

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Amenities Committee held at 7.00pm on Monday 19th April 2021 to which Councillors were summoned to attend by video conferencing via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Cllr Steve Airton (Chair), Cllr Roger Robertson, Cllr Stuart Elborn, Cllr Peter Gee, Cllr Fiona Sutton, Cllr Becky Moss, Cllr Ian Wilson and Cllr Richard Dodds.

In attendance: Karyn Reid (Executive Clerk), Julian Martin (Horticulture & Amenities Officer) and two members of the public.

20/21EA 44. OPEN FORUM

Resident A made a representation regarding the reconsideration of burial costs for his wife's ashes at St. Mary's Church Burial Grounds. Resident A works in Hartley Wintney, which is the reason for choosing the burial grounds as her final resting place.

Resident B made a representation following both her letter and prior representation in Full Council meeting, reiterating her objections to the Burial Grounds Policy at St. Mary's Church.

Both representations to be further discussed in 20/21EA 49i.

20/21EA 45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Chris Farrance.

20/21EA 46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

20/21EA 47. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & ACTIONS LOG

Cllr Dodds noted that he attended the Environment and Amenities meeting of the 15 March 2021, which was not correctly reflected in the minutes.

Cllr Airton proposed that the minutes of the Environment and Amenities meeting of the 15 March 2021 be signed as a correct record, subject to the amendment above; seconded by Cllr Gee.

AGREED by all.

19/20EA 105ii.

The picnic benches will be delivered and installed by the end of the month; the exact location is to be agreed upon.

20/21EA 40.

Cllr Airton had a positive meeting with Operations Director at Elvetham Hotel. The Operations Director mentioned that the group are keen to establish a footpath, happy for public to walk across their land without prior permissions and stressed the importance of creating an active relationship with the local High Street/residents. Cllr Elborn queried about access via electric gate.

ACTION: Cllr Elborn to confirm electric gate access and update information accordingly on website.

20/21EA 48. FINANCE

i) To approve payments listing (attached)

Cllr Elborn proposed approval of quotation for works on St. Mary's Cricket Pitch; seconded by Cllr Wilson.

AGREED by all.

ii) To receive the current detailed income and expenditure by budget heading (attached)

The current detailed income and expenditure were received.

iii) To discuss and approve potential purchase of Telephone Boxes (attached)

Cllr Gee contacted BT to stress that the telephone boxes around the Parish needed repainting. Their response was that BT would not invest in their maintenance, however, the HWPC was welcome to buy each for £1. Cllr Sutton noted that the telephone boxes are listed structures.

Cllr Airton proposed approval of purchasing the telephone boxes for £1 each; seconded by Cllr Gee.

AGREED by all.

ACTION: Cllr Gee to organise purchase of telephone boxes with BT.

Cllr Gee suggested the telephone boxes could be used as a cash machine, a book exchange, and a Village Wi-Fi router. Cllr Airton suggested a defibrillator could be placed in one. Cllr Sutton stressed that clearly identifiable notices should be placed around the Village highlighting where defibrillators can be located. Cllr Elborn suggested that the Council engage with local residents to ask for suggestions/ideas for the future of the telephone boxes.

ACTION: The telephone boxes to be added to Projects List.

20/21EA 49. E&A MATTERS

i) To review Resident requests regarding St Mary's Burial Ground policy and charges (circulated)

Cllr Airton briefly explained the reasoning behind the current Burial Grounds policy, stressing the goal of preserving the longevity of the burial grounds and maintaining it to a high standard for all residents. Cllr Elborn highlighted the fact the many Parish Council's do not permit non-residents to purchase a plot in their burial grounds, however, the HWPC policy has worked to accommodate this. Resident A noted he is a local business owner in Hartley Wintney, so despite not being a resident, he strongly feels he should be entitled to residency rates as per the discretion clause in the policy. Cllr Airton noted that Resident A's application was carefully considered, however, Councillors felt that the policy must be adhered to as ultimately, Resident A does not qualify as a resident.

