

Minutes of the Meeting of the Facilities Committee of Aston Clinton Parish
Council, held on 18th February 2015 at 7.30pm
at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

J Savigar (Chairman)

D Wallis

T Kirkland

J Hoinville

L Ronson (Co-opted)

A Mooney (co-opted)

Clerk: G Merry

2 members of the public

15.011 Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Read

15.012 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest

15.013 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2015.

The Minutes were approved and signed.

15.014 Public Participation

- i. Pavilion: it was stated that the original Sports and Social club had been a facility for the community but it had become a commercial venture that had lost sight of the needs of local people. The leaseholder had worked against the football clubs, in particular on tournament days by banning them from selling their own food/drink etc. therefore not helping them to offset their considerable costs. Cllr Kirtland further stated that the interior could be configured better to allow for dual private/public use.
- ii. Lamppost: it was stated that the council had not paid to replace a damaged lamppost in New Road but were planning to pay for one up by the woods. The council should have a consistent policy. Cllr Savigar responded that there is a plan to have a rolling replacement policy.
- iii. General maintenance contract: It was stated that the current contract is too all-encompassing and it would be more practical to have 2 smaller ones. Cllr Hoinville stated that council wishes to move away from using our equipment/machinery and use a contractor who comes fully self-sufficient. Mrs Cozens of ACFC stated that she had attended a meeting with Berks and Bucks league and that there were grants available for buying equipment. Cllr Savigar stated that it would be necessary to look at the bids that came in and if necessary be flexible.

15.015 Matters Arising

The Clerk and Mrs Ronson were commended for their dog fouling campaign in the village.

15.016 Pavilion

Sub-committee: It was debated but decided against having a pavilion sub-committee.

Arrangements whilst empty: Cllr Savigar reported that only essential appliances have been left on and heating could be switched on in the event of freezing weather. It was decided in favour of keeping the contract with Beacon for the alarm system which has been reset for our use. Cllrs Savigar and Read are key holders and this will be reviewed in May.

Meters: The Clerk explained how there are only 3 accounts on the national energy database for this postcode and none of them are for the Hub/Pavilion/Gary Brennan/Sports and Social Club. She is still trying to get to the bottom of it. She agreed to ask the Youth Club, bowls club and tennis club for copies of their bills. Cllr Savigar highlighted the need for an energy audit.

Inventory and return of personal possessions: An inventory is well underway. The intention is to continue identifying what belongs to whom and then adverts will be placed for other interested parties to come forward. Once proof of ownership is established, parties will be asked to attend on a named date, overseen by bailiffs, and collect their items. The exception to this may be Premier Catering who own £1000s worth of catering equipment. It was debated whether sufficient proof had been submitted by Premier and decided, subject to final checks with the lawyer, to allow them retrieval at an earlier date. Re. items belonging to the brewery (Greene King) it was stated that a cooler had been purchased by the P.C. for £2250. The Clerk agreed to find the paperwork for this.

Legal Position: Re. perishable stock, the lawyer had advised allowing Mr Brennan to have this back and the Clerk would arrange for this to be on the day attended by the Bailiffs. It was debated whether to remove the 'Hub' signs: the MOTION was proposed by Cllr Savigar, seconded by Cllr Kirtland and AGREED. Mr Mooney and Mrs Ronson volunteered to do this.

The Future: A survey was underway in the village with over 140 replies to date. The deadline will be March 4th when an initial summary of the replies will be presented to council. The Facilities Committee will then consider the options for the way forward and present preliminary recommendations to the council in April. This will then provide the basis for the new council to consider after the elections in May.

15.017 Grounds Maintenance Contract

Update: The Clerk explained that there had been an administrative delay but the tender documents had now gone out and there had been approx. 12 enquiries. It was agreed that an extension could be granted if requested, to March 4th. Cllrs Wallis and Hoinville will then assess the bids. Cllr Kirtland enquired whether footpaths are included in the contract and Cllr Wallis confirmed that these will be maintained separately. Mrs Ronson highlighted that villagers continue to fly-tip household rubbish onto footpaths and many are known locally.

Internal Cost Comparison Model: Cllr Plowman has the figures for the ongoing maintenance budget.

Footpaths: Cllr Wallis stated a footpaths sub-committee is being formed and anyone living next to a local footpath will be written to and informed that any fly-tipped rubbish will be put back in their gardens. BCC also have a policy on fly-tipping with CCTV in some areas which has led to prosecutions. Cllr Read was thanked for clearing footpath no 32 voluntarily.

