

WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE



Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2024 at 7:30pm at the Ellendune Community Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton, Swindon, SN4 9LW

Present Cllr L Gough
Cllr J Hewer
Cllr N Hooper
Cllr H Woodward

Clerk Cathy Martyn (Deputy Clerk)

Public 0

OS/60 **Apologies and to nominate a Chair for this meeting.**

Apologies were received from Cllr D Archer (Committee Chair), Cllr L Campisano, Cllr T Kewen, Cllr L Gough, and Cllr B Streeton (Committee Vice-Chair).

Members NOTED that the meeting was not quorate and that any recommendations would need to be ratified at April's Full Council where the minutes would also be signed.

Members present **AGREED** to elect Cllr J Hewer as the Chair for this meeting.

OS/61 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

None.

OS/62 **Public Questions**

None.

OS/63 **Chairs Report**

None.

OS/64 **Minutes**

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council meeting that the minutes from the Open Spaces committee meeting on 6th February 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.

OS/65 **Allotments Update.**

Members **NOTED** that Plots 42 and 149 had been cleared and re-let. Due to Plots 14 and 14A containing fruit cages which are difficult to remove, these will be let as a single, large plot. The Allotments and Administration Officer would update Members with a timescale for this plot to be re-let as there was a large amount of clearing to be carried out.

Members **NOTED** a skip would be available to allotment holders for one day on 15th May.

Members **NOTED** the report regarding the request for permission for metal detecting on the allotments paddock area – a copy of the report is attached as Appendix A.

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council that permission is refused for the following reasons:

1. The paddock is part of the allotments land which is leased by WPC from SBC. The paddock is not let out as allotments. Whilst Swindon Borough Council has confirmed that WPC can make a decision as they see fit, SBC has advised they do not allow any metal detecting on any of their land.
2. The paddock was previously used for raising young game birds. The Grounds Team continue to find pieces of metal in the ground from the cages where the birds were kept. This will mean any detectorists would be likely to get false positive readings and could mean many holes being dug with little or nothing of any historical value being found.
3. It is difficult for anyone to refill a hole to the same level as the surrounding ground, as earth tends to settle and sink after a period of time, which would cause dips and hollows. These would present trip hazards to the Grounds Team presenting a potential health & safety risk, and also make it impossible to get a good cut with the mower.

OS/53

Lighting and CCTV on the Weir Field and in Willow Brook Gardens.

Members NOTED the report, a copy of which is attached as Appendix B.

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council meeting that:

1. Replacement CCTV signage be installed on the Weir Field and by the play area there to raise public awareness and act as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour.
2. The costs for, and wording of, the new signage be subject to delegated approval by the Chair of WPC, Clerk/Deputy Clerk, and Chair of Open Spaces and should be met from the existing Weir Field Maintenance 4400/210.
3. The Community Grants and Projects Officer check whether all the lights have been replaced by LEDs and if not, contact SBC and ask them to do so.
4. Check with the Police whether there have been any reports on ASB in this area and if so, how it is being addressed by the Police.

OS/54

Grass area between the Parish Council office and the Health Centre

Members NOTED the report proposing that the Parish Council's Grounds Team mow the whole grass area between the Parish Council Office and the Health Centre, a copy of which is attached as Appendix C.

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council that:

1. The Clerk/ Deputy Clerk email Wroughton Health Centre with an offer to cut the Health Centre's area of grass between the Health Centre and the Parish Council office at the same time as cutting WPC's area of grass, as a gesture of goodwill, to improve the amenity of the area for the benefit of residents.
2. This would be on the basis that the hedge, shrubs and trees remain the responsibility of the Health Centre.
3. If the Health Centre is agreeable, encourage them to ask their contractor to spend the additional time gained on maintaining their shrubs close to the flagpole and removing the brambles.

OS/55

Purchase of a new Amberol self-watering planter for Ellendune car park to replace the scaffold poles (near the recycling banks)

Members NOTED the report, picture and quote, copies of which are attached as Appendix D.

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council that:

1. That the Deputy Clerk seek permission from SBC to install a 3-tier planter to replace the scaffolding poles in the Ellendune car park, the existing car park planter to be re-sited on Brimble Hill.
2. That assuming permission is received from SBC, as soon as this is received, staff purchase an Amberol self-watering, 3-tier planter to replace the scaffolding poles in the Ellendune car park, at a cost of £454.40, as per quote 20156, cost to be taken from General Reserves.
3. To approve costs for plants, costs to be taken from 450/ 4685 Floral Planting for the 2024-25 new financial year, the decision on number and type of plants to be delegated to the Clerk/ Deputy Clerk and Grounds Team Manager, as per existing process for ordering summer and winter bedding.

