

Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee 15th October 2015 held at 7.30pm in the MSC Pavilion

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), J. Barton and K. Merritt.

J. Girling, R. Merry

R. Medley (Clerk).

Two Memorial Social Centre Trustees (Barbara Merritt and Tracey Stephenson) attended the whole meeting together with six members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to the public. Cllr. Walker and I. Spencer offered their apologies. The Chairman welcomed members of the public.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 13th August 2015

These were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Item 7.3 of previous meeting – War memorial. The Clerk had contacted Messrs. Hanchetts but they were unable to provide any further information about the origins of the war memorial.

Open Session 7.35 pm.

The Chairman gave a brief explanation of the role and responsibilities of the Estates Committee.

5. Youth Facilities

5.1. Main Playground

5.1.1 Safety Inspections. Monthly reports were up to date. R. Merry commented on the need to trim some overhanging branches and one of the posts near the fort needed consolidating.

5.1.2 Errors on notice boards. A final version of the amended list of donors on the brass plate had been returned to Smart Step for engraving.

5.1.3 Cllr. Barton described a recent potential accident when a football struck with considerable force had hit the children’s slide. Cllrs. suggested that a sign be displayed and a net be erected behind the goal during matches and practice sessions. The Clerk was instructed to discuss the situation with AON the company which provides insurance cover.

5.1.4 ‘Magic Roundabout’ The Chairman explained, and showed photographs, of the old roundabout which was removed in 2013 was now being put to good use in Kenya.

5.2 Teen Project

5.2.1 Inspections. Reports had been completed. Litter was still a problem. The skin on the fun box was showing considerable signs of wear. R. Merry offered to trim some overhanging branches. The Clerk would order a replacement net for the MUGA.

5.2.2 Improvements. Hardcore Hobbies were willing to advise but unwilling to visit.

5.3 Annual Inspection. The recent inspection had identified several hazards. As all the playground equipment was new Cllrs. instructed the Clerk to send a copy to Miracle for comments.

5.4 Bury Road playground. Simon Curl hoped to provide measurements for the required re-positioning of the fence before leaving his post. A new plan would then be drawn up for BT.

6. Tree Warden’s Report. J. Girling commented on i) a diseased cherry tree which had been trimmed and uprooted at Genesis Green (he offered to treat the exposed roots) and ii) the jubilee oak near the Bowls Green was still without the protective guard. Hamish Dickson will visit on 18th October. He will provide an alternative quote for the urgent surgery on both Parish Council and MSC trees.

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Chairman

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Date

EC230

6.1 **Community Trees.** The application for a Community Tree pack from Woodland Trust had been unsuccessful, the main reason being the suggested use of private land for planting.

7. Cemetery

- 7.1 Inspections were up to date. Julian Girling was concerned about brambles taking over the conservation area. The Clerk was instructed to discuss the situation with David King. Cllr. Barton offered to re-stain the bench.
- 7.2 Memorial garden and possibility of HLF funding. Cllrs. Sammons explained that the suggestion currently favoured was a single tree with surrounding bench. She offered to investigate prices of a wrought iron seat.
- 7.3 Unusual interment enquiry. The Clerk had spoken to the grave digger. He claims to be able to tell if the soil has been disturbed and will look at the chosen area next time he is passing.
- 7.4 Price of water butt. The Clerk gave an approximate price of £60 for a butt plus connections. Cllrs. instructed the Clerk to go ahead.
- 7.5 Growth on Chapel. The Clerk had received a complaint about the gutters being full of rubbish and the growth of ivy on the roof. He was instructed to arrange for the required work to be carried out.

8. Churchyard

- 8.1 Inspections Reports were up to date.

9. Six Acres

- 9.1 Inspections. Reports were in hand.
- 9.2 Dog Fouling trials. Poop bag dispensers had been offered as part of a trial by St Edmundsbury. Cllrs. and MSC trustees instructed the Clerk to check sizes before agreeing positions.
- 9.3 Drainage query. The Clerk had been contacted by a resident of Thorns Close whose property had recently suffered from flooding and who suspected the drainage system across the 'Six Acres'.

10. Village Greens

- 10.1 Inspection reports were up to date.
- 10.2 Moor Green. R. Merry had discussed the state of the hedge with the landowners and had obtained their approval for drastic treatment. The Clerk will contact David King about cutting the hedge back and taking the height down to around a couple of metres.
- 10.3 Autumn Litter Pick. Cllrs. agreed the date of Sunday 15th November. Volunteers would meet in the MSC foyer at 10.00am and move to the Pavilion for refreshments after 11.00 am.

11. Working Parties. The report from Ian Spencer had been circulated. Cllrs. approved the quote of £325 plus vat from David King for removing the lower branches from the trees at Attleton Green and instructed the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

12. Bury Road notice board. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quote for repair of the wooden frame using Perspex rather than glass.

13. Overhanging Hedges

The Clerk was trying to clarify the current situation.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm. Next Meeting Monday 7th December 2015 in the MSC Pavilion.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Thursday 15th October 2015.

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Chairman

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Date