Culvert: A site meeting with BCC's Flood Management Officer had taken place. She had confirmed that the bund would be no more than 18" high. It was originally going to run on the pitch side of the fitness apparatus but she had agreed at that meeting to it going on the scrub side. The culvert will be on BCC land with a degree of landscaping built into the plans. Once planning has been approved, it will be pegged out. Park View will be the access during the works and BCC will make good any damage on completion. The Clerk agreed to get these matters in writing.

Compound: Cllr Wallis stated the need for an inventory. Mrs Cozens requested that ACFC store their equipment in there and Cllr Wallis suggested this be discussed at a meeting of the Sports and Recreation sub-committee. Cllr Wallis asked if ACFC pays the electricity bill for the Astroturf pitch

and Mrs Cozens confirmed that they do, although the box belongs to the PC and it is in need of repair. Cllr Wallis agreed to address this.

Security: there was much discussion about whether to have the barrier at the entrance to the park locked at night. It was decided to advertise on the website for a volunteer to do this and see if anybody came forward.

Council charitable responsibilities: Moliqie Aubrey and Fountain: Cllr Kirtland confirmed that the PC is responsible for trimming the hedge, cutting the grass, weed killing etc. at the fountain. She also stated the PC is responsible for maintaining the bus shelters. It was agreed that a volunteers group is needed but the Scouts would be approached in the first instance as part of litter-picking duties.

Litter Picking: Cllr Hoinville had not had time to re-visit this with the scouts so in the meantime, and in the absence of any other volunteers, Cllr Savigar offered to continue doing it.

15.018 Sport and Recreation

Interim Catering at the park: A snack/hot drinks van had been contracted for an initial 4 weekends which would then be reviewed. A few tables/chairs from the pavilion would be placed outside near the van.

Allotments: Mrs Ronson had no problems to report. She was asked to thank Mr Ronson for his work in bringing some of the allotments up to useable condition.

Playground Inspection: The annual inspection had been carried out with no critical faults. The Clerk was to ask one of her listed maintenance companies to quote on the few necessary jobs. It was also agreed that the Clerk would draw up a rota of Councillors to carry out the weekly park inspections along with a tick sheet of what to check. Re. signage, the inspector had advised on the necessary signage and the Clerk was asked to action this. Cllr Savigar expressed concern that the signage at the pond was insufficient and it was agreed that ROSPA should be asked to carry out a proper risk assessment.

Park Permits and Fees: It was highlighted that the annual peppercorn rents were overdue for increase especially in light of the fact that the allotment owners pay more but get less in return.

15.019 Property Maintenance

Immediate issues: Cllr Savigar reported there had been 3 water leaks in the Youth Club, there was wear and tear to the fascia boards and the pointing on one wall of the Pavilion was badly eroded. It was questioned what exactly is the agreement re. funding with the youth club and that since they do sub-let they could possibly fund some of the repairs themselves. It was agreed to ask them to attend the next meeting. Re. the Pavilion, it was discussed that there would be significant funding if it were to become a community centre rather than privately leased. Significant repairs were needed and there was approx. £25,000 in the precept to fund this. It was discussed and agreed that the Clerk would get quotes for an initial round of repairs to the exterior of both buildings. The clerk also confirmed that she has 2 handymen on file but would need to source one more.

Noticeboards: the Clerk reported wear and tear on these and Cllr Wallis offered to check them.

Lampposts: It was agreed that a rolling repair programme needs to be devised and approx. £6000 was in the precept for this. The Clerk agreed to contact Peter Sharp to see if he has a record of the previous programme of work.

Cleaning: The arrangements with Eamonn McGoldrick cleaning, opening and closing the public toilet would remain as they are for now.

15.020 Utility Audit

The Clerk will continue working on this

15.021 Funding For Projects

S106 Money: It was identified that we need our own wish list of projects especially if the PC decides not to support A.L.F.'s application for Green Park. A.L.F.'s plans needed significantly more money than is in the S106 fund whereas we could put that funding to good use. Projects identified so far are: A new Astroturf pitch and a disabled toilet.

15.022 Any Other Business

Cllr Savigar noted the growing number of molehills in the park but it was decided to take no action for now. Play Around the Parishes is confirmed for: Thursday 6 August pm, Friday 14 August pm, Thursday 20 August pm

15.023 Matters for the next meeting

There was no business to be recorded for the next meeting

15.024 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th March

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Signed _____ Date _____