OS/56

Old Swan PH car park - Priors Hill

Members NOTED the report, a copy of which is attached as Appendix E.

Committee Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council meeting that the Grounds Team add the maintenance of the hedges and shrubs around the old Swan Public House car park into their regular maintenance schedule around the Parish.

OS/57

Footpaths

Members RECEIVED a written update from Cllr Woodward at the meeting, a copy of which is attached as Appendix F.

Members NOTED that it was hoped to arrange a 'Walk the Wroughton Footpaths Day' to assess the extent of, and responsibility for, any repairs which needed to be carried out.

Members **AGREED** to add the results of that day, together with suggestions for any new footpaths to be created, to the list of possible strategic priorities for this committee.

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council meeting that the Planning & Highways Committee should include this as part of WPC's response to the next iteration of SBC's Local Plan, and as part of the Neighbourhood Plan when this is reviewed, and also as part of WPC's response to any consultation on large-scale development in that area.

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council meeting that the Planning & Highways Committee should include a request for a safe cycle path/ bridleway up Brimble Hill, as part of WPC's response to the next iteration of SBC's Local Plan, and as part of the Neighbourhood Plan when this is reviewed, and also as part of WPC's response to any consultation on large-scale development in that area.

Members **AGREED** to include a request for a safe footpath/ cycle path/ bridleway up the top half of Priors Hill, as part of WPC's response to the next iteration of SBC's Local Plan, and as part of the Neighbourhood Plan when this is reviewed, and also as part of WPC's response to any consultation on large-scale development in that area.

O/S 58

Tree Works Update

Members NOTED that:

- The Work required to be carried out within 3 months of Bawdens 2022 Tree Report had now been completed.
- All other works had been put out to tender, the closing date for which was 5pm on Wednesday 10th April.
- All Tree Works Tenders received would be opened at Full Council on Monday 15th April and would then need to be assessed and scored by a working party.

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council meeting that the following be nominated to score the tenders received, to take place at 10am on Tuesday 16th April 2024: the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the Grounds Team Manager, Cllr Diane Archer (as Chair of this Committee) and one other councillor from the Open Spaces Committee.

OS/59

Willow Brook Gardens

Members NOTED that JM O'Toole had been instructed to carry out the footpath improvements in Willowbrook Garden. The Deputy Clerk had requested that works were completed before the Duck Race. JM O'Toole had indicated they hoped to start work on or before 15th April, weather permitting. They had also agreed to fit a removeable and lockable bollard whilst they were installing the new section of path.

OS/60

Bollard at Belmont Green, North Wroughton.

Members NOTED the update, and that the Grounds Team had been asked to replace the bollard and padlock as soon as possible.

Members **AGREED** to recommend to April's Full Council meeting that the Parish Council be responsible for the costs incurred as there is insufficient evidence to recover them from the resident or their contractor.

OS/61

Strategic Priorities for 2025-26.

Members AGREED that the following should be discussed at a future meeting, as possible strategic priorities for 2025-26, and that any which were to be recommended to F&GP this Autumn would need to be costed up beforehand.

- Purchase more 3 tier amberol planters: the Committee needs to agree how many and where they should be sited. A suggestion was to place one opposite the war memorial. Costs are approx. £455 each, plus additional costs to purchase summer and winter bedding, together with the time incurred for the Grounds Team to install each planter, plant it up and maintain it throughout the year.
- Information boards on the history and wildlife of the Moat area - costs from s.106?
- New footpath/ cycleway/ bridleway along Wharf Road from Wroughton to Wichelstowe/ Waitrose. Most of the land is owned by SBC and it would be very unlikely that WPC could afford to purchase this land. Therefore it would be included as part of WPC's response to the next iteration of SBC's Local Plan, part of the Neighbourhood Plan when this is reviewed, and also as part of WPC's response to any planning consultation for larger scale development in that area.

- Results of the 'Walk Wroughton's Footpaths Day': cost/ responsibility for any work which needs to be carried out to any of the footpaths or stiles etc.

ACTION - include on agenda for next meeting:

Dredging the Moat pond – Deputy Clerk to check schedule of works prepared a couple of years ago by WWT.

The meeting closed at 20:17.

Signed.....

Date.....