

WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting

20th September 2022 at 7:30pm

St Anne's Hall, Aylesbury Road, Wendover HP22 6JG

Present: Councillors Stephen Worth (Chair), Jennifer Ballantine, Sheila Bulpett, Diane Washington, Julie Williams and Sam Walker.

Clerk: Andy Smith

Members of Public: 0

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A22.038 Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Standen and were ACCEPTED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A22.039 None.

3. MINUTES

A22.040 The minutes of the meeting of 19th July 2022 were **RESOLVED** as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A22.041 None

5. UPDATE REPORT FROM THE CLERK

A22.042 The report was given by Amanda – it was NOTED that:

- The 2 dead trees in the orchard will be replaced.
- The street lighting check has not been completed and has been chased, with a deadline for it to be complete by 18th Oct. It was further noted that street light repairs are currently extremely slow with residents complaining about the speed of repairs.
- The step-up fitness equipment at Ashbrook – The install company don't do spares and we had to use a local joiner.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

A22.043 None.

7. FINANCE

A22.044 The payments due to be paid via BACS were **RESOLVED** and signed

8. OPEN SPACES AND HAMPDEN POND

a) Hampden Pond

To consider a quote for the lily maintenance at Hampden Pond.

A22.045 It was NOTED that the quote is just for cutting and moving and that there may be a need to cut back more to stop them taking over and this will be clarified with the contractor. It was further NOTED the cost in 2019 was just over £3k, the 2021 invoice cannot be compared as it also included tree work and bank repairs. It was NOTED that the pond maintenance budget has £1500 in it and the Pond EMR has £5k. It was further NOTED that there were trees fallen into the pond and **RESOLVED** this would be investigated as a separate issue to agree if they require attention.

The committee **RESOLVED** to commission the work as soon as possible. The work would be paid for from the pond maintenance budget with any remainder coming from the EMR.

9. OTHER MATTERS

a) Best Kept Village 2022

A22.046 It was NOTED that we came 2nd and were very close to winning. The areas to improve covered the bus shelters which have since been cleaned. It was NOTED that the bus shelter cleaning could be done earlier in the year. It was further NOTED that the judges would like to see some more planting directly around the war memorial. It was considered and **RESOLVED** that the war memorial should be left as current.

b) Waste Bin Replacement

To consider replacing four bins at Ashbrook and Witchell from EMR

A22.047 The previous costs were considered in which an external company created the concrete base. It was NOTED that despite the increase in the costs of the bins we can make a saving this year from the grounds team doing the concrete work. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the bins and install as set out in the papers.

c) London Road and Aylesbury Road Hedges

To consider a quote to cut the London Road, old skate park hedge and Aylesbury Road hedge near the white gates

A22.048 It was **RESOLVED** to employ King contractors to undertake the work. It was NOTED it comes from the tree works account.

d) Dog waste Bin

Update on the request for a dog waste bin at Nash Lee Lane further to A22.028

A22.049 It was NOTED that the cost for a dog waste bin was £334.16 and a standard litter bin £125.10. Buckinghamshire Council would like to install a dog waste bin and they will absorb the emptying into their current rounds. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the dog waste bin and install at the agreed site on Nash Lee Lane.

e) Climate Action Wendover Tree and Hedge Planning

(i) **To consider a request to replace dead trees at Witchell, Ashbrook and Walnut Tree Meadow**

A22.050 The proposal outlined replacement of trees that had died in the heat and drought. It was NOTED that these are established trees and not whips. It was **RESOLVED** to replace the trees this year because of the extreme hot weather to come from the CLAW EMR budget. It was further **RESOLVED** that this was a one-off replacement and not an ongoing commitment to replace dead trees in the future. It was NOTED that this will be communicated to CLAW.

(ii) **To consider a request from Climate Action Wendover to plant hedging along the roadside railings at Ashbrook Open Space.**

A22.051 It was NOTED that there is a safety and security issue around the line of sight from the main road that a hedge would create. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** not to install the hedge

f) Eco Audit

To review and consider the amenities related actions from the recent eco audit report

A22.052 The extract from the eco audit from CLAW was discussed. The open spaces actions were NOTED and discussed:

Recommendation 1: Consult with the wildlife trust around developing a plan to develop wildlife – The committee NOTED there are needs for open spaces as well as wildlife areas and getting the balance would be difficult with the grounds we have. It was NOTED further resources would be required

Recommendation 3: Installing Woodland – It was discussed and NOTED we didn't have the correct spaces for woodland and again there is a balance with the need for open spaces. It was further NOTED we are working with CLAW on the old skate park site.

Recommendation 4: The requirement for environmental materials in the parks was NOTED. It was further NOTED that recycled plastic equipment may ensure longevity that timber may not have and help to minimise environmental impact. It was **RESOLVED** that whenever we replace equipment, we will consider the environmental impacts of the materials we use.

Recommendation 11: Rain harvesting system – It was NOTED that it was a robust design, which came at a cost. It was NOTED that we should proceed and **RESOLVED** a costed proposal should be brought back to the committee to establish an EMR and implement the work.

It was further NOTED that we will be reinspected next year to evaluate any changes and improvements

g) Open Spaces Working Group

To receive an update and any recommendations from the working group.

A22.053 No update provided

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

A22.054 None

11. OTHER BUSINESS

A22.055 The chair and committee expressed their sincere appreciation for the support provided by Amanda

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A22.056 The next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee is 18th October 2022.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

A22.057 As all business was transacted the meeting was closed at 8:05pm

Signed by *Councillor Worth*

Chair to the Amenities Committee

Date: 18th October 2022