumn. If the whole section of the proposed beech hedge is planted it would cause an obstruction for the grave digging equipment so this will be planted a section at a time starting in autumn.
 - k. Triangular Field Clerk to find out who owns the field next to the triangle bed. RECOMMEND the Council purchase this field and lay a track for vehicle access from the main road to the triangular field.
 - l. Woodland Burials Clerk to arrange a visit to a Woodland Burial site.
 - m. Chapel of Ease – Councillor Kirton agreed to investigate funding options for the renovation of the Chapel. An office and a reception area to be created in one side for members of the public to carry out research work about family graves and the history of the cemetery. To provide a public convenience for the visitors in the other side.

- n. There has been some interest shown in the forming of a Friends Group of the Eckington Cemetery. A meeting to be arranged in September to discuss ideas.

OS 22/16 Allotments

Clerk reported on the allotments:

All the plots have been taken. There are 35 people on the waiting list, these have been contacted to find out if they still want to be on the list and to ask if they want to be added to the Gleadless association waiting list. One resident has taken a plot at Gleadless.

A letter has been sent to the Marsh Lane tenants to ask if they would like a water supply on their plot. Four tenants have registered an interest in having a meter and water supply installed.

There is one plot at Marsh Lane that is not being cultivated. Clerk to send a letter to the tenant to see why it is not being maintained. The gate on the lane leading to the school field at Marsh Lane has been removed. No known problems have arisen and there has been no reports received regarding damage to the school field. The situation is to be monitored and if necessary a new gate to be installed that can be secured with a combination lock.

There is still a problem with the drain overflowing at Setcup Lane. Silt from builders rubble that has been tipped further up the lane is being washed into the drain. The tenants have removed what they can but specialist equipment is required to clear the blockage. The problem has been reported to the County Council four times. Councillor Kirton informed the Committee that the County Council cleaned the drain yesterday. RESOLVED Clerk to ask the Council handyman if he can suggest anything that may help to divert the water away from the allotments.

Eckington Junior School have taken an allotment at School Street.

A complaint regarding a nasty smell at one of the allotments on School Street is being addressed and there are signs of improvement. Clerk will continue to monitor the site.

There is an allotment meeting 6pm Thursday 28th July at the Civic Centre for tenants to raise any issues or suggestions.

OS 23/16 Play Areas

All the play areas have been painted and they are looking good. The bench that had been vandalised at Ida's Road has been replaced. Clerk to order a bin for Ida's Road. Clerk has ordered four new benches to be placed at Ridgeway Main Road, Darcy Road, Golden Ball and Emmett Carr Lane play areas. Clerk to meet with Andy Broadhead to discuss a problem with surface water at Ducksett Lane and graffiti issues at Ida's Road play area and the

Golden Ball skate park. Councillor Kirton said that the police are investigating the graffiti issue at Ida's Road.

Members considered a request for permission to have an organised agility course on area in the Parish. No suitable area identified.

Clerk agreed to a request for the Council handy man to trim a section of weeds at Marsh Lane play area.

OS 24/16 Open Spaces

A resident has complained about a bench being installed in front of her property at Ridgeway. Clerk has contacted the resident who purchased the bench to ask if she would mind if the bench was moved and installed somewhere else. Clerk is in negotiation with the licencing department to find an alternative location. The bench has been moved as a temporary measure whilst the County Council Highways department carry out essential footpath maintenance work. Both residents have been informed of the situation.

OS 25/16 Litter Bins

Councillor Kirton asked how often the District Council empty the litter bins. Clerk informed them that they are contracted to empty the bins on a weekly basis. Councillors to inform the Clerk of any bins that are not being emptied weekly. Councillor Hunt to ask if the District Council will or if the Parish Council can install a litter bin at the bottom of Wolfrick Road and one at Back Lane.

OS 26/16 Market

Clerk has spoken to a number of traders to ask if they would like to attend Eckington Market. Feedback is that none are interested in attending a weekly market but have said they would like to attend any one off markets or events. Clerk agreed to work on this project at a later date.

OS 27/16 Maintenance of Steadsfield

Clerk to contact the District Council to agree on a maintenance agreement for the field between Ida's Road play area and the school field. The Parish Council lease this piece of land off the County Council at an annual fee of £35.

OS 28/16 War Memorials

Members thanked the Parish Council handyman for the improvements made at Marsh Lane Memorial.

OS 29/16 Eckington Woods

Councillor Gare investigating.

Meeting finished at 7.55pm