

**MINUTES** of the **Works Committee Meeting** held on  
Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 6.00 p.m. at the Parish Centre, Gerald's Way  
in accordance with notice given

**In the Chair:** Cllr Samaroo

**Present:** Cllrs Lilly, Mayo, Oakley (6.50 p.m.), D Taylor, L Taylor,  
Wood, Wright

**In attendance:** Clerk & Chris Attwood

**W.01.02.22 APOLOGIES** – none.

**W.02.02.22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – none

**W.03.02.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none

**W.04.02.22 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Cllr Lilly proposed, “**acceptance of the minutes of 17 November 2021**” This was seconded by Cllr Wright and unanimously agreed.

**W.05.02.22 CLERK’S REPORT** – attached

**Update:** Valley Playing Field moles – Cllr Lilly visited the site and has recommended leaving the mole hills. This was agreed.

**W.06.02.22 REFERRALS**

**W.07.02.22 CORRESPONDENCE** - none

**W.08.02.22 WORKS BUDGET**

Current budget and reserve figures were considered. Ash dieback – the expenditure of £1,629 is the balance of the initial ash dieback work that was agreed to be paid from General Reserves.

**W.09.02.22 CLOTHES BANK**

Following our decision on this matter, the resident has asked us to reconsider the verge at the back of the shopping area as it is the most visited/visual site. The Committee considered the request. Although it is felt there is a need for a clothes bank in the Bussage area, it is still felt that the shopping centre area could lead to even more congestion/obstruction of the parking area. It was agreed to respond recommending our original sites are reconsidered. **ACTION: Clerk**

**W.10.02.22 TREES**

**a. France Lynch P.G. – a. Oak** - it was agreed to plant an oak tree (along from a lime tree to be felled near Brantwood Road) to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. A plaque to be installed by the tree (not attached). The Council will fund and install. Cllr Lilly proposed, “**we plant an oak tree in France Lynch Pleasure Ground to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.**” This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. **b. Holm Oak** - consideration was given to the request from a resident for a tree in commemoration of a resident who has made a considerable contribution to the area. Cllr Lilly proposed, “**we permit the planting of a Holm Oak to replace the fallen White Beam.**” This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. The tree to be planted by a White Beam that was blown over by the strong wind today. **c. Frith wood** – it was agreed to permit Friends of Frith Wood to plant 50 hazel trees around the edge of the wood to thicken it and along the bottom SE corner. FOFW has also asked if some of

the hazel trees can be planted in the clearing at the top of Frith Wood, next to the fence. Cllr L Taylor expressed concern at the planting of Hazel trees, stating that undergrowth suffers because of such trees. After a short discussion, Cllr Wood proposed, **“we permit the planting of hazel trees in the above areas.”** This was seconded by Cllr Lilly. There was one objection.  
**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **W.11.02.22 CHALFORD BIODIVERSITY PROPOSALS**

A copy of the three proposals was given to all Committee members prior to the meeting.

**a. France Lynch P.G. – Proposed Management Plan for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.** A short discussion took place. It was confirmed that there was no additional work required of Chris Attwood. Cllr L Taylor expressed concern at any change in the mowing regime, stating that it is not a garden, it is a playing field that has been in place for 150 years and should not be interfered with. After a short discussion, Cllr Lilly proposed, **“we approve the plan and instruct our contractor to carry out a higher cut finish of France Lynch Pleasure Ground.”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood. There was one objection. Cllr Wood suggested that the final cut of the year could be a shorter cut, but we would need to take advice on this. The plan was accepted.  
**ACTION: Clerk**

**b. Parish Bank – the committee considered the plan.** It was confirmed that there would be no additional work required of the Groundsman. Cllr L Taylor expressed concern at trees being planted on this area of land, stating it should be left as common land. After a short discussion, Cllr Lilly proposed, **“we approve the plan for the Parish Bank.”** This was seconded by Cllr Wright. There was one objection. **ACTION: Clerk**

