



PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

GROUNDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

At a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at Pangbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: N. Goodwin, P. MacIver, J. Higgs, I. Walker, J. Power, Z. Moosa
R. Elkin (Clerk) L. Antonio (Asst Clerk)

Apologies were noted from C. Roberts
Not present: Graham Child

MoP: John Perry, Pangbourne Allotments Association (left meeting after item GR/212)

Section 1 – Procedural

GR/207 TO APPOINT CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

N. Goodwin proposed, seconded and elected as Chairman. Zaid Moosa proposed, seconded and elected as Vice Chairman.
Non-Councillor members agreed to sit on the committee for another year.

GR/208 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

C. Roberts

GR/209 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

J. Higgs is a member of the Bowls Club
J. Power is an Allotment holder

GR/210 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17 November 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record

GR/211 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS, MATTERS COMPLETED AND MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

- Asst Clerk has completed a Memorial Testing course and is now qualified to carry out basic testing.
- Fencing at Chiltern Walk still to be repaired. **OUTSTANDING**
- Chiltern Walk Open Space – concerns have been raised by local residents with regards to balls being kicked against their properties. Clerk recently met and exchanged emails with WBC to discuss the possibility of planting a hedge on the WBC owned area in order to protect properties. Their response is that this would not be feasible and have suggested a hedge to the west of the footpath on PC land.
- There has also been an increasing number of reports about anti-social behaviour involving local children. Parents have been reporting incidents to 101 number and feedback from the Police is that the area is being patrolled.
- It was agreed that PC should continue conversation with WBC with regards to this area and possible solutions – **ONGOING**
- Cemetery Car park – **ONGOING**

PM

**Clerk/
ALL**

CR

Section 2 - Decision Making

GR/212 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ALLOTMENT WATER PROJECT

This item was taken first on the agenda to allow J. Perry from the Allotment Association to provide an update:

A water flow test was conducted by Allsebrooks Pumps on Tuesday 17 May, at which a number of Councillors were present. Both possible wells were shown to provide sufficient flow. However, one of the proposed sites is adjacent to houses and residents have expressed concerns about noise levels, so the second site further from properties is the preferred location. It was acknowledged that some noise may still reach properties, particularly if all the taps are being used. However, several measures are proposed in order to limit this noise:

- There will be a timer on the pump preventing use after 8.30pm
- The pump will be placed in a sound proofed, brick built structure with a concrete base and rubber pads, with the vent facing away from properties
- The pump will not be used during the winter

It was noted that the pump will require a (domestic) electricity supply, for which the Council will be responsible. A smart meter will need to be provided by the chosen electricity supplier. SSE has provided a provisional quote of £4,000 for installing the new supply – this is based on a trench for the cable already being dug from the road to the pump site.

JP asked about the likely timing of a Council decision on the project, as they are hoping to approach the Good Exchange for match funding. The Clerk stated that given the level of expenditure, the proposal will need to be put to the full Council for a decision and all project costs will need to be submitted one week prior to the meeting. It was noted that delaying the decision until the July Council meeting would allow more time for costs to be finalised.

J. Perry left the meeting after this item

GR/213 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON WATER SAFETY MEASURES AT MEADOWS AND TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE ON NEW THROWLINES, CABINETS AND SIGNAGE

The Clerk provided a report on recent discussions with the Water Safety Partnership Team, Thames Valley Police, Whitchurch Bridge Company and the Environment Agency regarding water safety measures at the Meadows

One recommendation from RBFRS is to replace the existing lifebuoy at the Meadows (which is regularly stolen), with two locked water rescue cabinets (containing throwlines) spaced at intervals along the bank. Users ring 999 to obtain the access code (similar to defibrillator cabinets).

The Clerk reported that there has been at least one fatality in the past at the Meadows and several fatalities in the wider area (Newbury, Reading) in recent times. There is also an increasing number of people now using the river for recreational purposes during the summer months.

