

Minutes of the Facilities Committee of Aston Clinton Parish Council, held on
10th June 2015 at 7.30pm
at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

A Mooney (Chairman)

P Wyatt

N Savigar

C Birch

J Savigar (Vice Chair)

S Beaumont

T Comerford

L Tubb

Clerk: G Merry

2 members of the public

15.059 Co-option

Mr Keith Loxley had been co-opted onto the Grounds Maintenance Committee

15.060 Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Read

15.061 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Mooney declared an interest in the matter of allotments.

15.062 To Approve the Minutes of the Facilities committee meeting held 23rd May 2015.

The minutes were approved and signed.

15.063 Public Participation

- i. It was advised that Mr Ronson may need the P.C. to keep the strimmer as he strims the area from the water tank to the stream. It was decided to let Mr Ronson view the equipment in the compound before deciding what to sell.

15.064 Grounds Maintenance:

- i. Report from Sub-Committee: The sub-committee had met on 5th June 2015
- ii. Clearance of compound and sale of unwanted equipment: Now the P.C. has a contractor for Grounds Maintenance it was no longer necessary to keep all the equipment and Mr Loxley had researched specialist agricultural auction houses. It was agreed that a local one would be preferable. Cllr J Savigar reported that there would be a working party to clear the compound. The archived documents stored in the groundsman's office would be assessed as to what needs to be kept. It may be possible to use the Pavilion outer storage room.

Motion: To resolve which items of grounds maintenance equipment to sell and by auction, was PROPOSED as above by Cllr J Savigar, SECONDED By Cllr N Savigar and AGREED.

- iii. Update on churchyard: Cllr Mooney reported that our churchyard does not compare well with Buckland or Drayton Beauchamp and it would be necessary to move to fortnightly cuts plus collection of cuttings. This would cost an additional £1500 for the growing season which would run up to late September. Reverend Moxley had also stated that the church would have a working day to clear cuttings, branches etc. It was discussed that regulations do not allow for pruning of trees currently growing out of older graves.

Motion: To agree to increase the frequency of cutting the churchyard to once every 2 weeks, up to end of September, and have the cuttings collected was PROPOSED by Cllr J Savigar, SECONDED by Cllr N Savigar and AGREED.

- iv. Reinstatement of footpaths: the worst 4 footpaths had been cleared and Buckland Landscapes had done a good job of clearing, weeding, widening and spraying. ACL8 has a large amount of debris and the clerk agreed to speak to AVDC/BCC fly-tipping service. Cllr Beaumont suggested using those serving community sentences for possible clearance work and the Clerk agreed to find out about this. Mr Loxley will help identify the next batch of footpaths for reinstatement.
- v. Update on football pitches in the Park: Mr Mooney had had several meetings with the Colts who will need 7 pitches for the next season including the meadow pitch. Weeding and feeding will cost £2500 for a one-off treatment which will take place after the fun day in July and will be assessed again in the spring.

Motion: To resolve to apply fertiliser and weed killer to the football areas was PROPOSED by Cllr Wyatt, SECONDED by Cllr N Savigar and AGREED.

- vi. Reinstatement of rough grass area adjacent to the meadow pitch: Cllr Mooney explained that this was a large triangle of wasteland which has recently been cut revealing significant holes. It will cost £350 to clear it enough to assess the problem. It was felt that it would be worth reclaiming this space as so much of the park will be used for football. Additionally the P.C. has inadvertently created a risk by clearing it and has a duty of care to minimise this hazard. It was agreed that the clerk would arrange to have the area roped off for now.

Motion: To agree that the rough area adjacent to the Meadow Pitch being cut & cleared was PROPOSED By Cllr N Savigar, SECONDED by Cllr Beaumont and AGREED. Once clearing has taken place the remedial work required will be assessed and costed with further action to be agreed by email.

- vii. Potholes on Park Driveway: the following motion was discussed with general agreement that this work needs to be done.

Motion: To agree that the Clerk to obtain quotes for the repair of the driveway approach to the park was PROPOSED By Cllr N Savigar, SECONDED by Cllr J Savigar and AGREED.

- viii. New signage for the entrance to the park to be congruent with new tenant's signage: The clerk had discussed this with the tenant and was awaiting information on their branding and their supplier.
- ix. Pond area. The hazard posed by the pond which is not fenced and has no warning sign was discussed.

