

MINUTES of the **Works Committee Meeting** held on
Wednesday, 17 May 2023 at 6.00 p.m. at the Parish Centre, Gerald's Way
in accordance with notice given

In the Chair: Cllr Samaroo

Present: Cllrs Mayo, Oakley, D Taylor, Wood

In attendance: Clerk & Chris Attwood

W.01.05.23 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Oakley proposed, **"Cllr Samaroo as Chair."** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. There were no other nominations.

W.02.05.23 APOLOGIES – Cllr L Taylor for personal reasons

W.03.05.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

W.04.05.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

W.05.05.23 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Oakley proposed, **"acceptance of the minutes of 19th April 2023"** This was seconded by Cllr Mayo and unanimously agreed.

W.06.05.23 CLERK'S REPORT – attached

W.10.04.23(e) Frithwood Neighbourhood Centre replacement seat - has been referred to the Finance and Management Committee by the RFO. This will come out of Community and Recreational Facilities Reserves.

W.07.05.23 REFERRALS - None

W.08.05.23 CORRESPONDENCE

Grass cutting season has started along with complaints relating to this matter. The Committee will be reviewing the mowing regime later in the agenda. Cllr Wood highlighted that we have had an unusual Spring with very sunny and rainy weather, this has resulted in the grass/foliage growing at an unusually rapid pace.

W.09.05.23 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Cllr Oakley proposed, **"Cllr Wood as Vice Chair."** This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed. There were no other nominations.

W.10.05.23 REVIEW THE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee considered the terms and agreed that reference should be made to the land which the PC maintain but don't own, ie, land that belongs to GCC and SDC. Cllr Oakley proposed **"we make an addition to 5.1.1 and 5.1.4 to include 'and other land maintained by the Parish Council on behalf of Governing bodies'."** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Clerk

W.11.05.23 NORDIC WALKING

- a. **To consider the use of our logo.** The committee were concerned that we could set a precedent if we allow members of the public to use our logo; in addition, it may appear that we

are endorsing a particular event/activity. Cllr Wood proposed **"we do not allow the use of the Parish Council logo"** This was seconded by Cllr Mayo and unanimously agreed.

- b. **To agree the charge to the user for the second year.** The user is proposing to use two of our playing fields. If we were to charge per location it will give the opportunity for the user to use one location should they wish. Cllr Wood proposed **"we charge £50 per location per year, a total of £100"** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.12.05.23 SPRING ROCKER FRANCE LYNCH P.G

Cllr Wood proposed **"we recommend to the Finance and Management Committee that funding for the replacement Spring Rocker is taken from the Community and Recreational Facilities earmarked reserve"** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.13.05.23 GRASS CUTTING

- a) **To review our mowing regime as agreed last year.** There are many areas of land to review, and it will take a considerable amount of time to discuss this matter. Cllr Mayo proposed **"we refer this matter to a working group for review"** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. Cllrs Samaroo, Oakley, Mayo and Chris Attwood agreed to form this group, they will meet as soon as possible. Cllr Wood suggested a few points for the working group to consider. Areas should be considered on a case-by-case basis; we should consider installing notices to explain to parishioners what we are doing; post onto our Facebook page and website to keep parishioners updated. **ACTION: Cllrs Samaroo, Mayo, Oakley and Chris Attwood.**

- b) **Grass cutting licence between SDC and the PC.**

A copy of the licence was circulated to the Committee for their consideration prior to their meeting. Cllr Oakley proposed **"no amendments are necessary; we proceed and sign the licence"** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.14.05.22 BUS SHELTER MURAL

The committee were sent a copy of the students' revised art-work for their consideration; the committee are pleased with the amended design. However, they would like a few small alterations to be made: an additional donkey, a few small bees to be added near to/on the flowers if possible, and the windows of the house to be altered to be more in-keeping with the Cotswolds. Cllr Wood proposed **"we go ahead with the art-work subject to the agreed alterations and a final design being submitted for approval"** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. The Parish Council will be supplying the materials, it was agreed to contact SGS College to ask what materials the student requires so that these can be purchased. We need to confirm the budget that was set for this. **ACTION: Clerk**

W. 15.05.23 BAND HALL TRACK GIGACLEAR

Cllrs Samaroo and L Taylor met with a representative of Gigaclear and two members of ChalCAN to discuss the proposed work in France Lynch. The route that was requested was through the centre of the path to ensure that the work would not impact on Parish Bank in any way. It was made very clear that Parish bank must not be damaged as a result of any aspect of the work. Cllr Wood proposed **"we are pleased with our requested route along the centre of the path, however if for any reason anything changes meaning that Parish Bank is touched, we would need to reconsider our position"** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.16.05.23 DORRINGTON COURT/FREAME CLOSE PLANTING PROPOSAL

