

Minutes of the Facilities Committee of Aston Clinton Parish Council, held on  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 6.30pm  
at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

A Mooney - Chairman

P Wyatt

L Ronson

J Egglesfield

S Beaumont

M Osborn

L Tubb

Clerk: G Merry

**16.009 Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Comerford, Birch, Read and Hughes

**16.010 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest

**16.011 To Approve the Minutes of the Facilities Committee held 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016.**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

**16.012 Public Participation**

There were no items

**16.013 Working practises:** The clerk outlined the areas that she currently makes decisions on without reference back to council, including urgent situations and managing Buckland Landscapes' regular work. However, with ad hoc items she felt that the current system is no longer workable and requested direction from the committee. Cllr Mooney also stated that there should be less ad hoc work needed now that large scale pruning had taken place and that some ad hoc work was to be absorbed into the monthly contract work. After some discussion it was agreed that a working party of committee members would meet once a month in the week prior to the Facilities meeting, decide on what needed to be done and report on it to the meeting. The clerk would keep this as a rolling agenda item. It was also agreed that email decisions and lengthy email round-robins were not good practise, as they did not allow for public transparency. It was further agreed that only PC-sanctioned contractors would be permitted to prune or fell trees from now on. It was agreed that the following projects formed the broad outline for the coming year:

**Agreed Projects:**

- S106 installations, including the driveway
- Pot hole repair – Park View
- 2 x new dog bins
- 2 x new euro bins
- Youth Club re-launch as community club.
- Play park equipment

**Optional:** Village signs, hanging baskets, car park lighting, park gates, resurfacing of car park, electrics to the MUGA, Community Centre contribution, Astonbury, allotment fencing.

#### 16.014 Sports and Recreation

- i. Progress on Skatepark: The clerk had circulated the final skate ramp layout from Gravity and it had been agreed. She explained the project plan is to have the skate ramps, play park equipment and picnic tables installed at the same time i.e. between schools going back after Easter and half-term break. Buckland Landscapes would also be in attendance to use the spoil to rectify the edging of the new path.
- ii. Play Park: Cllr Wyatt announced that ACPC had come 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Tesco 'Bags of Help' vote and qualified for £10,000 towards the new integrated play equipment. Cllr Mooney suggested replacing more items in the play park and the clerk had received some reports that parents felt some current items to be hazardous. Cllr Wyatt would report back from the working party on this and also discuss options with Caloo.
- iii. Youth Club: Cllr Tubb reported that the YC were now moving in the right direction and that she was drafting a tenancy agreement which would allow for termination in the event of any breach. She also volunteered to act as the PC representative on the YC committee. The working party would be meeting with the YC soon to organise a tribute to Brian Churchill.
- iv. Astonbury: Cllr Tubb had met with Amanda Foister of Green Park re. their music festival and it had been suggested that for 2017 both organisations plan a joint event. The adjoining gate would be utilised to facilitate camping etc. Green Park would help with marketing and publicity and also invited councillors to visit and view their facilities. Cllr Tubb would be calling an Astonbury working party meeting soon.

#### 16.015 Grounds Maintenance

- i. Park: As the discussion at 16.013 had been so thorough it was felt that the work plan had been covered and the planned **MOTION** was no longer necessary. It was decided to place the defibrillator on the Youth Club building by the PC door. Cllr Ronson reported one item on the fitness trail was damaged and the clerk agreed to have this checked.
- ii. Picnic Site: The clerk presented the costings and also the S106 account with remaining available money. It was decided that a working party would walk round the following Tuesday to decide on the sites for the new picnic tables and also advise the clerk on their preferred supplier. Recycled plastic was favoured. The clerk had overestimated the total cost of the S106 park projects and as a result, there may be a balance remaining. Cllr Beaumont suggested a sensory play area and agreed to work on some costings to present to the next meeting.
- iii. Churchyard: The Oxford diocese had written and provided some historic documents showing that the PC is in fact responsible for the closed section of the churchyard. The church can approve additions only to plots in the closed section. The clerk agreed to instruct Buckland to include it on their maintenance schedule.
- iv. BCC Interpretation Boards: Following the work to the culvert, BCC wished to install some educational boards to explain what had been done and the effect on the ecology of the area. It was agreed to have the lower-level boards, angled upwards and to have them placed in the spinney by the meadow pitch.

