

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** OF EVERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON **TUESDAY 21st MARCH 2017** IN EVERSLEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Cllr S Miller (Chair)
Cllr C Edge
Cllr K Neville
Cllr P Todd (Ex-Officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs J Routley (Parish Clerk).

76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr C Hutton, Cllr A McNeil.

77 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.

78 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
(i) The minutes, including the confidential minutes, of the meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held on **TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2017** had previously been circulated to all Councillors.
(ii) Errors
Min 67: line 2 should read 'The original contract was awarded in 2012. Schedule B of the contract permits our contractor to take on further duties.'
Min 71: Action – Clerk
Min 75: Action – Clerk

It was **resolved** that with these amendments, the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

SM

(iii) Matters arising from previous Minutes
Min 66: The Clerk has written to all plot holders and received some responses already.
Min 67: The Grounds Maintenance Contract until end March 2017 and been signed by both parties.
Min 68: The money from the Lengthsman scheme had be used towards clearing the ditch at Marsh lane but there were not sufficient funds to completely clear the ditch but it was much improved and now free flowing.

79 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

80 VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP
(i) The council discussed the costs which might be required for clearance of the Garden Plots.

RESOLVED

- To approve costs of up to £200 for the cost of a skip or a contractor clearing.

(ii) The working group would like a list of areas to work on in order of priority. The Chair suggested Centre Green as the first priority. Brambles need clearing and perhaps a wild flower meadow could be planted with the free seeds received.

- The Clerk is to confirm the budget for next year for equipment for this group.
- The Chair is to research the cost of equipment such as strimmer and hedge cutter and put this on the next Full Council Agenda for approval.

Clerk

SM

- 81 LITTERPICKING
 (i) The committee discussed the options for Litterpicking including using Grounds Maintenance companies, volunteers and hiring an employee. An advert had been placed the asking for interest.
 (ii) **RESOLVED**

The Open Spaces Committee will recommend to Full Council that:

- The council employees a litter picker for 5 hours a week at £8 per hour.
- Cllr C Hetherington to manage the PAYE.

- 82 BLACKWATER VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP
 (i)
RESOLVED
 To decide a respond on behalf of EPC to the Draft Blackwater Valley Countryside Strategy 2017-2022 (as per Appendix B).

PT/Clerk

- 83 TREES, HEDGES, VERGES AND DITCHES
 (i) There were no reported issues on HCC land.
 (ii) The Chair is to ask the grounds maintenance contractor to check if any trees on EPC land require attention.
 (iii) 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.
ESA Ditch The Clerk is to continue to Chase the Environment Agency regarding the ditch by ESA which is a main water course.
Hollybush Lane There are overhanging bushes in this area which will be reported to the land owner CEMEX.

SM

PT

Clerk

Clerk

- 84 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 through a land registry search and request that they clear.
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.
Sherlock Lea Ditches The Chair will ascertain whether these have been cleared and if not will contact Thames Valley Housing Association.
Glaston Hill Road A large amount of tree debris had been dumped. This has been reported and cleared.
B3272 Yateley/Eversley Border A sofa has been fly tipped. The Clerk has requested clearance.

Clerk

Clerk

Chair

- 85 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
 (i) There were no reported problems.

- 86 ANY OTHER OPEN SPACES ITEMS OF INFORMATION
 (i) The Clerk reported the following:
Grants The Clerk had been notified about potential grants through Greggs.
 (ii) Councillors reported the following:
Centre Green Play area The Chair reported that the playground equipment from the Bags of Help Grant was being installed and would be finished by the end of the week.

There being no further items for discussion the Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Chairman.....Date.....
The next Open Spaces meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 7.30pm

APPENDIX A

Ongoing Actions List

Public Rights of Way Evidence Forms regarding Bramshill Forest Cllr P Todd is still to review the paperwork and write a cover letter for the form which clearly explains the claim.
War Memorial Cross in Churchyard 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.

PT

The Clerk is still to put the Rights of Way Map on the website and the notice board.
19 Kingsley Road 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.

Clerk

Bluebell Wood Cllr K Neville has taken photos in order to mark the routes on the map and will circulate to this committee.

PT

Cllr P Todd will talk to CEMEX regarding this at their next meeting.

KN

PT

Flooding on Coopers Hill 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

Footpath 24 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

Up Green Restoration Project 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

Up Green Village Green 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

Hollybush Lane It was noted that there are overhanging brambles along this lane. The Clerk is to write to the landowners and tenants.

Clerk

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

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

SM

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

APPENDIX B

Comments on the draft Blackwater Valley Countryside Strategy 2017-2022

Page 1 Welcome the broadening of the Strategy to cover both the River Corridor and the wider River Catchment Area.

Page 11 Appreciate the statements concerning the Duty to Conserve Diversity.

Page 12 Appreciate the reference to Rights of Way Improvement Plans.

Page 12/13 Considers that County, District and Parish Flood Plans, where they exist might be referred to, as well as the EA's Flood Management Plan.

Pages 39 to 44 Welcomes the planned actions, desirable projects and opportunities listed for Areas 10, 11 and 12.

Pages 46 to 50 Wonder whether it might be more consistent to retain the same headlines and order in Chapter 7 as in Chapter 5 – Landscape, Recreation, River, Biodiversity and Community.

Page 46, para 7.1.2 Should not be “mineral companies and other brownfield landowners”. Mineral extraction is a temporary land-use and does not turn greenfield sites into brownfield sites. Para 7.4.1 is correct to refer to “mineral and brownfield sites”, which are different.

Page 46, para 7.1.7 Would be better if it were to refer to the creation of vistas as well as the maintenance of them.

Page 48 Could include an additional para 7.3.12 referring to new links to the Rights of Way network to make it more user-friendly.

Thanks to the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership for including EPC as a consultee and look forward to working with BVCP to achieve the aims in the parish of Eversley.