

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** OF EVERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON **TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2017** IN EVERSLEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Cllr S Miller (Chair)  
Cllr A McNeil  
Cllr P Todd (Ex-Officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs J Routley (Parish Clerk).

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Cllr K Neville

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
(i) There were no declarations of interest  
(ii) There were no written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.  
(iii) There was no need to grant any requests for dispensation.

64 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING  
(i) The minutes, including the confidential minutes, of the meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held on **TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016** had previously been circulated to all Councillors.  
(ii) No errors were reported.

It was **resolved** that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

**SM**

(iii) Matters arising from previous Minutes  
Min 48 ii) Marsh Lane Cllr McNeil reported that Hampshire deny responsibility for the ditch. Cllr McNeil will pursue the matter with James Holt (Highways).  
Min 49: Bins at Burial Ground the volunteers are putting the bins out by the road and they are now being emptied regularly.  
Min 55: The Chair confirmed that the new Playground Equipment had now been ordered.  
Min 61: Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy Cllr P Todd had attended this workshop on the Council's behalf.

**AM**

65 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
None

66 GARDEN PLOTS  
(i) Inspection Report Cllr C Hutton had performed an inspection of the plots and found 4 to be unkempt.

(ii) **RESOLVED**

- To send the majority of the plot holders renewal letters stating that EPC is happy for them to renew.
- With regards to the 4 unmaintained plots they will be written to and told that at the moment EPC is unwilling to renew their tenancy unless they demonstrate they are willing to clear the plots by 1 April.
- Any vacant plots will be assigned to the next people on the waiting list and then advertised.
- To allow a concessionary rate of £25, for the first year, for non residents taking on one of the disused plots
- The Clerk is to enquire with Basingstoke Skip hire the cost of hiring a small skip to take the cleared debris from the garden plots and will advise Full Council at the next meeting.

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

67 GROUND MAINTENANCE

(i) The council currently contracts Grounds Maintenance Services from external contractor Nick Robins Ltd. The original contract was awarded in 2012 through schedule B of the contract that permits our contractor has taken on further duties.

The tender process was undertaken by the Chairman of Open Spaces. In very competitive circumstances our current contractor won the contract.

Now in our fifth year of operation all is working well and we have no issues with our current contractor.

The Council has received information from 2 other councils. It is convinced that it is getting value for money from the current supplier as the contractor continues to provide a high quality and flexible service and has offered to keep his prices at the same rate that was tendered in 2012. In recommending the draft budget, the Open Spaces Committee had used the current value and is happy to continue at this rate.

(ii) **RESOLVED**

- To recommend to Full Council that the Grounds Maintenance contract be extended with the current supplier for a year and reviewed prior to the renewal date.

68 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME,

(i) A remainder of £220 remains in this scheme for EPC to spend before the end of the financial year.

**RESOLVED**

- To use the cash remaining under the Lengths man Scheme to clear the ditch at the corner of Marsh Lane and the Reading Road.

Chair

69 LITTERPICKING

(i) The committee discussed the options for Litterpicking including using Grounds Maintenance companies, volunteers and hiring an employee.

(ii) **RESOLVED**

- The Clerk will circulate the litter picking schedule to councillors to verify whether this is still what is required.

The Open Spaces Committee will recommend to Full Council that:

- Suppliers will be asked to quote for litter picking services
- HDC will be asked if this is something they could provide
- 

70 BUS STOP

(i) Councillors discussed the state of the bus stop at Lower Common and the fact that it did not offer much protection from speeding traffic to people and school children waiting.

(ii) **RESOLVED**

To ask the advice of the Passenger Transport Inspector at HCC as to how this stop could be improved.

Clerk

71 TREES, HEDGES, VERGES AND DITCHES

(i) There were no reported issues on HCC land.

(ii) A member of the public had contacted Cllr P Todd reporting that a tree branch had fallen on his car and damaged it. However, the car had been parked on land which was Village Green and therefore should not have been parked on.

The Clerk is to verify the legal position with the insurers and raise at the next Full Council meeting.

Clerk

(iii) The Chase It was noted that the trees had still not been cut back at this property and were obscuring road signs. The Clerk will write to them again.

Clerk.

