

Minutes of an Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th November 2016 at 6pm in the Civic Centre Eckington

Attendance

Councillors:- C.A. Gare (Chair) K. Deffley; A Dye; C. Hunt; L. Kirton; J Ridgway and B. Ridgway.

Others:- Clerk R. Bullimore; ; J. Green (Cemetery Spt.)

OS 30/16 Minutes

RESOLVED Minutes 17/16 – 29/16 of an Open Spaces Committee Meeting held 21st July 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to not all but most of the play areas have been painted, Renishaw play areas need painting.

OS 31/16 Cemetery

- a. Report from Cemetery Superintendent (John Green) – The tractor has had two new tyres fitted and the middle deck has been repaired. Due to the age and condition of the tractor it was agreed to look at the possibility of lease hiring a tractor.
- b. Clerk reported on a miscommunication issue regarding the purchase of a grave. A customer with limited accessibility wanted to purchase a grave at the end of a row. The grave purchased is in the middle of a row. To enable the customer to be able to visit his deceased wives grave in his wheelchair he has had to purchase a second plot directly in front. The Committee agreed to look at providing a small number of graves with disability access.
- c. The Cemetery Superintendent agreed to investigate options to shield the view of the compounds from visitors. Clerk to obtain quotes to construct a limestone roadway to the compounds.
- d. Cemetery staff to tidy up the shrubs and beds. New substantial feature beds to be created.
- e. Councillor Kirton agreed to look at available funding and to bring a proposal to the next meeting to make the cemetery and its buildings more accessible, to educate visitors about the cemetery's history, heritage, wildlife, trees and plants.
- f. Clerk to apply to the County Council's free tree scheme to create a native hedge row at the top of the cemetery.
- g. It was agreed that there were too many benches in the Cemetery. Worn out benches are to be removed, the owners will be notified and will not be encouraged to purchase a replacement. Instead they will be asked if they want to sponsor an acer tree. Superintendent to create a plan of the Cemetery and mark out the location of benches and suitable locations to plant acers. The

handyman to be asked to take an aerial view photo of the cemetery to assist with the drawing of the plan.

OS 32/16 Allotments

Clerk reported on the allotments:

There are 43 people on the waiting list. Letters have been sent to eleven tenants giving them 28 days to tidy up their plots. One out of the eleven tenants have responded. Eviction letters to be sent to the ten tenants who are not maintain their plots. A request from a tenant on Landsbury Road allotment to have a plot on School Street allotment was approved.

Councillor J Ridgway asked the Committee to offer a plot to people with disability and or mental health issues. Councillor Hunt said he would speak to one of the organisers of the Monday Club to see if they would be interested in having an allotment.

The Clerk has informed a tenant on Duckset Lane allotments who rents 11 plots for grazing horses that if Sitwell Estates increase the rent because grazing land is more expensive than allotment land then the increase will be passed onto her. There has been issue with her using the field next to the allotments for the delivery of hay. The agent for Sitwell Estates has demanded that the gate leading to plot numbers 34, 35 and 36 is blocked up and a new gate access is created further. The tenant has agreed to move the gate.

6 Marsh Lane tenants have requested a water supply on their plot. removed. The supply will be installed over the winter period.

Flooding issue with the drain at Setcup Lane, the handyman checks and clears the drain of any debris on a weekly basis. This seems to have resolved the flooding problem however there has not been a great deal of rainfall so it may not be a permanent solution.

Councillor Gare said she had received a number of complaints from neighbouring residents about tenants lighting bonfires during the day. Clerk to send letters to all allotment tenants asking them to compost as much waste as they can and to be more courteous about lighting fires.

OS 33/16 Play Areas

Following an inspection of the play equipment at Ridgeway play area and further inspection from Councillor Dye. It was agreed that the Rainbow multi play unit needs replacing. Clerk to ask the District Council to remove the decayed trapeze handles to prevent any accidents. RECOMMEND that the unit is replaced with a children's cradle swing.

It was agreed that a standard recycled bench should be installed at Renishaw play area. Councillor Gare to survey the play areas and decide which bench

is in most need of replacement and this will be replaced with a multi-coloured bench.

RECOMMEND that play area sign posts be attached to posts near play areas in the Parish.

Clerk informed the Committee that the gate at Landsbury Road Skate Park has been repeatedly vandalised and the District Council has removed gate. This is taking it outside of the normal maintenance work and the Parish Council will have to pay for any additional repairs. The District Council are looking at the legal requirements of whether a gate needs to be in place and looking at an alternate style of gate.

OS 34/16 Open Spaces

Clerk to investigate the costs for a tree maintenance scheme for the Parish.

The Focus Group have asked for permission to install a Memorial Plaque on the fence at Landsbury Road play area in memory of the work two of their past members did to get the MUGGA installed. The Committee have no objection to them having a Memorial Plaque installed on the fence but suggested that a more visible location would be better. Councillor Kirton to ask the Focus Group to suggest a more central and visible location.

OS 35/16 Steadsfield

Councillor Dye to investigate costs for cutting the grass at Steadsfield.

OS 36/16 War Memorials

Clerk to find out what was approved regarding a new War Memorial for Renishaw.

Clerk to get a quotation to have the names re scribed on the Marsh Lane War Memorial. If the stone is not suitable for re scribing a quotation for a separate plaque with the names of the fallen to be sought.

OS 37/16 Dog Bins

A new bin has been ordered for installation at Camms School.

The Committee considered a request for a dog bin to be installed at Back Lane, Eckington. The land is owned by Sitwell Estates the Parish Council are not prepared to install a dog bin on private land. The Committee suggested that education about clearing up after your dog would be a better way of tackling the dog fouling issues. RECOMMEND 10, 000 biodegradable dog bags are purchased with a message informing people to take their dog waste home with them at a cost of £360.

OS 38/16 Bulb Planting

Councillor Tite has been offered some bulbs for planting in a community area in the Parish of Eckington. RECOMMEND that a Community Planting event is arranged and the bulbs are planted near the entrance at the cemetery.

OS 39/16 Items for consideration for inclusion in the Precept

New equipment for Ridgeway play area, dog bags, new path and driveway at the cemetery and a tree maintenance scheme.

OS 40/16 County Council Snow Warden Scheme

The Committee considered a request from a resident public for the Council to appoint someone to be a snow warden. The Parish Council are not the gritting authority, Clerk to redirect the resident to the County Council who are the gritting authority and who manage and recruit for the snow warden scheme.

OS 41/16 Public Right of Way Footpaths

Councillor Kirton informed the Committee that the Parish Council could claim £607 from the County Council Footpath Maintenance Scheme for tidying up any public rights of way footpaths. The Ramblers would be willing to clear some of the footpaths in the Parish if the Council would provide them with some equipment. Clerk to contact the County Council's Footpath Maintenance office for details.