

Minutes of the Facilities Committee of Aston Clinton Parish Council, held on  
22nd February 2017 at 7.00pm  
at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

C Read – Chairman

M Osborn

P Wyatt

L Tubb

L Ronson

Clerk: G Merry

1 member of the public

**17.001 Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Comerford

**17.002 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations

**17.003 To Approve the Minutes of the Facilities Committee held 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

**17.004 Public Participation**

There were no items

**17.005 Bridges**

- i **'Beach' Bridge:** Cllr Read had re-drawn the specification to incorporate a softer finish. This involved impregnating the planned concrete finish with pebbles and a new quote was presented from one of the contractors. The clerk advised that the other 2 contractors would need to be given the opportunity to re-quote, before a decision could be made. She agreed to pass on the relevant contact details to Cllr Read to follow-up.
- ii **'Peile' Bridge:** The clerk asked for clarification on the planned work. Cllr Read confirmed he and Mr Ronson will excavate the bridge approach, infill with Type 1 stone then tamp down. The work cannot take place until late spring/early summer and will require council approval to go-ahead. The clerk agreed to cost the job to include a digger and dumper hire, type 1 stone, hire of Wacker plate and diesel.
- iii **'Skate park' Bridge:** The wooden piles had been pulled out and thrown in the stream. The clerk had obtained one quote for replacing and concreting-in new piles. Cllr Read advised the bridge was not in any immediate danger of collapse and it was agreed to leave the repairs for another year or so.

**17.006 Other Repair Work**

- i **Churchill Hall Roof:** Slates had come down because of recent trespass, along with some long-standing damage to the fascia board and guttering. The clerk had obtained quotes for repairs including options to replace the roof entirely, or to just repair the immediate damage. Cllr Osborn pointed out the need to discuss the long-term plans for the Hall. It was agreed that although the recent activities in the hall had been very successful, they were not accruing enough income to warrant the large expenditure of the complete overhaul. On this basis, it was agreed to patch and repair for the short-term and contractor 2 was agreed. Cllr Tubb agreed to get a more accurate income figure from the Youth Club Committee and discuss the idea of long-term repair, involving a youth club contribution.

- ii **Drains:** The clerk had had difficulty in getting contractors to quote, due to the complexity of the job and asked for clarification on what is required. Cllr Read confirmed a surveyor is not required but it was necessary to ascertain if there would be sufficient 'fall' by using a theodolite. Cllr Read would ask one of the 'bridge' contractors for a quote and the clerk would ask the contractor doing the car park lining. It was agreed the work needed to be done.
- iii **Football Pitch:** The football club had requested a 'soakaway' be installed to combat the flooding at the top corner of the football pitch and the clerk had obtained quotes. The first of these dated back to 2015 where Buckland Landscapes had advised 2 soakaways plus installation of new gullies coming down the driveway. Cllr Osborn stated that corner of the pitch has always flooded even before the driveway and car park was installed and there was considerable evidence that soakaways may not work. It was agreed that the proposed new All Weather Pitch and associated access, presented an opportunity for a creative solution involving an extension of the artificial pitch area to incorporate this area. It was agreed this would be included in the discussions re. the new facility and that a soakaway would no longer be considered.
- iv **Skate Ramp:** Gravity's contractors were due back on site from 27/22/17 and would carry out the finishing work as detailed in the ROSPA report. It would not improve the build though and it was agreed to recommend that a portion of the £10,000 be retained, since the work had not been up to the standard promised. This would need to be agreed by full council but it was agreed to wait for any invoice from Gravity.
- v **Moles:** Moles were causing significant damage now in the Park and a quote had been obtained for their eradication. This was within the clerk's spending limit and it was agreed to proceed.

#### 17.007 Dogs/Park

- i **New Dog Bins:** The clerk was concerned that the dog bins from Wing PC did not have posts and it was agreed to purchase the correct posts. Cllr Read and Mr Ronson would install them in the previously agreed locations. AVDC had site-visited and the increased costs for empties had been agreed at £112 per bin, per year.
- ii **Fouling:** The clerk suggested installing a free bag dispenser in the Park and advised on the costs of replacement bags. It was agreed this was not a good idea and would result in quantities of bags simply being taken for home use.
- iii **Bye-Laws:** The revised Bye-Laws had already been and submitted to the DCLG. However there had not yet been a response and in the meantime, a request had been received to fly a drone in the Park. The Clerk read from the Civil Aviation Authorities rules on drones: No flying within 150m of a congested area; no flying within 50m of a person; must fly within sight cannot fly above 400 feet altitude. It was agreed to amend the bye-laws to prohibit drones in the Park, as it would be impossible to comply with the CAA rules. In the meantime, the clerk would advise the applicant of this decision. The clerk would also check the bye-laws re. the maximum age for use of the playpark.

#### 17.008 Football

- i. **New All Weather Pitch:** £163,386 in S106 money was now available and Cllr Wyatt had obtained 2 quotes and was working on a 3<sup>rd</sup>. The football club would be offered the new facility to run and collect rental income at a rate commensurate with the improved facility, with a percentage going back to the PC to be invested in maintenance of the facility. There would be a formal tenancy agreement but essentially the facility would be the FC's to run as they currently do. A meeting would be held with the FC to present this proposal. Cllr Wyatt offered to oversee the facility for the council. Cllr Osborn pointed out that the renovated access must not be forgotten as this was stipulated in S106 agreements and could be used a leverage for funding applications for the new community centre. It was agreed to install the AWP first and then design and install the improved access accordingly, possibly incorporating

a strip of AstroTurf across the flooded/damaged section of the football pitch. The AWP suppliers could also be asked to quote for the access paving/AstroTurf.

- ii. **Annual Permit:** The clerk explained that the Colts pay £1900 annually and ACFC pay £1100, amounting to £3000 total. The cost of weeding and feeding the pitch comes to £3000 so the fees only cover this one service. It was felt that with pitch maintenance costs set to rise this year, football fees may need to go up and the clerk agreed to put this on the next Sports and Rec. sub-committee agenda.

**17.009 Events**

- i. **Astonbury:** Cllr Tubb reported that 2 bands have been pencil-booked and Mr Ramsey would be booking more. There would be children’s events during the afternoon and Cllr Tubb was currently working on contracting all items.
- ii. **Bearbrook Running Club:** This group had requested holding their Duathlon again this year, on Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>. This early morning event does not interfere with football parking as it is normally finished by 9.30am, and their application was agreed.
- iii. **Active-In:** This Green Park based group had request an all-day event as part of a triathlon, for a Sunday in the summer of 2018. They had requested the running section to take place in the Park. It was agreed that Cllrs Tubb and Read would meet with the organisers to find out more information.

**17.010 Churchyard**

An application had been received for a headstone significantly larger than the maximum dimensions allowed. Regretfully, councillors agreed to turn down the application.

**17.011 Christmas Tree Field**

More than 28 days had elapsed since Cllr Tubb had written to request the removal of unauthorised signage, and the signs had not been removed. The clerk advised contracting a security company to remove the signs and it was agreed to get a price from the company used to re-possess ‘The Hub’.

**17.012 Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7pm (TBC)

..... Chairman

Date: .....