Vann Place The owners had contacted the Council to verify responsibility for clearing the ditch and ownership of the surrounding trees. Cllr P Todd is to speak with them.

PT

ESA Ditch The Clerk is to continue to Chase the Environment Agency regarding the ditch by ESA which is a main water course.

72 VOLUNTEERING WORKING GROUP

(i) Cllr C Edge and Cllr C Hutton had agreed to jointly lead the working group and volunteers. They have approached people at Charles Kingsley School, who were very responsive, and will advertise elsewhere for volunteers. It was noted that the cost of Hi-Vis jackets had been included in next year's budget.

Muddy Roads Cllr A McNeil offered to speak to Cemex and Hampshire/Highways to try and resolve the muddy roads and signs throughout the village.

AM

73 FLY-TIPPING

(i) Opposite Village Hall There has been yet more fly tipping at this location. A member of the public witnessed and reported the fly tipping. EPC will attempt to contact the landowners and request that they clear.

Clerk

Sherlock Lea A resident was witnessed throwing hedge cutting into Chequers Green. The Clerk had written to him to ask him to clear the debris or offer to ask contractors to clear at a cost to him. It was noted that the debris is still there. EPC is to write again to note that this has not yet been cleared and to ask them to do so within 2 weeks, failing which the Council will arrange for clearance and invoice them for the full amount.

Clerk

Sherlock Lea Ditches The Chair will ascertain whether these have been cleared and if not will contact Thames Valley Housing Association.

Chair

74 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

(i) There were no reported problems.

Clerk

75 ANY OTHER OPEN SPACES ITEMS OF INFORMATION

(i) The Clerk had nothing to report.

(ii) Councillors reported the following:

Lockeswood Signs It had be noticed that 10 large and 10 smaller signs had been erected throughout the village advertising the Millgate Homes. EPC is to write to them stating that EPC has tolerated them for 3 weeks but trust that they will remove them as soon as possible. This is to be copied to Highways noting that the signs are attached to street furniture belonging to HCC.

Signs on Chequers Lane It was noted that the businesses who had advertised on the corner of Chequers Lane were unhappy that they had now been prevented from doing so. Cllr P Todd believed that the land owner nearby owned a strip of land by his fence and may allow signs to be installed there. It was suggested that the businesses might want to approach the landowner.

There being no further items for discussion the Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Chairman.....Date.....

**The next Open Spaces meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm**

## APPENDIX A

### Ongoing Actions List

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <u>Public Rights of Way Evidence Forms regarding Bramshill Forest</u> Cllr P Todd is still to review the paperwork and write a cover letter for the form which clearly explains the claim.   | PT             |
| <u>War Memorial Cross in Churchyard</u> Cllr K Neville offered to voluntarily make the repairs if he could be compensated for materials. He is to look into what would be required.  |                |
| <u>Playgrounds</u> Cllr S Miller has taken pictures of all the play areas and the Clerk is to put these on the website.  | Clerk<br>Clerk |
| The Clerk is still to put the Rights of Way Map on the website and the notice board.   |                |
| <u>19 Kingsley Road</u> Cllr P Todd has spoken to the Ordinary Water Course Consenting Department (HCC) and this matter is now being looked into. Cllr P Todd is to chase Hampshire Estates on this matter.  | PT             |
| <u>Bluebell Wood</u> Cllr K Neville has taken photos in order to mark the routes on the map and will circulate to this committee.  | KN<br>PT       |
| Cllr P Todd will talk to CEMEX regarding this at their next meeting.   |                |
| <u>Bus Stop by Kingsley Road</u> Councillors reported that the roof of the bus shelter has been damaged. Cllr K Neville offered to make the repairs required.  | KN             |
| <u>Flooding on Coopers Hill</u> The Chairman acknowledged that part of the ditch under the walk way at Up Green still needed to be cleared.  | SD             |
| Cllr C Young reported that Highways had stated that they would look at the culvert in the road and sweep Coopers Hill but have not yet done so. Cllr C Young had contacted HCC and pointed out that the culvert remained a problem.  | CY             |
| <u>Footpath 24</u> The Chairman had met the new owner. The Chairman felt it would be sensible to work with the landowner and the agricultural department at CEMEX to see if the levels could be restored before putting in a floating footpath. The Chairman is trying to arrange a meeting with the landowner and HCC Rights of Way. The Chairman and not received a response from CEMEX. It was felt that if the new owners cleared the ditches this would help towards to footpath. | SD<br>SD/SM    |
| <u>Garden Plots</u> . To install the padlock on the gate.  |                |
| <u>Up Green Restoration Project</u> The clearance work had highlighted where the footpath was and it was suggested that a gravel path could be laid all the way through. The SGS grant scheme is again open for applications.  | SD             |
| <u>Up Green Village Green</u> Since this matter now seems to be progressing through solicitors it was felt that it was not necessary to pursue protection options at this time. It was also noted that tenants are now respecting the Green and parking on the road.   |                |
| At the recent Full Council meeting it had decided there would need to be a long term management plan for this area. The Open Spaces Committee agreed to take on this task in collaboration with local residents.   | OSC            |
| <u>Hollybush Lane</u> It was noted that there are overhanging brambles along this lane. The Clerk is to write to the landowners and tenants.   | Clerk          |
| <u>Grants</u> The Chairman is to provide new councillor, Cllr M Hitchman with maps of all EPC owned land.  | SD             |
| <u>Replacement Bench</u> Full Council had approved the remainder of the cost for the replacement bench. The Clerk is to order this and it is to be sited by the pond at Cross Green.   | Clerk          |
| <u>Adverse weather</u><br>Cllr C Young will republish the Emergency Procedures.  | CY             |
| <u>Bluebell Wood</u> It was noted that the 'name tree' in the woods may now be a safety hazard.  |                |
| <u>Hollybush Lane</u> There is a tree down on the north side.  | SD             |
| <u>Grounds Maintenance Contract</u> This contract is to be reviewed again in May 2015.   |                |

