

Burwell Parish Council

Asset and Environment Group

Minutes of the Meeting of 15th December 2020 7.30 pm

Present: Joan Lonsdale (Chair), Robin Dyos, Jim Perry, Liz Swift, Michael Swift, and Hazel Williams

A&E/151220/01 Apologies for absences and Declarations of Interests

An apology for absence had been received from Gus Jones and Derek Reader. There were no declarations of interest.

A&E/151220/02 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2020 were approved as a true and correct record.

A&E/151220/03 Consideration of Action Sheet and updates from minutes

No further action has been taken on the purchase of the table tennis court. It was questioned if the money allocated for the table could be used towards the cost of the car park. The money is part of the grant funding from ECDC CIL R123. This must be spent on a capital expenditure. The Clerk to investigate. At the next Spring Close meeting a presentation will be given by the geologist that recently secured the special site registration for the facility.

A&E/151220/04 Gardiner Memorial Hall

Refurbishment update – The Planning Application has now been submitted. No update on grant applications.

A&E/151220/05 Cemetery

Hedge Replacement Update – Work due to be carried out at the start of February by S P Landscapes. An item about the work will be included in the next issue of Clunch due to be distributed prior to the work being carried out.

A&E/151220/06 Storage request from Burwell Bike Club

A request to store three quadracycles has been received from Burwell Bike Club, possibly either sharing the existing container at the Recreation Ground or acquiring another container for their sole use which could be sited at the Recreation Ground, close to the existing one. It was suggested that a meeting takes place with the group at the Recreation Ground to discuss further. The Clerk to check out the situation regarding planning. The management of the bikes will need to remain with the Bike Club, but more details of how this will work needs to be established.

A&E/151220/07 Margaret Field – Replacement of Gate

The Maintenance Officer has confirmed that only one gate needs replacing and that the cost will be £132.62 plus VAT. The Maintenance Officer should be able to fit the gate but may need some assistance. Jim Perry offered to help if needed.

The Asset and Environment Group recommends to Full Council that the rotten entrance gate at Margaret Field is replaced at a cost of £132.62 plus VAT.

A&E/151220/08 Tree Work -Jubilee Green (27 Parsonage Lane) and Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that due to the lockdown in November and with Christmas in the next week or so, she has not yet arranged for quotes for the work to be carried out at either Jubilee Green or the Recreation Ground. She continued by saying that she is not sure if the work required at the Recreation Ground has now been carried out by the Maintenance Officer. She will request quotations after the new year after checking with the Maintenance Officer.

A&E/151220/09 Mandeville Hall Ceiling Update

Robin Dyos reported that Smithers Purslow have said that they will double check the calculations they have provided and run them past the truss manufacturer.

A&E/151220/10 Grass Cutting Contract

Correspondence from residents had been circulated to members of the group prior to the meeting regarding the grass cutting regime and allowing wildflowers to flourish in certain areas of the village. The Community, Leisure and Sports Group had also discussed the suggestions from residents at their recent

meeting and the minutes of that meeting had also been made available for the Assets and Environment Group. Michael Swift expressed the need to manage wildflowers and that the best way forward is for the Council to initially discuss how wildflowers can be incorporated in the village with the County Council. The Group is aware of time constraints involved with getting the contract out for tender, but feel that in terms of the contract, the changes that would need to be made to include areas for wildflowers are minimal and could be dealt with once the contract is in place and that this would allow time for discussions with the County Council to take place.

Therefore, the Assets and Environment Group recommends to Full Council that the Clerk contacts Cambridgeshire County Council to discuss the inclusion of wildflowers in more detail. Due to time constraints to ensure that the grass cutting contract is in place by the start of the grass cutting season in March 2021, the contract needs to go out for tender in January. The Group further recommends to Full Council that the contract goes out as previous with minor alterations for Spring Close, and Priory Meadow to be managed in a way to improve conservation. Margaret Field should also be included in the contract and the hay cuts for both Spring Close and Pauline's Swamp. The contract to include a proviso stating that we are looking into allocating certain places for the growth of wildflowers and this may have an impact on the contract in future years. The recommendation is for the contract to be for a period of three years.

Robin Dyos suggested that the path around the edge of Pauline's Swamp needs to be cut more regularly. However, this may have become more overgrown because of less working days taking place due to Covid 19.

Jim Perry expressed that it would be good for the Avenue to have trees and shrubs as had happened in past years. This could be done by the residents.

A&E/151220/11 Any other matters

1. Hatley Drive Amenity Area

A member of Council has indicated that some hedging plants may be available which could be used to create a border along the river edge of the amenity area at the bottom of Hatley Drive. This would replace the edging created by the residents. Residents will need to be informed of any action that the Council intends to take. The Clerk to investigate the availability of the hedging plants and if they would be suitable.

There are some potholes in the carpark at the Recreation Ground and at Gardiner Memorial Hall. The Clerk to find out some prices for planings or stones for filling.

A&E/151220/12 Date of the next meeting – 23rd February 2021

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed

Dated