It was noted that advice from the Environment Agency is that the Council has no legal obligation to provide water safety equipment. Councillors expressed concerns about possible vandalism and mis-use of the cabinet.

Agreed that one cabinet should be placed between concrete landing and mini-slipway and the level of mis-use would be monitored

Clerk

RESOLVED to approve expenditure of approximately £1785 + VAT from CIL funds towards the cost of one water safety cabinet (based on quote from Factory Furniture).

GR/214 TO CONSIDER COSTS OF FURTHER COPSE CLEARING ON MEADOWS – SEE ATTACHED ESTIMATE OF COSTS

It was agreed that clearance of the first copse has been a positive measure and that similar work to at least the second copse would be prudent in order to reduce the risk of fire-setting.

Clerk to obtain more detailed quotes for the clearance work.

Clerk

GR/215 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SPEED BUMP AT THE RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK AND AGREE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO TAKE THE MATTER FORWARD

The Clerk reported that the second speed bump on the entrance to the Recreation Ground car park (under the height barrier) is now breaking up badly. The contractors who carried out the line painting work quoted £700+VAT to smooth over the top of both bumps with a tarmac surface. However, there is a rising bollard embedded in the concrete (used to close the car park at night), which may cause complications and there are concerns that any additional height on the bump might interfere with the height barrier.

Agreed that action was required and it was suggested that the Clerk should try speaking to a more specialist company such as Volker to find a solution.

Clerk

GR/216 TO REVIEW PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT (ATTACHED) AND CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR REMEDIAL WORK TO EQUIPMENT AND PLAYGROUND RESURFACING

The Committee noted that there are a growing number of medium risk items in the monthly playground report. In particular, some areas of the surface are very worn. Councillors agreed that the issue has been requiring attention for some time now and that proposals for a complete re-surfacing project need to be expediated and avenues of funding explored.

In the meantime it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes for repatching the worst areas and treating the weeds.

Clerk

GR/217 TO RECEIVE REPORT ON TREE GUARDS AT RECREATION GROUND AND AGREE ACTIONS FOR SECURING

Clerk reported that the metal guards around the cherry trees next to the playground are loose. Agreed that Clerk should ask contractor to fix appropriate ground anchors or u peg

GR/218 TO AGREE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COVERING DUTIES OF OUTDOOR SPACES WARDEN WHEN ON LEAVE

It was agreed that summer holiday cover would be required for litter clearance, bin emptying and patrolling duties as carried out by the Outdoor Spaces Warden. Clerk to investigate either a short term arrangement with suitable contractor or the possibility of employing an additional member of staff on a temporary contract.

Clerk

Section 3 - Updates from working groups, councillors and committee members

GR/219 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY WORKING GROUPS OR OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

- CCTV – PM reported that a consultant has now reconfigured the CCTV software which appears to have improved the connectivity. This will be followed up on once the consultant has returned from holiday. The broadband in the PC office may need to be upgraded to fibre, if possible, in order to fully optimise performance.
- Mooring posts – Clerk reported that some of the mooring posts in the Meadows no longer have rings and had become unstable at times. The Environment Agency has advised that PC is under no obligation to provide mooring posts and it was noted that most boats carry their own mooring peg. Agreed that the condition of the posts will be monitored by the Warden and when they become unusable they should be removed and not replaced.
- Weed removal equipment for Warden – Clerk asked Committee to consider the best equipment to for removing larger areas of weeds. Agreed that a heat gun or chemical spray would have too many safety implications but that a battery operated strimmer might be a good compromise as long as any necessary training and safety clothing were provided.

PM

Warden

GR/220 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY OR RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

Bee Notices – JP asked about replacement of the bee notices at the allotments. Clerk to follow up.

Clerk

Dog Bins – Clerk reported that additional dog bins are due to be installed on 1st June.

Section 4 - Closure

GR/221

CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 29 June 2022

_____ Chairman

_____ Date