Scrutiny flooding meeting EPC has been informed that this meeting due to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 has been cancelled. The Clerk has asked to be informed of the rescheduled date.

Marsh Lane Councillors need to assess the ditches by the pylons and the drains are now buried.

Sherlock Lea The rubbish has still not been cleared. Thames Valley Housing Association has been out to assess but were unable to locate the rubbish. Cllr S Miller has provided photographs which the Clerk has sent. Thames Valley Housing Association is to be chased as to when they will take action.

**Clerk**

Village of the Year competition Cllr S Miller agreed to look into this competition.

Community Litterpick Councillors discussed the possibility of holding this in the summer. Cllr S Miller is to investigate this further.

**SM**

Chequers Green There had been a complaint from a resident about the pile of green waste at Chequers Green. This was as a result of the Payback Team's clearance and would be burned or cleared as a matter of urgency.

**SD**

Play Area Inspection Report It was suggested that goal posts may be donated by ESA and that a basket ball hoop may be sponsored by The Chequers Public House. Cllr S Miller is to investigate this further.

**SM**

Trees, Hedges, Verges and ditches It was noted that the New Council may wish to consider a tree survey on EPC owned land and will investigate costs.

**SD**

Longwater Lane The Clerk has to written to the land owner with the standard HCC hedge clearing letter.

**Clerk**

Firgrove Road There is an Alder tree on Firgrove Road that is rotten and could fall across the road. The Chairman is to log a ticket with HCC about this dangerous tree.

**SD**

Open Space Areas Consultation Cllr D Bradley had responded to this consultation. The Consultants had sent back a map to verify the different areas. It was noted that there were quite a few errors on their map which Cllr P Todd offered to address and respond back.

**PT**

Chequers Green Play Area It was reported that someone had been exercising their horse in the Chequers Green Play area and using some of the trim trail as jumps. This had caused much disruption with children and dogs that were also using the park. It was noted that horses should not be in there at all and that signage might be required. Councillors are to speak to the rider concerned.

**SD**

Hollybush Lane It was noted that the bushes are very overgrown. The Chairman is to speak with the tenant's agents to see what can be done.

**SD**

Footpath 15 It was noted that there should be a stile on this footpath but instead walkers have to climb over a fence. Cllr K Neville offered to investigate.

**KN**

Footpath 17 It was noticed that the hedges from 2 properties are overhanging this footpath by Charles Kingsley's School. Cllr S Miller is to investigate.

**SM**