

All minutes are draft until ratified by the Committee at the next meeting

Marchwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held at Marchwood Village Hall held on Monday 12th November 2018 at 8.11pm.

Councillors: *Mrs J Saxby (Chairman) – in the chair

Councillors: * Mrs R Andrews *Mrs A Hoare
*Mr M Proctor *Mr J Piernicki
*Mr R Young

- * Indicates attendance
- o Indicates apologies for absence

In attendance: Mr B Gibbs (Clerk to Council)

Also present: Two members of the public.

Before the meeting commenced Cllr Saxby offered apologies to the members of the public for the late start to the meeting. This was due to previous meeting overrunning slightly.

Apologies for absence

1. All were present.

Public Participation

2. A resident of Malthouse Gardens spoke about her concerns regarding an English Oak within the area of public open space adjacent to her property. She had previously spoken to the Clerk and Mr Mark Bursey of NFDC regarding the condition of the tree. She continued by saying that she had been in contact with the Parish council for several months and was keen to understand what the current position was and to ask if there was any decision to undertake works to the tree.
3. The Clerk replied that the tree had been inspected by Mark Bursey and he confirmed that a works order had been raised to perform some works upon the tree. There was an item on tonight's agenda to discuss the recently completed tree surveys and a decision would be required in order to authorise the spending necessary to complete the work

Declarations of Interest

4. Cllr Hoare declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 regarding the recent tree surveys regarding trees at 43 and 45 Kingfisher Way. Cllr Andrews made a similar declaration regarding trees adjacent to Malthouse Gardens.

Chairman's remarks

5. The Chairman spoke about the work the Parish Council's groundstaff recently undertook to install a silent soldier and silent suffragette upon an area of open space at the junction of Main Road and Oakland Drive. She continued by saying this had been universally

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received in a positive manner. She concluded her report by thanking everyone involved in the provision and installation of the two silhouettes.

Minutes

6. **RESOLVED:** To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 19th February, 14th May and 10th September 2018 as an accurate record of what took place. The Chairman duly signed the minutes after the meeting had been concluded.

Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies

7. The Clerk told the Committee that following on from the report to the last meeting he had again contacted Dean Brunton (Planning Implementation Team NFDC) to arrange a meeting between his colleagues in the team and members of the Parish Council. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss moving forward on the Parish Council's proposals to improve the open spaces and to provide additional recreational opportunities in the village.

However, a meeting cannot take place until the process to recruit additional team members was complete. Cllr Hoare commented that she would follow up on the Clerk's initial contact a report back to members between meetings.

AMF Supervisors Report

8. The AMF Supervisor who was on annual leave at the time of the meeting. In his absence the Clerk presented a verbal report with the main headlines listed as follows.
 - At this time of year it should be the case that the grass has stopped growing but with the prolonged spell of unseasonably warm weather this is not the case. Never the less the Groundstaff are not accumulating a noticeable backlog of tasks despite continuing to cut grass in all areas of the estate.
 - The tree work commissioned during the summer at Evergreen Close and Dapple Place has now been completed.
 - The flower beds at the Oakland Drive "boat" and at the Falklands Memorial had be refreshed in time for the Armistice centenary commemoration.

Draft Amenities Budget 2019-20

9. The Clerk provided a brief verbal report about the 2019-20 Amenities Committee budget.

Items to note were as follows.

- The Responsible Financial Officer has recommended that a "mark time" budget with no increases or decreases to the line items within it.
- Members accepted the need to maintain the budget at its current level. However, concerns were expressed about the level of the trees management budget (line item 2144). Cllr Hoare commented that many trees in the Parish Council's control were the same age and required more management consequently. This may lead an increased level of management in future years.
- A member also commented upon the Open Space Maintenance budget (line item 2139) and asked about its level bearing in mind overspends in previous years.

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- It was proposed to accept the draft budget on the proviso that the Trees Management budget line item 2144 is looked at further by the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED: To approve the draft Amenities Budget for 2019-20 subject to further consideration of the Trees Management budget (line item 2144).

Tree survey report October 2018

10. The Clerk presented to the Committee a series of reports outlining the condition of trees in its ownership.

Several areas were surveyed and these are as follows.

- Land to the rear of Kestrel Close
- Land adjacent to Kestrel Close and Woodpecker Drive.
- Land at Kingfisher Way.
- Land adjacent to Kingfisher Way and Bilberry Drive.
- Land at Admiralty Quay and Ordnance Close.
- The Cork Field Recreation Ground.
- Land at Oaklands adjacent to Malthouse Gardens.

The Clerk outlined to the Committee that the total cost of all the work would total £XYZ

RESOLVED: To undertake all of the work outlined in the seven works orders presented to the Committee. This would result in a total spend of £XYZ.

It was hoped to complete all the work before the end of the financial year 2018-19.

Tree inspection regimes following a recent Court of Appeal judgement

11. The Clerk presented a report about a recent High Court judgement regarding a tree in the management of a Parish Council that had fallen on to a passing bus and caused severe injuries to its driver,

The responsibility for the tree rested with Witley Parish Council who operated an inspection regime leading up to the incident. This inspection regime was similar to the one employed by NFDC on behalf of the Parish Council.

Tree experts appointed by the court agreed that the tree failed due to severe and extensive decay in the root system. At the time of failure, the tree had a significant fungal bracket of the genus Ganoderma at its base.

It was judged that the inspection regime was insufficient to manage a tree such as this in a high risk area adjacent to a highway.

The Clerk said that he was seeking advice from the District Council's tree officers in order to be sure that the current inspection regime undertaken by them on the Parish Council's behalf was fit for purpose.

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This was in the light of the recent judgement that highlighted that more stringent regimes of inspection were necessary to cater for trees considered to be in “high risk” areas.

These “high risk” areas included those next to highways, play areas, greenways and public rights of way.

The Parish Council **NOTED** the Clerk’s report and asked him to report back to a subsequent meeting regarding his discussions with the tree officers at NFDC concerning inspection regimes.

Request for access to Oakland Open Spaces from a private residence

12. The Clerk presented a letter from a parishioner seeking permission to install a gate in their fence so as to access an area of public open space.

The Clerk made the Parish Council aware his concerns as follows.

- There is the potential for “gentrification” of an area of open space with such things as hard standing and paving appearing.
- There is the risk of adverse possession if a fence line is adjusted.
- There is the potential for the loss of shrubs and vegetation.
- There is the risk to the homeowner of easier access to their property from the public realm.

Members commented that there was local precedent with other householders locally already having access to the open spaces from their gardens. It was also apparent that many properties adjacent to the Lloyd Recreation Ground have similar arrangements in place.

It was not clear if there was a Parish Council policy on this matter.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was asked to write to the parishioners advising them that permission would not be granted to them at this point in time due to the absence of a policy being in place.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was asked to draft a policy for the better management of gates opening upon public open spaces and to bring this forward to a subsequent meeting.

Parish Council priorities for 2018-19

13. **Long Lane footpath project:** Cllr Hoare presented a verbal report to the Committee regarding the progress of the Long Lane footpath project. She said it was acknowledged that the project had faced many delays since it was first promoted. Cllr Hoare said that the original proposal was unaffordable due to the requirement to culvert the Enmaind River on the western side of Long Lane.

The project is now hoping to provide a path along the eastern side of Long Lane. One of the potential issues arising is the future maintenance of the hedging scheme that will screen properties from the pathway and the highway.

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The Clerk commented that the project was some way off completion. He added that with sufficient notice and an adjustment to the current work schedules that there was the potential to provide for the ongoing management of the hedging through the Parish Council's groundstaff.

RESOLVED: To accept the ongoing maintenance of the proposed hedging scheme at Long Lane. This is subject to the successful completion of the Long Lane footpath project of which this forms a part.

Parish Council community benches: The Clerk presented a verbal report concerning community benches. He said that he had visited all of the benches in the Parish Council's ownership.

He said that some were in good condition but that some others were in a very poor condition.

Members commented that they were disappointed to see that some of the benches have been in a poor condition for some time. The Clerk said that some of the benches need to be removed as they are at end of life.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was instructed to ensure all benches that are at end of life are removed.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was asked to speak to the NFDC Planning Policy team to see if there is scope to provide some replacement benches as part of an S106 project.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.21pm

Chairman