

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY 9TH AUGUST 2016
IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7 PM

Cllrs Present: Mr Roger Hanauer (Chairman)
Mr Chris Kemp
Mrs Maggie South
Mr David Burden
Mr Michael Peet

Apologies: None received

1. Representations by the public

None.

2. Apologies for absence

None received.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive from Members declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with **THE LOCALISM ACT 2011** and the **Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**.

None received.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 28.6.16 – minutes not ready yet due to clerk's absence

5. Matters arising

(a) Bus Shelters –

RH confirmed that he had been trying to get hold of Mark from Hyde Martlet to ascertain who owns the bank. He rang the Hyde Martlet Operations Centre and now has a reference number. Someone from there should be ringing him back within the next 24 hours. He said that the council cannot go to a contractor to get an estimate until they know for sure that they can cut into the bank.

MS asked whether if Hyde Martlet own it, they would be willing to pay to dig the hole since it would benefit many of their residents.

DB asked whether June Hubbard who will be using the bus shelter when it's completed could have a copy of the coloured diagram that Fred was given. **ACTION DB** will take it and give it to her.

MP confirmed that the council need a new groundworks quote for the extra work once they confirm that the bank can be dug into.

RH said that he has been in touch with the people who quoted previously to update them on the situation. He has been told that the company now have their own equipment and should therefore be able to lower the estimate. Hamiltons are coming to meet him and there is also a company from Midhurst and that will constitute the 3 quotes. **ACTION RH** to ascertain who the owner of the bank is.

CK discussed the repairs to the Hampers Common bus shelters saying that when he drove past they looked clean, tidy and respectable so the work must have been done, although he has not yet seen an invoice from Luckings for the work.

b) Skatepark

RH is going to try and effect another meeting with Gillian Keegan. **ACTION RH** to write to David to say he wants to meet with her.

MP suggested that he says that it can be totally at her convenience – wherever and whenever she wants.

MS asked whether there was any time line on the skate park.

MP confirmed that there is supposed to be a lot of discussion happening during the summer recess because they do not meet as an executive group until September. It is a small group of 7.

RH confirmed that he had received an email from David Hyland saying that the skate park is being discussed including by the chief executive.

MP clarified that the chief executive is the woman in charge of the officers. He feels that if it's gone to her now it means it has gone as high as it can within the civil service and that this is a positive sign.

CK said that one of the reasons it has gone to her is because PTC did so much lobbying. He added that David and Piers had explained that it would spend the summer going round the civil service and also the guys from car parks would look at it and make some recommendations. It will do the rounds amongst the officers who will be able to brief the councilors.

RH added how CDC had approached PTC to say that they have 50k waiting for them for the skate park.

DB stated that PTC had got further than anyone else before and that he felt the council would get there in the end.

RH rang Sport England to see about a grant but they were unavailable. **ACTION RH** to ring and get an answer from Sport England regarding a grant.

c) Footpath round the hills

MS confirmed that nothing had been done on the signage yet and that she has had a response from Mr Hodd. He has confirmed that Bartons Lane is a highway which means that WSCC is responsible for the surface. He confirmed that an inspection had taken place on 14/4/16 and any necessary repairs had been carried out on 10/5/16. He said he will try and attend the site before the next planned inspection. MS said that she had replied asking him to let her know if and when he would be attending the site, because it would be useful for an OS member to be there to inform him of PTC's intentions. She said she has not yet had a response to this. CK said there are 2 issues. When PTC applied for the £250 grant they had to put a date on it for the opening ceremony, so they picked Aug bank holiday which they thought would be far enough ahead. PTC will have to go back to them and see if they can effect a delay and if not they may have to lose the grant.

MS clarified that the grant money is to be spent this year.

CK added that the money had to go towards a commemoration celebration process. The plan is to spend money on gates and then have the opening ceremony. He suggested that PTC need to possibly talk to David Hyland, but that they also needed to get a full plan of what they intend to do even if it's not all executed now.

RH suggested that since the council are going to buy 2 of the same gate, they could purchase one of them now.

CK confirmed that he is not sure what the trigger is to release the grant. He reiterated the need for a full plan.

MP asked if the biggest issue is that the council want to widen the path in places.

MS confirmed that at the moment it is too narrow for a wheelchair and too narrow in places for people to walk side by side. She added that it will not be a priority for WSCC since it is a G road.

CK said he felt that the council should put deeply staked sleepers on the valley side.

RH said he thought the council were going to change the barbed wire.

MS said that people should not be near the barbed wire so it should be ok to leave. She said that the hedge by the catholic church needs cutting back about 2 feet and perhaps Henry could be asked to do that in the autumn. She added that it had been cut by WSCC, but in the wrong place.

CK said that one of the previous Petworth Society magazines had a picture of how it looked on the cover and he suggested going back to that.

MS said that she agreed with CK that PTC need a plan with what they want the final appearance to be. The main issue is the widening. She added that it should be a graded surface not tarmac.

CK said they may be able to get highways to provide PTC with the materials if PTC can get volunteers in to help.

RH asked whether PTC could get a formal grant since they were going to be making it disabled friendly.

CK confirmed that there are grants available, but that he hadn't yet had time to look into this.

MS wondered whether they could fund raise since a lot of people walk along the footpath.

CK suggested that they could organize a working party and **ACTION CK** to talk to Judith the gardener tomorrow 10.8.16.