ChalCAN submitted a planting proposal for the area of land behind Dorrington Court/Freame Close. This area of land does not belong to the Parish Council or Highways, it is however maintained by Stroud District Council. The Committee gave the proposal careful consideration and the consensus was that the area may become overcrowded with the proposed number of trees/shrubs. It was agreed that this area is bare, and planting here would be welcome. Cllr Wood proposed **"we agree in principle to planting 1 wild cherry, 1 Italian Alder, 1 Whitebeam, 1 Amalanchier, 2 Hawthorn (Pauls Scarlet) no Hazel tree and no currant bushes should be planted"**. Further discussion took place regarding the number of trees and the ongoing maintenance of the area. Cllr Wood proposed an amendment to his original proposal **"we agree in principle to the planting of 1 Wild cherry, 1 Bird Cherry, 1 Italian Alder, 1 Whitebeam, 1 Amalanchier, 2 Hawthorn (Pauls Scarlet) no Hazel tree and no currant bushes, subject to confirmation as to who will maintain the trees/shrubs"** This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed. Out of courtesy we should advise Stroud District Council of the above plans. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.17.05.23 FOOTPATH GROUP REPORT – Attached.

Cllr Oakley drew the Committees' attention to point 3 and asked the committee to consider the FWG's request to remove stone from the North-East side of Middle Hill allotments. This wall is beyond repair but contains some useful large stones that could be used in other areas of The Parish. Cllr Wood suggested the FWG should remove all of the potentially useable stone; if it is not useable for the wall in France Lynch, it can be stored at the Cemetery for other projects. Cllr Oakley proposed **"we allow the FWG to remove the stone from Middle Hill to use for other projects within the Parish"** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed.

W.18.05.23 CHRIS ATTWOOD REPORT – attached

Cllr Wood asked Chris how easy the graffiti was to remove, Chris confirmed that it wasn't difficult.

Cllr Samaroo asked Chris how things were progressing with the painting in the Valley PG. Chris confirmed that all benches have been painted but the rain stopped him from continuing with the play equipment.

W.19.05.23 WARD MATTERS

Cllr Samaroo asked Chris Attwood when he will be carrying out the restoration of the map board in the Valley. Chris confirmed that he will carry out this work w/c 5th June. We need to check that we have a spare map. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Mayo raised that utility company signs have been left on the side of the road in Pudney Pie Lane. Chris will collect these. **ACTION: Chris Attwood.**

Cllr D Taylor raised his concern about a soakaway in Freame Close, opposite number 16. The soakaway floods over both the road and path. We are unsure who is responsible for this soakaway. Chris Attwood will investigate and report back to the office. **ACTION: Chris Attwood/Clerk**

Cllr Oakley raised concern about the Tesco Express carpark. The Clerk explained that this area is managed by a company called SEP Properties. We have asked them many times to carry out maintenance work to this area; this has included repairs to the sunken drain, addressing the drainage issues to prevent flooding, repainting the disabled parking bays, and cutting back the foliage. SEP did arrange for some repair works to the sunken drain, but did not address the drainage issues and the carpark continues to flood. It is exceptionally difficult to get a response from the company despite many phone calls and emails. We will continue to attempt to contact them.

Cllr Samaroo explained that she has spoken with a member of staff from Tesco regarding the overgrown foliage in this area as she has received concerns from parents whose children have been scratched by the Pyracantha hedge. Tesco do not have responsibility for this area but share our concerns. They will investigate and if possible, they will cut the pyracantha back for the safety of residents. Chris Attwood can provide heavy duty large bags for them to collect the foliage in. Cllr Samaroo will advise Tesco staff of this and will make the necessary arrangements with Chris.

ACTION: Cllr Samaroo/Chris Attwood, Clerk

W.20.05.23 ANY OTHER MATTER – Cllr Mayo explained that she is busy organising the Parish Council Chalfest stand. She is planning to continue with the theme from our APM of volunteering, intending to include a game 'throw the ball in the bucket' with small prizes. Cllr Samaroo would like to join Cllr Mayo and Cllr Roberts with the organisation of our stand. Chris Attwood has agreed to set up/take down our gazebo.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.18pm.