

Minutes of an Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday 20th April 2017 at 6pm in the Civic Centre Eckington

Attendance

Councillors:- C.A. Gare (Chair); K Deffley, C. Hunt and L. Kirton

Others:- Clerk R. Bullimore;
J. Green (Cemetery Spt.) 1 Member of the public

OS 52/17 Apologies

RESOLVED to note apologies received from Councillor Dye.

OS 53/17 Members of the Public

A member of the public informed the committee about a problem with cats coming onto her allotment creating a mess and damaging rows of seed. The Clerk informed the committee that the owner of the cats has been asked to stop feeding them. The Cats Protection is aware of the problem and they have agreed to help resolve the problem.

OS 54/17 Minutes

Minutes 4/17 – 51/17 of an Open Spaces Committee Meeting held 19th January 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to Minute 43/17 amend the word disability to communities.

The Chair signed the Minutes.

OS 55/17 Cemetery

- a) The cemetery staff have planted 250 shrubs received from the County Council free tree scheme to create a hedge row on the perimeter of the cemetery. A number of beech saplings have been planted to create a dividing hedge on the new section.
- b) The committee agreed that there should be no charge for burials of children under the age of 16. They agreed to create a simpler rate system and review all the fees.
- c) Discussion took place about the tractor and mower repairs, the tractor has been repaired recently and is in good working order. The Committee considered costs to hire a tractor and costs of employing a contractor to cut the large grass areas in the cemetery. RESOLVED to review again at the end of the grass cutting season or earlier if the tractor needs anymore repair work.
- d) The committee considered quotes to cut the field and hedge next to Ida's Road play area RESOLVED to employ a private contractor.
- e) Clerk agreed to arrange a visit to a Wild Burial site during the Summer.
- f) The committee considered a complaint received from a concerned relative about the condition of her fathers' ashes plot. The stones had been removed from this plot but other plots still have stones and she felt victimised. The Clerk and Councillor Hunt have visited the cemetery and found that they were unable to defend the complaint there were numerous plots with ornaments, decorations and shrubs which is against the cemetery rules RESOLVED

letters to be sent to ask everyone to remove all items from their plots. If these are not removed within four weeks the Cemetery Supervisor is to remove them and turf over the areas.

OS 56/17 Allotments

Clerk informed the Committee that eviction letters had been sent to all the tenants who are not maintaining their plots.

Vacant plots have been offered to people on the waiting list. 25 people who did not respond to an offer of a plot have been removed from the list. There are seven on the waiting list, one wants a plot at Marsh Lane and one is not prepared to take on a plot that requires a lot of Work to bring up to scratch. There are six plots available and these will be offered to the next people on the waiting.

The tenant on School Street who had not been clearing his chicken shed out correctly has given up his chickens.

The eucalyptus tree on School Street has been partly removed the remainder will be removed in a couple of weeks. During the work a branch fell onto a tenants' greenhouse. The contractor has agreed to repair the greenhouse.

A new water pipe has been laid at Marsh Lane, we are waiting for Severn Trent to connect the pipe to the main feed. Tenants have agreed to help dig the trench for the pipe to laid to the plots who have requested water.

Report on Site Visit held 29 March

School Street

The Clerk has sent a letter to a tenant who had left a fire unattended warning him of the consequences if he continues with this dangerous activity.

The tenant of the plot next to the one managed by the School said that the teacher is not getting any help or support from the parents or from the school. The Clerk has emailed the teacher to suggest that if the plot becomes too difficult to manage she may want to give up half of it.

Councillor Hunt has asked the District Council to carry out maintenance work on a tree on the grass verge near the entrance on Berry Avenue. The police have been informed about CCTV cameras that are pointing on the allotments.

Ducksett Lane

No cats were seen during the visit.

The tenant has not re sited the gate where the horses are despite several requests from the Clerk.

Landsbury Road

No dog fouling posters to be erected on the footpaths.

Letters sent to tenants who are not looking after their plots.

Marsh Lane

No issues.

Rent fees to be reviewed for all sites.
Clerk to arrange a site visit during the growing season.

OS 57/17 Play Areas

The Committee considered quotations and funding options for the installation of two cradle swings and other pieces of equipment at Ridgeway play area. Councillor Kirton asked if additional items of equipment could be added to the play area at Darcy Road RESOLVED Clerk to find out if funding is available for two play areas on one application.

The gap in the hedge at Ida's Road play area has been blocked up on a number of occasions. Walkers insist on going this route into the woods which results in mud being brought onto the play area. RESOLVED Clerk to ask the handyman if he can permanently block up the gap or suggestion a way to stop the walkers bringing mud onto the play area.

Councillor Deffley suggested a graffiti wall was erected Landsbury Road play area to try to discourage people graffitiing on the play equipment.

Clerk to check when the District Council are going to paint the equipment at Emmet Carr Lane, Ida's Road and Ridgeway.

Rykneild Homes have planted shrubs where the committee had previously suggested a grit bin should be sited. It was agreed that Councillor Kirton found an alternative location to site the grit bin.

OS 58/17 War Memorials

Clerk to get quotations to attach insets to the faces of the war memorial at Marsh Lane.

OS 59/17 Dog and Litter Bins

The Committee considered requests for litter bins RESOLVED Clerk to arrange for a litter bin to be sited at the bus stop on Haigh Lane, Renishaw and one at School Lane, Marsh Lane.

The District Council have agreed to either move the dog bin from opposite the shops at Ravencar Road to Staniforth Avenue at a cost of £100 or install a new bin at Staniforth Avenue at the end of the path leading to Back Lane at a cost of £268.20 RESOLVED to purchase a new bin for Staniforth Avenue and have it emptied once per week at a cost of £3.38 plus VAT.

The Clerk informed the Committee that the litter and dog bins that are on the streets are emptied once per week and those in the play areas are emptied once per month. RESOLVED to arrange for the litter bins on the play areas to be emptied weekly during May to September.

OS 60/17 Grit Bins and Grit Allocation

The Blue Bin grit allocation policy is one drop per year to elderly or vulnerable people in social housing. People who own their property are not entitled to free allocation of grit. RESOLVED Councillor Gare to create a new policy.

OS 61/17 Public Right of Way Footpaths

County Council footpath resources have been reduced and they can no longer provide support to the volunteer groups who regularly help to keep the footpaths clear. The Clerk has contacted the department and has received a

verbal agreement that they will continue to assist with finding out who owns the footpaths and in seeking landlords' permission to allow volunteers like Chesterfield Ramblers Association to work on the paths cutting back vegetation or replacing stiles with gates or improving drainage.

Clerk to ask the volunteers to assist with the clearing of the footpath round chapel Wheel Dam, No 119 (Greenway) from School Street to Eckington School, No 163 from Hornthorpe cottage to Foxstone Wood, No 121 which is blocked off by machinery and No 127 to No 121 from Stead Street to lady Ida's Wood.

OS 63/17 Annual Fees

The Committee suggested that the annual fees for Renishaw Sports Pavilion, the allotments and Eckington cemetery be increased by 2% RESOLVED
Clerk to ask the treasurer for his opinion and advice.

OS 64/17 Bus Shelters

Clerk to ask the handyman to tidy up the bus shelters at West Street and Haigh Lane.