Motion: That the clerk request a R.O.S.P.A inspection of the pond area in the Park was PROPOSED By Cllr J Savigar, SECONDED by Cllr Comerford and AGREED. Cllr Tubb highlighted the need to implement the recommendations from ROSPA.

- x. Update on the Culvert: A planning application had been submitted. BCC's flood management office is waiting on a report from a geomorphologist but has given verbal assurance that there will be no encroachment onto the fitness equipment or football pitch. Pegging-out of the designated area for the bund is due to take place in July and BCC have requested that the football pitch is marked out for this. They are still not sure where the bund will go but its purpose is to act as barrier in case of future flooding.
- xi. Inventory of lampposts in the village, assessment of depreciation and a replacement programme: There is no information in the Parish Office regarding any previous programme, any tendering or costs. It was agreed that Cllrs Comerford and Savigar would form a working party to produce an analysis with a view to getting the best maintenance programme at the most competitive price.
- xii. Update on devolution position: For now, grass and hedge-cutting services for Aston Clinton remain with Transport for Bucks but the funding available would gradually decrease over the coming years so there was a need to address this matter and allow for reduced funding availability in the precept for

next year. At the grounds Maintenance sub-committee it had been agreed to hold a series of exploratory meetings with BCC, neighbouring parishes and Aylesbury T.C. to understand the situation better

15.065 Sports and Recreation

- i. Report from Sub-Committee: It was discussed that after 2 months, ACFC had not implemented the measures to secure use of the All Weather Pitch and that there were increased incidences of anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that the Clerk write a formal letter pointing out that they are not complying with their obligations as contained in their original planning application. Cllr Mooney confirmed that cutting of pitches will now move to Thursdays with the remainder of the park still being cut on Fridays. The Colts will bring back all but one team to Aston Clinton for the forthcoming season.
- ii. New football permits: Cllr N Savigar had prepared and circulated draft permits to all councillors. The matter of the fee structure was discussed. It was a question of how to split the usage between the 2 clubs and whether to charge a usage fee or to pass on the cost of weed and feed to them. There was general agreement that the P.C. should not be making money out of football in the park but nor should it be subsidising it. An annual agreement was also felt to be better for the clubs as there would be no necessity to charge VAT. It was agreed that weeding and feeding is cost-neutral as the P.C. would be paying for it and passing on the cost to the clubs who would pay us. It was agreed that this would form the basis of the fees for this year and the success of the permits would be monitored with possible adjustments for next year. Next year's Grounds Maintenance ITT would need to include pitch management. Goal posts, line markers etc. will be gifted to the clubs and they will be responsible for their security, maintenance etc.

Motion: To agree that the Clerk issues park permits for football for the season 2015/2016 as prepared by Cllr N Savigar, PROPOSED by Cllr J Savigar, SECONDED By Cllr Tubb and AGREED.

- iii. Update on preparations for the Colts Fun Day: Most safety and organisational matters had now been addressed by the Colts. It was agreed that the Clerk would request the Colts supply their final risk assessment and site plan one week prior to the event, and supply their insurance cover note as soon as it is available.
- iv. Update on Allotments: Some plots had not yet been worked this year and a site inspection had identified those in poor condition. It was agreed that the clerk should send the letters to the allotment holders who were not complying with their tenancy agreement.
- v. Discussion of the provision of a picnic and BBQ area in the park and additional picnic tables in the vicinity of the play park. There was general discussion that this would be a desirable plan for the park as there is currently no provision and to plan to site it near the 'beach' area. Barbecues will be on stands and sited away from populated areas. Cllr Mooney has sourced recycled, vandal-proof and fire-proof picnic benches/tables. Although it is probably too late for this year, it would be possible to apply for S106 funding for possible completion next summer.

15.66 Community Centre

- i. Update on the Pavilion: The P.C. had received accounts, menu samples and alcohol policy from the preferred bidder as well as a further reference. It was therefore felt that their name could be released and was announced as 'Your Café in the Park', the same team that run the Café in the Woods at Wendover Woods. The Clerk would action the drawing up of a lease with Horwood and James, based on the H.o.T. Agreement. Some exterior work would be necessary e.g. the gutters, holes in walls where equipment had been removed, window sills and pressure washing of the surrounding paving. The Clerk agreed to get quotes for this work, including from the UTC who had asked for jobs for their students to undertake.

15.67 Any Other Business:

The clerk agreed to post councillors contact details on the 2 village noticeboards.

15.68 Date of Next Meeting

This will be Wednesday 8th July at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

..... Chairman Date