

Wheathampstead Parish Council

Maintenance Committee

9 October 2017- 19:30

Present: Councillors D Johnston Chairman
J Booth sub L Halford
G Clark
S Haynes
T Reason
P Woodhams

J Warren Clerk to the Council

Press 0
Public 2

5291-17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors E Habib, L Halford and J Shardlow (personal).

5292-17 Public Speaking

None.

5293-17 Specific Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

None.

5294-17 Minutes of the Maintenance Committee of 19 June

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2017 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings held on 19 June 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

5295-17 Report of the Maintenance Contractor

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

Cut & clear Meads Dell and Gustard Wood tee

Slide repaired at Marshalls Heath

Folly Seat installed

Canon's/ Rectory Meadow play area wood surround repaired, fencing removed

Lock fitted on container

Outstanding jobs included:

Baxendale hedge

Folly notice board – secure

Kerbs at ELCP

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Cut and clear Melissa and Bower Heath

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Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed that the following were undertaken:

Smooth off northern approach to Meads bridge

New slat for seat at tennis court

Marford Football Pavilion – replacement of missing /damaged downpipe brackets

Trim Maltings Drive footpath hedge which was overgrowing path Lattimore Rd – Wick Avenue £60

Replace broken gutter rear of forge

Trim hedge at East Lane next to the nursery and overhanging the road £60

Trim hedge at Marford Fields overhanging football pitch £60

Side out grass growing over path at Canon's Meadow – £250

Winterwork to ant hills at Marshall's Heath as in previous years £1,400

Trim Hedge at Folly between playing field and allotment £450

Trim Folly playing fields hedges – 6 hours with flail

Replenish loosefill at Rectory Meadow- guideprice £1,650

Resolved:

- **To note the report**
- **To undertake works as recommended by the Maintenance Contractor.**

5296-17 Work of Rangers, open spaces management

The ranger for Butterfield had requested that the dog bag dispenser be more firmly secured, this was agreed. It was noted that access to Butterfield via Old School Drive and the car park was similar to that by the gate from The Hill, no access changes to be made.

Informal discussions, followed by a formal letter had resulted in removal of a child's swing set and shrubs planted out in public space

The ranger for Gustard Wood had reported that there had been two WOSV sessions at Gustard Wood in the past year to keep on top of the holly cut the previous year, and they would be back again in December.

No new problems had arisen with litter around the car park. These amounted to regularly discarded dog poo bags, and the occasional obstruction of the bridleway following high winds. The Old 16th Green was cut on 28th September and the arisings removed. Harebells had been found near the picnic table and the small patch of heather seemed a little larger. At the southern end of the site

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there was now a well-defined path parallel to the hornbeam hedge t as planned.

The Forge ranger reported highway issues which were reported to SADC and Herts CC and were being dealt with.

The Meads Ranger reported that the plans for tackling the erosion of the river banks on the south side were moving forward. With much help from David Johnson of HMWT, the new forms were nearly ready for submission to the EA for permission to do the work. It was hoped that work would be completed by Easter 2018

He further advised that the twice yearly mowing and strimming of willow plantation on the North Meads was complete; the fire white poplars planted in the early summer were thriving.

The two year old willows on the eastern plantation would be pollarded in January 2018, the resulting material being used for spiling the riverbank. Five of the original fifty eight willow setts in the new arboretum had not survived the summer drought and would be replaced.

On the South Meads the buffer strips were working well in concentrating river access by children and dogs to specific points, and reducing damage done by low hanging willow tree branches. Together with a group of volunteers the litter problem was being controlled, though some anglers persisted in leaving copious amounts of debris. Small dead trees in the larger copse would be removed in the near future.

The trees in the Meads Community Orchard had received their summer pruning. Despite plenty of blossom, as was often the case with young trees, few fruits developed.

The annual mowing and strimming of the Dell had been undertaken by the Maintenance contractor. The hawthorn hedge had matured to mask the new electricity transformer.

Resolved:

- **To note the reports..**
- **To submit revised forms to the Environment Agency for river works.**

5297-17 Treework and vegetation management.

It was reported that some cherry trees in the avenue on Cherry Tree Lane were not thriving well. Councillor Booth proposed seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed, that Mr Carter be asked to look at their viability, and if necessary these be removed.

Replacement to be considered in consultation with Rochfords nursery advice.

Requested work at Folly allotments to be identified to contractor for costing and brought back to committee.

Resolved:

- **To note the reports**

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- **To seek advice on viability of cherry trees and remove and replace following professional advice.**

5298-17 Poplar Trees on bridle path by Abbott John Mews

It was reported that the 16 poplar trees adjacent to BR17 originally planted by Murphy Chemicals were pollarded periodically. HCC had continued the process, pollarding in a 4-5 year cycle. A resident had requested that some be removed and pollarding be to a lower height. HCC sought the views of the Parish Council: tree removal affected greening in the centre of the village but height reduction would ease long term maintenance.

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Booth, and it was agreed that unless there was any evidence to the contrary the Parish Council was happy with the present maintenance regime.

Resolved:

That unless there was any evidence to the contrary the Parish Council was happy with the present maintenance regime.

5299-17 Memorial Hall maintenance

The locksmith had been called and fixed the issues with Hewitt Room fire doors and North Doors not locking properly.

Light circuits servicing the Police Office, storeroom and some external lights regularly shorted. This was largely due to defective external lights. New external LED lights with movement sensors on dawn to dusk settings would be fitted, bulbs replaced in useable units. It was noted that this would help the library which received deliveries anytime from 05:00. Cost £474

Resolved:

To note the reports.

5300-17 Noticeboards

Councillor Reason proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhams, and it was agreed that up to £2,000 be spent on a wooden noticeboard, A0 size as discussed to replace the noticeboard and sign outside the Memorial Hall.

Further to Minute 5174-17, the Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that up to £3,500 be spent on additional artwork for the open spaces boards, specification was agreed.

Resolved:

- **To install an A0 wooden noticeboard as discussed, cost up to £2,000 outside the Memorial Hall to replace the existing date sign and deteriorating noticeboard.**
- **that up to £3,500 be spent on additional artwork for the open spaces boards, specification as agreed.**

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5301-17 Tennis Club lease and court use

It was reported that the ladies' team of the Wheathampstead Wanderers FC had requested use of the tennis courts for training sessions. Whilst Council supported the promotion of public use of the courts, using tennis footwear, a regular arrangement needed to be between the WLTC and the WWFC. Councillor Woodhams proposed, seconded by Councillor Haynes, and it was agreed that in principal the Parish Council was happy that the two clubs cooperated but would like to be part of the final solution.

Resolved;

- **To note the request**
- **To support and promote public use of the refurbished courts using tennis footwear**
- **To support in principal an arrangement between the ladies football club and the Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club, final details to be advised to Council for approval.**

5302-17 Budget report

Noted.

5303-17 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved:

To exclude press and public.

5304-17 Diamond Jubilee Garden Licence Renewal

The licence for the Diamond Jubilee Garden had expired and was offered for renewal between Lakemere Ltd and Wheathampstead Parish Council for a peppercorn fee. The support of T&B Ltd in both offering the Garden under licence and their support for Village events and activities was appreciated and acknowledged The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Clerk sign the Licence agreement on behalf of Wheathampstead Parish Council. report was received and contents noted.

Resolved:

- **That the Clerk sign the Licence on behalf of Wheathampstead parish Council.**
- **That T&B Ltd be thanked for their ongoing support and generosity.**

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5305-17 Readmission of Press and Public

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to readmit press and public.

Resolved:

To readmit press and public

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:25

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman