

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 13th August at 2.00pm
At the Colin Room, Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury

Attending

Cllr Caroline Hubbard, Cllr Trevor Jakeman, (Chair), Cllr Caroline Smith,
Cllr Bobbie Torkington (Vice-Chair), Cllr Clive White, Karen Cramoysan (Clerk), 0 Members of the Public

11 Apologies – No apologies received from Cllr Keith Nutburn, Cllr Sue Robinson, Cllr Esther Taylor

12 Declarations of Interest - None

13 Public Participation – None

14 To Receive Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 7th May 2024 -
RESOLVED: Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 7th May 2024 were received and signed as an accurate copy

15 Matters Arising
At Chair's discretion (if not covered by agenda below)

Allotments

Mares Tail Removal– The chemical previously deemed as suitable for Mares Tail removal by Tony Barron was found to be not appropriate for areas to be used for crop growing.

Vacant Plots – All Plots have now been taken.

Recreation Ground

Slide – has now been removed.

Petanque Pitch – deemed as too expensive at Full Council meeting, no further action to be taken.

Soldier Matting – 3 rolls have been purchased and is in storage with Cllr Jakeman.

Flagpole – The St Georges Cross flag went up to celebrate St Georges Day, The D-Day flag went up to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and the Union flag is now flying.

16 Recreation Ground
a. To Discuss;

1. To Note the Inspection of Play Equipment dated 01.08.2024 - RESOLVED: Items still outstanding are the hard pins, bolt caps & shackles, wet pour and fire engine trip hazard Clerk to ask Infinity Playgrounds for a quote to replace bolt caps & shackles, hard pins and fire engine trip hazard. As repairs to the wet pour has only recently been done, Clerk will ask Infinity if there are any guarantees to the work carried out.

2. Play Equipment Update - RESOLVED: Unfortunately the last Working Party meeting had to be cancelled and no meeting has taken place since. There will be information boards on display at the fete.

3. Fencing – To Review the Quote from Nightingale Groundcare - RESOLVED:
Councillors were happy to go ahead with this as long as the chicken wire was robust and we wouldn't have to look at replacing this again in a couple of years' time. Clerk to speak to Nightingale and ask for a photo and clarification of the thickness that will be used.

17 Community & Environment

a. Bus Shelters – To Review Recent Quote for Cleaning & Maintenance

RESOLVED: These were carried out in May by Infinity Playgrounds. They actually cleaned 4 shelters for the price of 3 as they weren't sure which one along Lyndhurst Road we wanted cleaned. Councillors asked for this to be looked at on an annual basis.

b. Allotments

- 1. Trial Holes for Drainage issues - RESOLVED:** JSN Arnold has dug inspection holes and found that a flexible pipe had been used instead of a rigid pipe, no terram liner was found and he could not locate any T sections in the pipework. Clerk has spoken to the contractor Mark Bridle who remembers installing the T sections, but admitted verbally that he had not installed the Terram liner as the earth at the allotments was full of clay and was not silted. Clerk asked him to rectify this issue but he stated that after 7 years, he had no legal recourse to do so, but would contact Cllr Jakeman to meet to look at the site and to see if he can remember where the T sections were installed. Councillors asked if the Clerk could contact Mark Bridle to ask if he can contribute towards the cost of jet washing the pipes and to also contact JSN Arnold to quote for replacement works.
 - 2. Community Payback Meeting - RESOLVED:** Councillor Jakeman advised that the Community Payback Scheme has called to site on three occasions now and have cleared two overgrown plots, the ditch at the rear of the allotments up to plot 10 and also cut back the hedge at the rear of the car park. We are waiting for more dates when they are available.
 - 3. Best Plot Allotment Competition going forward– RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously for the Parish Council to step back and not to be involved with this due to time and cost implications. Councillors are happy if plot holders want to form a committee and continue with this themselves. Clerk to write to all plot holders with an update of this meeting.
 - 4. To Review Terms & Conditions re Wasp Nests – RESOLVED:** Councillor unanimously agreed for plot holders to be responsible for their own wasp nest removal on their plot or in their sheds. The Terms and Conditions will be updated to reflect this. The Council will consider dealing with removal if the nest is in a communal area.
 - 5. Water Bill – RESOLVED:** The Parish Council has received a water bill of £6121.71. This was due to someone opening the drain valve and leaving it running and it was constantly filling and draining. The original padlock was found to be open. The drain valve has been secured and locked up again. Clerk to contact Business Stream to sort out a repayment plan.
-

18 Planters

- a. Precinct Benches Update –** 3 benches have been removed due to safety concerns. Cllr Hubbard advised that the large bench by the post box has rotten wood and bolts exposed. Clerk to contact JSN Arnold to remove this asap. Clerk will also chase Andy Frost designs for a quote for replacement as they have the necessary insurance required for the job. NFDC have replied stating that they do not have these benches down on their asset list, so the presumption is that they do belong to the Parish Council.
-
- b. Christmas Lights –** No further update received from Cllr Nutburn following his meeting with Matthew Stratford and my email asking further questions to be able to put forward for this meeting. As no costings or further information has come forward Councillors deemed that it is now too late to get this sorted and that the Christmas lights will not happen this year.
-

19 Next Meeting Date

- a. To Agree the Next Meeting Date - RESOLVED:** The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 10:15am. Clerk to check if meeting room is free.
-

Meeting Closed at 3:25pm

Signed:

Date:
