



MINUTES

Committee: Open Spaces Committee
Date: Tuesday 20 February 2024
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Parish Council Office

Present

Cllr Gordy Keep (Chairman)
Cllr Mike Jeffery
Cllr Mike Warner
Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright
Cllr Rob Austin

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

01/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Walden.

02/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Austin declared an interest in min no. 08/2024 because the contractor is his son. Cllr Austin will not take part in the discussion or vote. No requests for dispensations were received.

03/2024 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Warner, and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2023 as a correct record.

04/2024 STANDING ITEM - CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY

The Council noted the Declaration to embed the climate and ecology emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

05/2024 CROSS STREET TREE

Cllr Hodges report had been circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Warner, and **resolved to recommend** to full council to accept the offer of help (in Cllr Hodge's report) to manage and maintain the tree with many thanks from the parish council.

06/2024 ALLOTMENT

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Austin had spoken about the shed with the Allotment Association. The Allotment Association discussed it at their meeting and requested the following information:

1. Clarify the size, current allotment rule allows up to 8 x 8.
2. Would it be permanent.
3. What would happen to the shed if another person took over the plot.
4. Is it just for storing signs?

The Allotment Association stated the council is still welcome to use the empty shed discussed in the past.

The committee discussed using the existing shed, but Cllr Austin said it is not fit for purpose. Cllr Austin noted that he had offered to give up some of his allotment to site the shed and an 8 x 8 shed would be sufficient to store the signs.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Warner, and **resolved to recommend** to full council to continue discussions with the Allotment Association with a view to siting a shed on Cllr Austin's Allotment at minimum expense to store the signs.

The report also asked the committee to consider when an appropriate time is to cut the allotment hedge and who will obtain the quotes. Cllr Austin noted that he had spoken to a couple of companies, but they had verbally quoted between £4,000 and £6,000.

Cllr Keep suggested he might be able to find someone who will cut it for the wood. Cllr Fileman-Wright noted that it was nearly bird nesting season so it would be best to wait until after the bird nesting season. Cllr Austin and Cllr Keep will see if anything is possible before the end of the month.

07/2024 SENTRY

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Fileman-Wright, and **resolved to recommend** to full council to leave the moles.

08/2024 LENGTHSMAN TENDER

One tender had been received and had been circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Fileman-Wright, and **resolved to recommend** to full council to accept the tender. There was one abstention.

Cllr Fileman-Wright noted that the contractor had mentioned additional costs relating to the use of herbicides without glyphosate in. She requested that the contractor checked in with the Clerk before using any herbicides.

09/2024 OPEN SPACES CONTRACT

The current open spaces contract had been circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffery, seconded by Cllr Fileman-Wright, and **resolved to recommend** to full council to leave the open spaces contract as it is.

10/2024 CHURCHYARD

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Jeffery explained that the cross was put in position to denote the new area of the churchyard in 1989. He felt that it wasn't needed anymore.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Warner, and **resolved to recommend** to full council to remove the damaged cross and not replace it.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.24pm.