

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Maintenance Committee

26 March 2018- 19:30

Present: Councillors D Johnston Chairman
G Clark
E Habib
L Halford
J Warren Clerk to the Council
Press 0
Public 0

5547-18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors S Haynes and T Reason (personal).

5548-18 Public Speaking

None.

5549-18 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5550-18 Minutes of the Maintenance Committee of 12 February

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2018 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 12 February 2018 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5551-18 Report of the Maintenance Contractor

The Maintenance Contractor had reported that the following maintenance jobs had been completed:

Cherry Tree Lane hedge cut
Loosefill top up at Rectory Meadow play area
Top path at Butterfield Nature Reserve opened up
Bottom path also complete
Cut and clear at Butterfield complete
Started to tidy Memorial Hall surround

Outstanding jobs included:

Treework at Marshalls Heath
Bench repairs
Installation of the new noticeboard at the Memorial Hall.
Painting of East Lane Car Park barrier
The door frame of Marford Football Pavilion was badly damaged, in part because the gutters were blocked, a more significant repair or replacement may be required.
It was anticipated that all would be completed within the week.

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He recommended that the following tasks be undertaken:
Tidy up of debris below trees at Melissa – agreed – proposed by the Chairman.

He further advised that two big bags of grass seed were required at east meads south to finish off the river improvements.

Two of the resistance outdoor gym pieces did not appear to be functioning properly, he suggested the manufacturer be contacted.

Resolved:

To approve the tasks as recommended above.

5552-18 Work of Rangers, open spaces management

It was reported that the riverbank erosion project had been completed, aside from grass seeding the backfilled areas, within the proposed timescale, ie before 15 March and closed season for fishing. Excluding planning and administration 24 volunteers had put in 268 hours work. Expenditure had been met by a grant from the Wild Trout Trust.

It was reported that there was a huge rabbit population at Folly Fields, with a large warren adjacent to the grazing field. Rabbit faeces could be toxic to horses. A night time cull (by the licenced ranger) was proposed and agreed, signs to be put on the allotment noticeboards and residents' association and allotment representatives informed.

A report from the Wheathampstead Wanderers Football Club was received. Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Habib and it was agreed that pitch maintenance-improvement works (verti draining, sanding and seeding) be undertaken as in previous years

Resolved:

- **To note the reports.**
- **To authorise works at Folly Fields grazing**
- **To authorise football pitch maintenance works**

5553-18 Treework and vegetation management.

Further to Minute 5429-18 and 5494-18 Mr Carter's tree survey recommendations had been received. The Clerk was authorised to approve work to be undertaken by RJ Dawes, quotations for tree surgeon work were in the process of being obtained. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the unspent budget allocation for such work from 2017-18 be carried forward to 2018-19 and necessary work undertaken as soon as approved and practical.

Resolved:

- **To note the reports**
- **That the unspent budget allocation for such work from 2017-18 be carried forward to 2018-19 and necessary work undertaken as soon as approved and practical.**

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5554-18 Open spaces noticeboards

Further to Minute 5495-18 the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the location and design of the noticeboards be approved, and that the unspent budget allocation for such work from 2017-18 be carried forward to 2018-19.

Resolved:

- **That the location and design of the noticeboards be approved**
- **That the unspent budget allocation for such work from 2017-18 be carried forward to 2018-19**

5555-18 Memorial Hall maintenance

It was reported that new lights had been fitted in the kitchen following advice during an Environmental Health inspection. One gas boiler had been serviced, the other due the following week. All boilers had needed attention during the recent extremely cold spell when pipes had frozen. The plumber had been called to attend to the leaking disabled toilet.

Resolved:

To note the reports.

5556-18 Railway

It was reported that the crowd funded bid for the seat back plate had been unsuccessful. Copies would be reproduced and put in place on the station. The money donated would also cover a second entrance sign. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed to install an entrance sign to, as close as possible, match the existing one at the east end of the platform.

Resolved:

- **To reproduce copy seat back plate signs for installation on the station platform.**
- **To install an entrance sign to, as close as possible, match the existing one at the east end of the platform.**

5557-18 Consideration of Modification Order applications to alter the Definitive Map and Statement in relation to Rose Lane

Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Habib, and it was agreed to support the application to alter the definitive Map and Statement in relation to Rose Lane, reference STA/161/MOD and STA/162/MOD.

Resolved:

To support the application to alter the definitive Map and Statement in relation to Rose Lane, reference STA/161/MOD and STA/162/MOD.

5558-18 Budget report

The budget monitoring report was noted. As discussed at Minutes 5553-18 and 5554-18 unspent monies from 2017-18 allocated

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towards treework and noticeboards to be carried forward to 2018-2019.

Resolved:

To note the reports.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:25

Dated this day of 2018

Chairman