

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Maintenance Committee 21 January 2019 19:30

Present: Councillors D Johnston Chairman
L Halford
S Haynes
P Woodhams

J Warren Clerk to the Council
Press 0
Public 0

5958-19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors G Clark, E Habib and T Reason (personal).

5959-19 Public Speaking

None.

5960-19 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5961-19 Minutes of the Maintenance Committee of 3 December

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2018 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 3 December 2018 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5962-19 Report of the Maintenance Contractor

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

- Cut and clear Bower Heath
- Cut and clear wildlife area Butterfield
- Gutters Mem Hall, Marford pavilion, Forge
- Removed dead badger
- Repaired leaking tap Glebe allotments
- Cleared bench of fallen tree – between Leasy Bridge and High Ash
- Removed fly tipping x 2 Bower Heath
- All posts at Rectory Meadow
- Closer on southern gate to ATP

Outstanding tasks included:

- Second Gate closer at 3G pitch
- Painting gates at ELCP
- Kerbs ELCP - needs to be done at a weekend

Wheathampstead Parish Council

- Marshalls heath cut and clear- started
- Folly bollards

- **Suggestions**
- Pallet of rubber crumb for 3G pitch – approx. one tonne
- Ask GCT to reshape large oak at Bower Heath
- Cutting back turf on the both sides of path from Necton Road to 3 G pitch £150
- Removing branch overhanging parish office £40
- Clearing up Memorial Hall car park including fallen leaves £180
- Installation of extra post at old tee Gustard Wood £40 plus a post (cars squeezing between trees)
- Ongoing winter treework at Marshalls Heath (3 year cycle) as previously agreed on recommendation of ranger John Murray and Mark Carter (£700).

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the suggestions be approved with the exception of clearing the Memorial Hall car park.

Resolved:

To approve the tasks as recommended above.

5963-19 Work of Rangers, open spaces management

The ranger for the Station sidings had requested six each of Hazel, Hawthorn, Spindle, Field Maple and Guelder Rose whips to replace older shrubs removed on the western part of the southern bank. This was a condition of the planning application when the over-crowded trees were removed.

The ranger for Bower Heath had reported two incidents of significant fly-tipping at Bower Heath. These had been quickly removed by the Council's contractor to avoid them being added to.

Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way officer had reported that the steps on Footpath 23 at Devil's Dyke were being repaired.

Resolved:

- **To note the reports**
- **To obtain and plant thirty whips as requested at the former station platform site.**

5964-19 Tree work and vegetation management.

It was reported that a structural survey of the garage of 60 Folly Fields, commissioned by the owners, had been circulated. This stated that the trees (a yew and silver birch)'represent an unacceptable risk to the structural integrity of the garage and probably over the longer term also the house beyond. They might have had a partial impact on the cracking already noted, and if left to grow continually, they almost certainly will have a detrimental effect in the future'.

Wheathampstead Parish Council

The owners had requested that the yew tree adjacent on Parish Council land be removed and the silver birch reduced by a good 30%.

Councillor Halford proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed, to remove the yew tree and reduce the silver birch as requested by the owners of 60 Folly Fields.

Mr Burgess had requested permission to cultivate the small area at the entrance to Mount Road as a vegetable patch. He planned to offer the vegetables to Macintyre Homes. He further requested to remove the Walnut tree, planted by a former resident of Mount Road, and install a bird table in its place.

He had been advised that parish councils were allowed to plant and maintain shrubs and flowerbeds etc on the highway with the Highway Authority's consent under the S96 (5) Highways Act 1980.

Councillor Haynes proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed, that the Parish Council had no objection to the cultivation of vegetables. It was further agreed that the walnut tree should remain as planted. A bird table was not in keeping with the location and could become a health and safety hazard.

Consideration was given to the specification for bed preparation for the Crinkle Crankle Garden and the addition of an irrigation system. It was noted that the aim was for a sustainable sensory garden. Heartwood Garden design recommended the use of mushroom compost prior to planting, whereas the construction specification approved was to dig over the beds to a depth of 4000mm and replace with good quality top soil and soil improver. Jackie Gough Garden Design Ltd would quote for this service if required.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that no request be made for the addition of mushroom compost. No irrigation system was to be installed immediately, but may be reconsidered at a future date. Heartwood Garden Design to be asked to prepare a planting plan taking into account the potential for phased implementation of planting.

Resolved:

To note the report.

- **To remove the yew tree and reduce the silver birch as requested by the owners of 60 Folly Fields.**
- **That the Parish Council had no objection to the cultivation of vegetables on the land at the entrance to Mount Road.**
- **That the Parish Council did not support removal of the walnut tree on the land at the entrance to Mount Road.**
- **That the Parish Council did not support installation of a bird table on the land at the entrance to Mount Road.**
- **That no request be made for the addition of mushroom compost in the Crinkle Crankle Garden.**

Wheathampstead Parish Council

- **No irrigation system was to be installed immediately in the Crinkle Crinkle Garden, but may be reconsidered at a future date.**
- **That Heartwood Garden Design to be asked to prepare a planting plan taking into account the potential for phased implementation of planting.**

5965-19 Marford pavilion

The suggestions for budget consideration in 2019-20 were considered.

Resolved:

To note the report.

5966-19 Memorial Hall Maintenance

It was reported that the tap in the toilet by the west door had been fixed with a replacement cartridge, the intruder alarm system had received its annual service, and the AV system had been checked following a hirer's query. No faults had been identified but the suggestion made that a superior quality HDMI cable be made available. Changes to the microphones to improve sound had been made. The emergency lighting had been replaced as necessary throughout the building.

Consideration was given to replacing the aging projector screen and portable projector in the Hewitt Room with an audio visual system. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the largest suitable television be purchased and installed including a feed box for connectivity.

Resolved:

- **To note the report.**
- **To install the largest suitable television with feed box for connectivity.**

5967-19 Safety barrier to bridleway at King Edward Place

It was reported that Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way Officer sought the views of the Parish Council regarding the bridleway at King Edward Place. A metal gate, access to the former factory, at the junction with Ash Grove had been removed by the Countryside Management Service as part of the hedge project. The gate was not dedicated as part of the bridleway and was substandard. HCC policy was for least restrictive structures to safeguard the public. It was suggested that a bollard similar to that at Mount Road /Abbott John Mews may be suitable to slow path users entering Ash Grove

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed to support HCC's proposal to install a suitable bollard to replace the gate should HCC consider this necessary.

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Resolved:

To support HCC's proposal to install a suitable bollard to replace the gate should HCC consider this necessary.

5968-19 Project and task review

The report as circulated was considered. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed to note the report

Resolved:

To note the report.

5969-19 Budget report

The budget report was considered, and items for potential inclusion in the 2019-20 budget were requested.

Resolved:

To note the report, expenditure was within budget.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22:00

Dated this day of 2019

Chairman