RH said that if someone has a digger they could lend the council, this would help with the cost.

d) Phone Boxes

CK said that Peter Welch has agreed to come to the office to do some clerking in the clerk's absence. He worked for BT before and is concerned by the lack of superfast broadband and will look into this for the council.

RH pointed out that before going on sick leave the clerk had been in touch regarding the Hampers green phone box.

MS added that there's a 4th phone box in Byworth and she asked what condition it was in.

ACTION RH to check whether there's a phone in it or not.

CK said that the Grove Lane phone box is nothing to do with BT and that it just needs a piece of glass and a coat of paint. He added they need to change the telephone sign at the top to say defib. He said if they go to Steeples they should be able to make a sign for this.

RH asked whether the council have to apply to planning if they are going to change the box to a different colour.

CK said they probably would need to do this.

RH confirmed that it is going to be a green colour.

e) Hampers Common Playpark

RH said that Peter Morton had contacted him about his letter but that he had not responded yet.

He has said to them that PTC will give a testimonial but it wouldn't be a glowing one. He then read out his proposed testimonial. Cllrs agreed it was acceptable. **ACTION RH** to send off the testimonial.

Picnic tables

CK confirmed that the grants had gone in and that he has had a reply from David Hyland saying that he has registered the council before the closing date and that he will let him know if there's any problem with the application form. He said that a decision will be made by September.

MP Enquired whether it would be tables or benches.

CK said they need to chase the woodsman re him giving a quote.

RH said that having picnic tables will bring families together.

CK added that Henry's grass cutting is really improving the appearance of the common.

Verge Protection –

CK read through the verge protection documents and outlined the 3 quotes for £400, £1700 and £1500. He said he felt that the £1500 quote provides enough and that he would take the quote to finance. He added that he feels they should contain the layby that's already there to stop it spreading.

MP confirmed that this would mean a row of posts with a small area for parking.

CK said they need to ask Digger Rob (Boddy) to do the French drains down there. He suggested that he could then perhaps also scrape over the layby, then PTC could put mesh and grass seed on it. He said finance would need to let them know if there was enough money for this. He clarified that it is 85 posts for £1500. He said that he had asked the estate about this and their reply was that since PTC leased the land it was up to them how they managed it.

Mole draining –

CK said they need to get hold of Digger Rob for this.

MP asked whether he should say to Rob that PTC will provide the pea shingle.

CK confirmed that this is the case and that they need a plan from him. He added that he's offered to provide the labour free of charge, but PTC need to know what materials are needed. The rest of the mole drainage is subject to the watershed grant which he needs to finish now that he has the quote. He said that it is going to be £28,000 to do 2 culverts. He added that the main culvert on the A272 has collapsed and the other 2 are blocked solid. He confirmed that Operation Watershed will pay the full amount.

ACTION Councillors to meet at MP's premises to finalise the Watershed Grant application on Monday 15th August at 10am.

f and g) Planters and hanging baskets –

MS said that she has handed the responsibility to Petworth in Bloom and that working party dates have been sorted.

CK said that he needed to talk to them tomorrow because they're proposing that the style of tub be changed. MS stated that the hanging baskets are looking lovely and that John is doing an amazing job.

h) Finger posts

RH said that he has taken the rotten wood out and has bought a new piece of wood made from air dried oak and that this will be enough to do the whole of Grove Lane. He is currently finding it difficult to source plastic lettering which requires 2.5 inch letters.

ACTION MS to ask her son if he knows where to get these.

i) General maintenance

MS said she was getting lots of positive messages regarding the grass cutting.

RH mentioned the foliage clearance and said that when he had been in the office a lot of people had been coming in to complain. He said he thinks the council should have a 2 week turnaround if someone has made a good point. He confirmed that he had been recording the complaints in the visitors book and he said they must respond to people so that they know things have been actioned. He added they should respond to people even if they do not yet have an answer.

Foliage clearance

RH said that Fred had been in to say that the foliage all around the bus shelter is obstructing the lorry sign. He asked whether this is the responsibility of CDC.

CK said that they need to speak to Janet Duncton. He suggested that the highways budget is very tight and that cleaning these signs, which are considered as information signs rather than critical ones, is probably not high priority. He added that if any of them see Janet they need to tell her the foliage needs to be cut back around these lorry signs that cost a lot of money to put up. He further added that they might need to set up a working party to go with loppers to chop the foliage down since he feels that highways will probably not do it themselves.

ACTION RH to email Janet Duncton to say he would like an explanation about not cutting the foliage when she attends the next full council meeting.

j) Allotments

RH said that he has had 3 new requests for allotments, but he doesn't know which ones are available.

He added that there is a roll of lino at the top of allotment 55B Angel St.

MS confirmed that there is a lot of rubbish at the top of this allotment.

RH said they need to contact Andrew Carrington to tidy up this rubbish.

MS said that he has done an amazing job of trying to improve his allotment.

ACTION RH will go along with his landrover and scoop up the rubbish. He suggested that Andrew should be gently told what he's allowed to have on his allotment.

CK said that the process is that the clerk should write to the offending allotment holder and tell them to move their rubbish.

MS said that the council should clear the rubbish when someone takes on an allotment with rubbish already on it.

CK said that the council had held back from writing to the allotment holders because they were not sure if the records they hold are correct. He said they do not want to write to the incorrect holders and that John is supposed to be going round and checking the allotments.

DB confirmed that John is not available at the moment.

CK said that as an OS group they should set up inspection dates and ensure that inspections get done and incidents reported back and get dealt with. He added that they have to manage and use the allotments

