

Burwell Parish Council

Minutes of the Asset and Environment Group

Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021 7.30 pm (following PC Meeting) at Mandeville Hall

Present: Joan Lonsdale (Chair). Lea Dodds, Robin Dyos, Jim Perry, Derek Reader, Liz Swift, Michael Swift, Paul Webb, and Hazel Williams.

**A&E/240821/01 Apologies for absences and Declarations of Interests**

There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interests.

**A&E/240821/02 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were approved. Proposed by Liz Swift and seconded by Lea Dodds.

**A&E/240821/03 Consideration of Action Sheet items and updates from minutes**

Please see the attached Action Point Update Sheet dated 24.8.2021.

**A&E/240821/04 Trees:**

Trees – Annual Checks and Inspection Report

Yvonne Rix reported that following the previous meeting where she was asked to find out from Kevin Drane if ECDC carry out annual tree inspections, she had contacted ECDC. Christopher Cant Tree Officer for Parks and Spaces had responded saying that the East Cambs Trading Company are looking to be able to carry out inspections of this nature and are currently working on finding some suitable tree management/mapping software.

He advised that the Parish Council should have our trees inspected professionally by someone who has the correct qualifications and public liability insurance to carry out tree surveys. Without doing this we could potentially be liable if something was to happen with one of our trees. He recommended three consultants who he has used in the past to carry out annual tree inspections.

Yvonne Rix continued to report that she can contact all tree consultants, as well as the one that initially had written into the Council. She is still waiting for some of the quotes to come in and will bring back to the next Assets and Environment Group meeting for consideration.

Hatley Drive – Dead Cherry – do we need to replace?

Permission has been received from ECDC to remove the dead cherry tree on the amenity area at Hatley Drive. It was agreed that the Maintenance Officer should be asked to remove the tree. According to Mr Metcalf of Hatley Drive the soil is full of rubbish and therefore it is not suitable for a replacement tree to be planted. The Group agreed not to plant a replacement tree.

**A&E/240821/05 Hatley Drive Amenity Area and the Weirs**

Yvonne Rix reported that Mr Metcalf had been into the office to discuss the removal of the dead cherry tree on the amenity area and that the discussion had led to the silt in the Weirs and his previous request that the Parish Council dredges the water. He does not consider that it is right to wait until building work further along the Weirs has finished to see if there is any improvement. It is thought that the Weirs are the responsibility of the Internal Drainage Board and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Metcalf and advise him to raise his concerns with District Councillors Brown and Edwards who are both members of the board.

**A&E/240821/06 Priory Meadow Repositioning of Tree Nursery**

A request has been made to move the position of the proposed tree nursery in Priory Meadow to along side the hedge at the front. Concern was raised about previous

complaints regarding hedge heights and tree roots causing damage to adjacent properties to the front of the meadow. The Group agreed to the new location of the nursery on the condition that no tree in the nursery exceeds the height of 3 to 4 feet.

**A&E/240821/07 Request from resident to remove tree in cemetery**

A request has been made from a resident for a tree to be cut down in the cemetery to prevent birds from defecating over a family gravestone. The Group agreed that the tree could probably benefit from being cut back and reshaped. The Clerk to check how many trees in this area that would need to be reshaped to give a consistent look prior to obtaining quotations.

**A&E/240821/08 Bark for Margaret Field Play Area following annual Playground Inspection**

The recent Playground Inspection report had been circulated to the Asset and Environment Group members. The report had highlighted the need for additional bark at Margaret Field. This will cost in the region of £465.00 plus VAT and £160 delivery from the usual supplier.

***The Asset and Environment Group recommends to Full Council that 15 cubic metres of Bark is purchased from Suffolk woodchips Ltd at a cost in the region of £465.00 + VAT and a £160 delivery charge.***

It was also noted that the Maintenance Officer will need assistance to carry out required work to goal post areas.

**A&E/240821/09 Any other matters**

A request had been made by a resident in Bloomsfield for the Parish Council to provide a 'Private Road' sign. The Group agreed that as this is a private road it is up to the Residents to provide their own sign.

Joan Lonsdale reported that she was aware of a recent incident where a car with roof box had got stuck underneath the barrier at the Recreation Ground and asked if there was an emergency contact number for the Council on display. Yvonne Rix explained that there the relevant keyholders number was on display at both the halls, but not at the Recreation Ground. She agreed to make sure that a list of contact details for Parish Councillors is on display in the notice board on the pavilion.

**A&E/240821/10 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Signed

Dated