

Minutes of an Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2017 at 6pm in the Civic Centre Eckington

Attendance

Councillors: - C. Gare; A Dye; K Deffley and L. Kirton

Others: - Clerk R. Bullimore; Assistant Clerk R. Hill

OS 79/17 Apologies

RESOLVED to note apologies received from Councillors E Fisher; B Ridgway and J Ridgway. John Green Cemetery Supervisor (Holiday)

OS 80/17 Minutes

Minutes 65/17 – 78/17 of an Open Spaces Committee Meeting held 20th July 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

The Chair signed the Minutes.

OS 81/17 Cemetery

Clerk read the Cemetery Report: The new beech hedge is to be planted next week and two new benches will be installed at the front of the hedge. There is one vacant grave remaining on the present section. New burials will take place in a new section at the top. The cemetery supervisor has proposed that the soil heap is moved to new section at the top. RECOMMEND the soil heap is moved further along from where it is now and nearer to the to the parking bays near the entrance to the cemetery. A compost area is created next to the soil heap. Both areas to be screened with fence panels and covered with artificial grass.

Clerk informed the Committee that the new cutting equipment has made a marked improvement to the quality of the grass cutting. Notices have been placed on all unkempt graves by the cemetery staff. Asking people to tidy up the graves within two weeks and to remove any unauthorised memorabilia.

Clerk reported on the relocation of the Cemetery Administration Officer RECOMMEND a letter of apology is sent to the Administration Officer.

RECOMMEND A simplified set of cemetery rules has been created for the noticeboards in the cemetery and to be circulated to customers.

RECOMMEND that a concrete plinth is installed for the siting of headstones to keep the rows uniformed.

RECOMMEND the three-tiered fountain is installed in March 2018 and planted up with seasonal plants. The cost of planting is precepted for.

RESOLVED volunteer Councillors to offer gardening tips to the staff and help with the maintenance of the flower beds in the cemetery.

OS 82/17 Allotments

There are eleven people on the allotment waiting list and one vacancy which is to be filled shortly.

The tenant on School Street allotment plot 18A is giving up her plot in January 2018, Renishaw Day Care Centre have indicated that they would like to take it on as a community allotment.

RESOLVED to grant permission to the tenants at Gleadless Allotments to install a lockable height barrier on the entrance to the plots to help to reduce fly tipping.

OS 83/17 Play Areas

Assistant Clerk to create a play area leaflet to help to promote the play areas within the parish.

RESOLVED volunteers have agreed to lay the hedge at Idas Road play area. There will be one session for the volunteers who layered the hedge at Marsh Lane play area followed by one open session for anyone else who is interested in helping. Clerk to ask the District Council if they will chip any waste.

OS 84/17 Market

Assistant Clerk proposing to organise a Food & Drink festival.

OS 85/17 War Memorials

RECOMMEND Eckington Parish Council grants the Tara Group permission to raise funds for the purchase and installation of a bespoke war memorial bench to be sited adjacent to the war memorial at Marsh Lane.

Tara Group would like a plaque with the names of the fallen attached to the war memorial at Marsh Lane. RESOLVED to obtain quotes to clean the war memorial and for a plaque.

OS 86/17 Dog and Litter Bins

RESOLVED to note a litter bin instead of a dog bin has been installed at Staniforth Avenue, the District Council are aware of the mistake and are going to remove the litter bin and will install a dog bin in the requested location.

Clerk to request that the litter bin attached to a post on Lightwood Road, Marsh Lane is relocated to the bus shelter and the litter installed at the top end of School Lane, Marsh Lane is moved to the far end of School Lane.

OS 87/17 Blue Grit Bin Policy

RECOMMEND that the wording of the Blue Grit Bin policy is amended so that it is made clear. Grit is available to all vulnerable residents of the parish, not just for the people living in social housing.

OS 88/17 Eckington Brownies tour of Eckington Town Centre

As part of Eckington Brownies culture badge which focuses on local history, heritage and customs the Brownies had a walk around Eckington town centre.

These are the things that made them happy about Eckington: the war memorial, trees, buses, schools, street lights, the Co-op, signs, nice houses, hairdressers, swimming pool, shops, library, doctors, bank, church, nursery, dance studio, cafe, birds, phone box, keeps bakery, post office

These are the things that made them sad about Eckington: litter, dog poo, busy roads, not enough play areas, better parks, more benches, glass, cigarettes ivy on walls.

RESOLVED Clerk to thank them for their comments and to direct them to the Council website to help them see where the play areas.