**c. Abnash Bank – this is Highway’s land.** The only request for us is to cut back the bank in the autumn. Cllr Lilly proposed, **“we agree to carry out a strim of the bank in October.”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

#### **W.12.02.22 EQUIPMENT PURCHASES**

**a. Rytec MP300 Compact side arm flail mower – two quotes were received; Chandlers £9,700 and T H White £10,215, both include fitting.** A discussion took place as to the need. Our current equipment is unsafe to use. For the safety of the user, it was agreed to proceed. Cllr Wood proposed, **“we purchase a Rytec MP300 Compact side arm flail mower from Chandlers at a cost of £9,700.”** This was seconded by Cllr Lilly and unanimously agreed. Chandlers will be asked for a trade in price for the current equipment. Finance and Management will be asked to fund the equipment from the Capital Equipment earmarked reserve. **ACTION: F&M/Clerk**

**b. Peterol KombiEngine/brush – quotes were obtained from Stihl £914 and Nailsworth Garden Machinery £625 plus VAT.** After a short discussion, Cllr Wright proposed, **“we purchase a Stihl KM111R Petrol Kombi and Bristle Brush attachment at a total cost of £625 plus VAT from Nailsworth Garden Machinery.”** This was seconded by Cllr Lilly. There was one abstention. Finance and Management to be asked to fund the equipment from the Capital Equipment earmarked reserve. **ACTION: F&M/Clerk**

**c. Tree work – Sam Kelly has carried out work in Bussage and France Lynch Pleasure Grounds, the cost of which is £1,185.** Cllr Lilly proposed, **“we fund this work from the Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces budget.”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. Cllr Lilly proposed, **“Finance and Management to be asked to fund the felling of ash dieback trees in Frith Wood and Valley Pleasure Ground/Copse and the felling of two lime trees in France Lynch Pleasure Ground, totalling £4712, from the Trees earmarked reserve.”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed.

### **W.13.02.22 FRIENDS OF FRITH WOOD TASK REQUESTS**

**a. Development and Maintenance of natural path barriers and b. sensitive and temporary signage explaining activity** – after a short discussion, Cllr Mayo proposed, **“we authorise FOFW to continue with the work with the natural path barriers and erect temporary signage.”** This was seconded by Cllr Lilly. There was one abstention. **ACTION: Clerk**

### **W.14.02.22 CEMETERY CHARGES**

The current charges were agreed in 2018. After a short discussion, Cllr Lilly proposed, **“we increase the charges by 6% wef 1 April 2022.”** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley. There were 3 objections. Figures to be rounded up. **ACTION: Clerk**

### **W.15.02.22 PLAY EQUIPMENT SURFACING**

The play equipment inspection reports advised of various play equipment surfacing that had gaps and surfacing that had lifted at the edges creating trip points. Chris Attwood will replace the rubber mat surfacing that needs attention. The other surfacing is wet pour and needs a contractor to carry out the repair. There is no wet pour in the Valley but there are several areas in France Lynch and Bussage. The surface of the Multi Play (Junior) equipment at France Lynch is the worst. The question was asked as to when it was installed. Chris Attwood will investigate the date. The quote from Greenfields is for this area only. Cllr Wood proposed, **“we accept Greenfields’ quote for an overlay of the whole Multi Play area at a cost of £2,899 plus VAT.”** This was seconded by Cllr Lilly and unanimously agreed. Finance and Management to be asked to fund this repair from the balance of Covid grants. **ACTION: Clerk**