Resident B's requests regarding the charges and regulations were highlighted. The Executive Clerk noted that due to the recent policy change, the cost would have been less and the request for a photograph on the gravestone accepted had the resident applied after the policy change. Cllr Airton summarised that the curbing/fencing on plots is still not permitted as the new section is solely a lawned cemetery. Resident B maintains that her concerns have not been fairly or properly addressed.

ii) To discuss update on proposed works to Phoenix Green (RR)

Cllr Robertson gave a brief update on proposed works to Phoenix Green. HDC will cut back the overgrown brambles and bushes during the Autumn and have given permission to install benches.

iii) Propose and set up Working Group dedicated to Green Spaces in Village and HDC Management Plan (SA/RR)

Cllr Robertson stressed the need to create a physical Working Group and a sub-committee that focuses on the Commons and Ponds and ensures any required actions take place.

Cllr Airton proposed establishment of a sub-committee for Commons and Ponds; seconded by Cllr Gee.

AGREED by all.

ACTION: Commons and Ponds sub-committee to be further discussed at AGM.

iv) Memorial Benches – discuss public information and online accessibility tool as well as new application

Cllr Elborn and Cllr Sutton to collaborate in order to put together a comprehensive list of Memorial Benches across the Village. By utilising the website and social media, the community will be able to share information about local history and relevant information. Cllr Sutton shared her presentation and briefly discussed blue plaques scheme and history walks being promoted to highlight the history of Hartley Wintney.

The Executive Clerk shared application form for proposed memorial bench for late resident, Lesley Parish who contributed extensively to the Village throughout his life.

Cllr Sutton proposed approval of Memorial Bench for Lesley Parish in principle; seconded by Cllr Gee.

AGREED by all.

20/21EA 50. E&A PROJECTS LIST – S106 LEISURE & OPEN SPACES

i) To receive update and approve any action on the current E&A projects

a) Lucy Pygott Centre

Cllr Airton shared updates on Lucy Pygott Centre. By the end of the week, the supplier will be chosen after all quotations are carefully considered with the hope of works commencing in the summer.

b) Jubilee Playground / Sports Field

The location of the Jubilee Playground was discussed, the two locations were the original and the new proposed area at the other side of the field.

Cllr Gee proposed approval of location as per proposed plan; seconded by Cllr Elborn.

AGREED by all.

The consultants have reported on the viability of the pitch. The options of where to install the 3G pitch are as follows;

- Where the current football pitch is located
- The Jubilee pitch
- To reduce the size of the 3G pitch, however, this could mean it no longer qualifies for FA grant
- Consider St. Mary's Park

c) War Memorial Green Space

Cllr Gee updated the Committee. As the space is Common land, HDC is being contacted.

d) Ponds & Open Spaces

This was discussed in 20/21EA 49iii.

Cllr Becky Moss left the meeting.

e) Seasonal events update – Grand Litter Pick

Cllr Wilson informed the Committee that there will not be a Cricket Ball this year.

Cllr Gee stressed the importance of a litter pick in the Autumn, potentially after the Village Festival.

The Executive Clerk noted the flower display which the local businesses are carrying out for the reopening of High Street.

ii) To receive minutes from E&A Working Parties (circulated)

E&A Working Parties' minutes were received.

iii) To briefly review projects list (attached)

Cllr Airton addressed updates on the projects list. Cllr Robertson shared updates on the Parish Truck, which he is collaborating with the Horticulture & Amenities Officer.

20/21EA 51. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARISH COUNCILLOR MATTERS

The matter of Resident B's concerns were discussed by Councillors. The Executive Clerk suggested that a reduced fee be offered as a gesture. Cllr Airton proposed an appropriate response is agreed by Cllr Airton, the Executive Clerk and Deputy Clerk regarding resident's requests at St. Mary's Burial Grounds.

It was agreed that the decision regarding Resident A's request remain the same. A letter will be sent to Resident A, informing him of the outcome.

ACTION: The Executive Clerk to inform Resident A of the Committee's decision.

20/21EA 52. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATION & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday 29th June 2021 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.42pm.

..... Chairman

.....Date

Appendices

- Actions Log
- Payments Listings
- Projects List