

Minutes of the Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee of Aston Clinton Parish
Council – Tuesday July 12th 2016 – 10am
Aston Clinton Parish office, Aston Park, Aston Clinton, HP22 5HL

Present:

L Ronson – Chairman
L Tubb
K Loxley (co-opted)

J Eggesfield
C Read

Clerk: G Merry

Members of the Public: 0

16.07 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Beaumont

16.08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations

16.09 Updates: -

i. Quotes

Weed and Feed: The weed and feed for the football pitch had been agreed and ordered

Damaged Ground: The damage to the top corner of the football pitch lay outside of the football boundary, so it would be sufficient to leave until after the paving contractor had been to make good the trackway, then reassess. Re. The damage to the trackway, no further quote had arrived yet. The paving contractor had not yet responded but Cllr Tubb was chasing them to make good as per their commitment. Mr Ronson had offered to carry out the work on a voluntary basis but concern was expressed that he would not be covered by the council's insurance. Cllr Tubb advised that he could be employed on a temporary, fixed-term work contract for the duration of the work, for a nominal sum in salary (similar to a peppercorn rent). This would enable coverage by the council's employer's liability. Equipment would need to be hired – a JCB and a dumper – for approx. 2 weeks. A local supplier had been identified and this solution would save the council a significant amount of money. Mr Loxley advised caution re. employing a relative of a councillor and the clerk advised that to be completely transparent, this decision should be made in a publicly-notified formal meeting of the Facilities Committee, and minuted. She agreed to arrange this.

It was agreed to leave the matter of the Oak trees for now, to be discussed later in the year.

ii. Regular Maintenance: The working party had identified as follows: -

MUGA sign: This had been ripped off but Cllr Read offered to re-install it.

Beach: Extra pebbles had been installed but it was felt this was not plentiful enough and it was agreed to buy 2 more 1 ton bags and Mr Ronson would do this while he had the rented equipment.

Footpath: The diagonal cut-through from the park entrance to opposite the coffee shop across to the beach, had been allowed to overgrow. The clerk would check the grounds maintenance contract and ask the contractor to cut it back in.

Youth Shelter: Cllr Read felt he had the correct Allan key to install the sheet of perspex and would advise the clerk.

- iii. Bridges: The work carried-out by Cala Homes sub-contractors at the bridge to the east, had had minimal effect and it was felt more needed to be done to prevent slipping, especially in the autumn/winter. The seeds had not 'taken' due to footfall from the public and the area being shaded. It was discussed and agreed that the best course of action would be to install steps. It was agreed to ask the grounds contractor for a specification for this and if necessary gather further quotes for this work. The clerk agreed to set up a site visit. Cala Homes were due to carry out further jobs in exchange for having their site offices in the park. The clerk was in the process of setting up a meeting to start off this process.
- iv. Pond: The trees had been removed as per the ROSPA recommendation. The signs would be installed 14/7/16.
- v. Drains: The report from ANM Environmental had not yet been received although they had verbally indicated that blockages could not have come from the cafe end. They had been able to carry out the full camera test from every direction. The clerk would chase up the report.

16.10 Footpaths

Mr Loxley had prepared a priority list for footpath maintenance for this season and agreed to email this to the clerk. In the first instance, the following would be assessed: -

- AC3: Sunnybrook Close, where there was also hedge encroachment.
- AC31: Green End Street to London Road plus the offshoot – the clerk would have the Community Service team look at this.
- AC10: Beechwood Road to Lower Icknield. This had been done once for the season and would need to be done again shortly.
- AC28: Hairdressers to Airfield: LT had not been able to speak to the farmer, despite several attempts. It was agreed to prioritise this footpath. The clerk would also look into contacting the resident re. the hedge encroachment but cautioned against writing to householders as mistakes had been made in the past.
- AC32: Brook Street to back of Long Plough and ACL 34 – these were in the same area and both in need of attention.
- AC31 – alongside the school's fence, posts had fallen over and needed to be dealt with.
- AC37: Twitchell Lane

Mr Loxley had estimated at approx £2/metre, the total cost of these footpaths would be in the region of £3,800 and was therefore within the budget of £4000, although some would also need an autumn cut. Future planning would need to take into account a late spring cut and a late summer cut.

Cllr Eggesfield left the meeting at 11.10am.

16.11 Allotments

A working-party meeting would be held on 15/7/16 between 2 allotment holders representing the users and Cllrs Read, Ronson and Tubb plus the clerk. Designs for the proposed fencing would be discussed, as well as funding sources.

16.12 3-Year Plans

- It was agreed that footpaths would in future be costed on 2 seasonal cuts for prioritised footpaths.
- It was also agreed that the Grounds Maintenance contract would go out to tender again this year ready for next year's budget. The clerk agreed to circulate the current spec. for members to read, prior to discussion at the next meeting.
- Mr Loxley felt there needed to be greater specificity prior to work being contracted and Cllr Tubb confirmed that the council is developing its own Terms and Conditions for future orders.

The next meeting will be on

Signed Date: