

Burwell Parish Council

Asset and Environment Group

Minutes of the Meeting of 23rd February 2021 7.30 pm

Present: Joan Lonsdale (Chair), Lea Dodds, Robin Dyos, Jim Perry, Derek Reader, Liz Swift, Michael Swift, and Hazel Williams. Helen McMenamin-Smith attended the meeting until the end of the discussion on item 4.

A&E/230221/01 Apologies for absences and Declarations of Interests

An apology for absence had been received from Gus Jones. Derek Reader declared an interest in the item regarding the Grass Cutting Contract and left the meeting prior to the start of discussion.

A&E/230221/02 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2020 were approved. Proposed by Robin Dyos and seconded by Hazel Williams.

A&E/230221/03 Consideration of Action Sheet items and updates from minutes including:

The Cemetery hedge renewal has been completed.

Bike Club Unit at Recreation Ground

No meeting has been arranged yet due to lockdown. However, planning permission should not be required if the container is within a certain size. It was agreed that the meeting should still go-ahead once restrictions allow.

Hatley Drive Amenity Area Hedge

An offer of hedge plants, due for delivery in March, has been received. The plants are for the edge of the Amenity Area at Hatley Drive. It was agreed that the offer should be accepted. The residents need to be made aware of this and the residents may be willing to help plant.

Potholes and cost of Planings

A quotation has been received from Meads for £290.00 plus vat for 10 ton of planings to fill the potholes in the Recreation Ground car park.

The Group recommends to the Full Council that the quotation from Meads is accepted in the sum of £290.00 plus VAT for 10 ton of planings to fill the potholes in the Recreation Ground car park.

It was clarified that the Christmas lights around the trees in the Causeway have now been removed.

A&E/230221/04 Provision of Wildflowers

A meeting had been held with Cambridgeshire County Council. If we go ahead with a pilot scheme, then verge areas will need to be approved by the County Council. Verges at road junctions are not appropriate due to traffic safety. The recommendation from the County Council is not to set seed for the first season, but to allow any existing wildflowers to flourish first. The grass should then be cut and collected at the end of the season. Deborah Armed from the County Council is willing to come out later during the year to see how things are going and to give further advice. The following five sites were suggested as options:

- Top of Bolton Close – Managed and cut by ECDC
- Edge of land to the north of Roman Close
- Triangle of land between Silver Street and the Causeway
- Area of land at the bottom of Hall Lane at the junction with Park Road
- Verge on the east of Spring Close up to the Paddocks

It was felt that the land to the north of Roman Close is not suitable. It is also important that owners of adjacent properties are asked their thoughts on the proposal for wildflowers. The Pilot Scheme should be reviewed at the end of the season.

- ***The group recommends to Full Council that a Pilot Scheme to encourage the growth of wildflowers on the verges within the village takes place subject to the approval of sites from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department and adjacent landowners. The Pilot Scheme to be limited to the following sites:***
 1. ***Area of verge/grass on the corner of Hall Lane and Park Road***
 2. ***Land at the top of Bolton Close (ECDC)***
 3. ***Verge along the east side of Spring Close***
 4. ***Area of grass verge between the junction of The Causeway and Silver Street.***

Helen McMenamin-Smith left the meeting.

A&E/230221/05 Grass Cutting Contract

This matter was discussed at the end of the meeting.

A&E/230221/06 Gardiner Memorial Hall

No further update.

A&E/230221/07 Consideration of quotations for work to trees Jubilee Green/27 Parsonage Lane

Two quotations have been received to carry out the work to the boundary between Jubilee Green and 27 Parsonage Close. One from Eastern Tree Surgery for £785.00 and S P Landscapes for £795.00. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that Eastern Tree Surgery should be asked to carry out the work at a cost of £785.00 if they can do so in a timely fashion. Concern was raised that we need to be aware of the nesting season starting.

The Group recommends to Full Council that Eastern Tree Surgery should be asked to carry out the work at a cost of £785.00.

A&E/230221/08 Potential Tree Work Kingfisher Drive Amenity Area

The Clerk informed the group that a resident of Kingfisher Drive has raised concerns about the safety of one of our trees. The Tree Officer at ECDC has been asked to come and look at the tree for his opinion.

A&E/230221/09 Allotment Holders request for a skip and skip for handyman

The Maintenance Officer needs a skip to remove Parish Council rubbish.

The Burwell Allotment and Garden Society has asked if the Parish Council could pay for a skip for its members. The Group agreed that the Council should not pay for the skip.

A&E/23 001/10 Condition of Green Lane

An email had been received from a resident concerned about the condition of Green Lane. Previously when inspected by Highways they felt that the surface was appropriate for a bridle way. There are currently several potholes, but it is thought that this is due to the lane being used to access some building work and the current wet weather. It was agreed to wait until the Spring to see if things improve.

A&E/230221/11 Any other matters

The Clerk raised concern regarding the level of electricity being used at the Gardiner Memorial Hall despite the hall not being used. It was thought that the cause may be the frost protection heaters in the kitchen. It was suggested that one of these should be turned off at the switch. (Frost stat over on other wall).

A request has been made for a water heater to be installed in the Public Toilet at the Jubilee Reading Room. It was agreed that this would be too expensive to install. There has never been a hot water supply available before.

It was agreed that it was still okay for a memorial bench for the late father of Jack Smith to be installed at the Recreation Ground. Jack Smith to be responsible for installation costs.

Derek Reader left the meeting

Grass Cutting Contract

The Group considered the figures received from potential grass cutting contractors. Five prices were received. The Group makes the following recommendation to Full Council.

That the tender received from Truelink at an annual cost of £10,524.00 is accepted.

Although this is not the cheapest tender received, Truelink has a proven record of working for the Council over the past three years.

A&E/230221/12 Date of the next meeting – 27th April 2021

The next meeting will be held on 27th April 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.11 pm.

Signed

Dated