### **W.16.02.22 FOOTPATH WORKING GROUP**

a. France Lynch P.G entrances – Cllr Oakley referred to the entrance near to the noticeboard in Burcombe Way. The barrier currently in place would not prevent a toddler running out on to the road. It is recommended that a bar is added half-way up the barrier. Chris Attwood will investigate the size of the ‘tubing’ required. Corner entrance in Burcombe Way - currently there are two barriers in place that make it difficult for access by a mobility scooter. It is suggested that the barriers are taken out and replaced with a single wider barrier for mobility scooter access and at the same time ensuring the safety of children. Wherever possible, entrances to playing fields should be made wide enough for disabled access. It is suggested that suitable grants are investigated to cover the cost of the work. The Barnwood Trust is a possibility. Cllr Oakley will forward a list of playing field entrances and their measurements to the Clerk. **ACTION: Clerk**

b. Lynch Road/Burcombe Way wall/ivy – Cllr Oakley advised the committee that the FWG is looking for work to do. They are a very committed group and enjoy carrying out tasks for the benefit of the community. The group is offering to remove the ivy from approx. 50 metres of wall in this area. Cllr Lilly said that we need to look at the wider picture. If the ivy is removed, it could result in wall damage and could even result in it falling. Currently it is full of insects good for biodiversity. It was suggested that the ivy is trimmed rather than removed. There is also the problem of ivy disposal. The ivy recently stripped from the wall from the band hut to Upper Lynch Road has been deposited in the allotment site. We cannot burn this, and it would take Chris Attwood several trips to Horsley tip to dispose of it. A contractor has quoted £300 a load for 3 trips. It was suggested that some of the ivy could be used to ‘line’ some paths/walls. Before proceeding with tasks, it was agreed that the FWG needs to submit a plan to this committee for approval prior to any work that is undertaken. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley**

c. Stone wall training – in looking for work, the FWG recognises there are walls under the jurisdiction of the Council that need care. The group is offering to be trained to repair walls (not rebuild). The training would be carried out by a more experienced volunteer in stone walling.

Concern was expressed that more people repairing walls means more concreting for Chris Attwood and he would not have the time to do any more than he does currently. If more stone walling is to be done, alternative methods for concreting needs to be agreed. Cllr Lilly suggested some walls could be finished with a cock and hen capping rather than using concrete. Cllr Wood proposed, “**we support training for the FWG in stone walling.**” This was seconded by Cllr Mayo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley**

#### **W.17.02.22 FOOTPATH GROUP**

A report was given to all committee members prior to the meeting. Update: Flooding on MCH69 Marle Hill – waiting for a response as to how to proceed. If anyone knows of tasks the FWG could do, refer them to Cllr Oakley.

#### **W.18.02.22 GROUNDSMAN REPORT**

It was agreed that the new format of the report was good and shows how much work Chris has to undertake.

#### **W.19.02.22 WARD MATTERS**

Cllr L Taylor asked for a thank you letter to be sent to the resident who litter picks Bussage Pleasure Ground daily. Old Neighbourhood – there is a large pot hole ??? . Cllr Lilly will investigate. **ACTION: Cllr Lilly**

Cllr Lilly referred to the County Councillor’s Highways Local fund and has sent the Clerk some suggestions for funding. The Clerk will email all councillors asking for ideas. **ACTION: Clerk**

Telephone kiosk outside Bussage Village Hall – the question was asked as to what is happening with this kiosk. Ridgeway Playgroup has said they would like it to display details of activities at the hall.

Dark Lane bus shelter – the shelter which houses the new mural needs some attention. Cllr Samaroo recommended that the seat is varnished and offered to help with this. The concrete needs painting and the ceiling felt is falling down. Cllr Samaroo asked if the ceiling could be covered in wood. Cllr Samaroo suggested a plaque is displayed to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed that Cllr L Taylor, Cllr Samaroo and Chris Attwood will visit the shelter to agree how to proceed. **ACTION: Cllrs L Taylor, Samaroo, CA**

Marle Hill bus shelter – in July 2021 it was agreed to instruct a local artist to do a mural for this shelter. To be referred to Finance and Management for funding. **ACTION: F&M**

#### **W.19.02.22 ANY OTHER MATTER – none**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.53 p.m.

