

Minutes of the Works Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, 21st June 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, L Taylor, Wood

In attendance: Clerk & Chris Attwood

W.01.06.23 Apologies – None

W.02.06.23 Public participation – None

W.03.06.23 Declarations of interest – None

W.04.06.23 Minutes of last meeting -

Cllr Oakley pointed out that Dorington Court only has one 'r'. Cllr Oakley proposed, **“acceptance of the minutes of 17th May 2023”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed.

W.05.06.23 Clerk's Report –

Agenda item 12 – Highways undertook a site visit at the green triangle on the A419 to consider the positioning of a new noticeboard. They confirmed that they would approve the installation to the right of the existing map board subject to the necessary utility services checks being undertaken prior to any installation works being carried out to ensure that there are no live services at the install site.

W16.05.23 Further to the Clerk's report, the area of land near to Dorington Court/Fream Close does in fact belong to Stroud District Council. We approved ChalCAN's planting proposal on the basis that this was an area of 'no mans land' that Stroud maintained. I am waiting for Stroud District Council to confirm that they do not have any objection to ChalCAN's planting proposal.

W.06.06.23 Rereferrals - None

W.07.06.23 Correspondence –

Complaints from residents about grass cutting, or a lack of it, have continued to come into the office via email and phone. We will be discussing this matter in more detail later under agenda item 9.

Trees: We received a concern from a resident about the condition of four Ash trees near to Bussage School. Friends of Frith Wood contacted us about some Beech trees/falling limbs in the CPC owned section of Frith Wood as well as trees bordering the path by Eagle Close. Our Tree Surgeon kindly inspected these trees quickly for us and has provided his recommendation for the Committee's consideration. Report attached.

Cllr Wood proposed **“we authorise our Tree Surgeon to carry out the recommended tree work as detailed in his report”** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.08.06.23 Works Budget – Cllr Oakley queried why 'cost of living' had been included in the report. The RFO had provided this report based on what was provided to the Committee previously. The Clerk confirmed that the format of reports is currently being reviewed and may change going forwards.

W.09.06.23 Grass Cutting Consider Resident's Concerns

The Committee were furnished with a copy of the resident's email prior to the meeting. Cllr D Taylor raised concern at how Council staff are treated by residents who feel strongly about this matter. The Committee very carefully consider our cutting regime taking into consideration many factors. It was acknowledged that despite our best efforts, it is very difficult to find the balance and to please all residents. The PC take their commitment to protect and enhance biodiversity very seriously, working closely with local organisations, however some areas must be maintained for health and safety reasons. Cllr Samaroo suggested that a working group meet to discuss a response to our grass cutting policy, this can be communicated to residents. Cllrs Mayo, Oakley and Samaroo volunteered to form the working group to discuss this in further detail. Cllr Wood proposed **"the working group should meet as soon as possible to discuss the response to our grass cutting policy"** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. Cllrs Mayo, Oakley and Samaroo agreed to meet the following day at 3pm. **ACTION: Cllrs Mayo, Samaroo, Oakley, Clerk.**

Cllr D Taylor complimented Chris Attwood on the cutting of Bussage Pleasure ground.

W.10.06.23 Chalfest Water Supply

Cllr Wood proposed **"we approve Chalfest's request to take their water supply from the France Lynch allotment site, and for deliveries to be received as per their request"** This was seconded by Cllr Mayo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.11.06.23 Playing Field Accessibility

Cllr Oakley reported that all entrances have now been widened so that any size wheelchair can comfortably fit through. However, the entrances are currently surfaced with type 1 stone and the quality of this can vary considerably. Therefore, the type of surface can be considered to improve accessibility. This could be a costly task as there are many entrances to resurface, however Cllr Oakley advised the Committee that there is a 'Cotswolds Wardens Fund' so this avenue can be explored to see what funding is available, and to find out what the criteria/process is. It was agreed in the first instance for Cllr Oakley to contact Martyn Hall to find out more about this funding. Cllr Oakley will report back, and the Committee can review accordingly. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley**

W.12.06.23 Installation of New Noticeboard

The Committee had considered Highways suggestion prior to meeting. Cllr Wood proposed **"we go ahead with the installation of the new noticeboard on the A419 triangle as per Highways advice, subject to consultation with ChalCAN"** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. Cllr Oakley will contact the trained members of the Footpath Working Group regarding the testing equipment to see if they are able to carry out the necessary checks. The Clerk will contact our PROW Officer and Highways Manager about this also. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley/Clerk**

W.13.06.23 Mountain Biking Track

There are many considerations such as location, space, cost etc. Following a lengthy discussion the Committee agreed that further information is required in order for them to make an informed decision. It was agreed to undertake a site visit to gain a better understanding of what is being requested. This agenda item will be deferred to a future meeting pending this information. Cllrs Mayo, Samaroo and Wood agreed to carry out the site visit. **ACTION: Cllrs Mayo, Samaroo and Wood.**

W.14.06.23 Gigaclear

Further to our last meeting, Gigaclear provided a clear explanation between options 1 and 2 stating that option 2 is their preferred route due to the rock content underneath the track. The committee considered this and the map that was provided prior to the meeting. Cllr Wood raised his concern with the mention of re-seeding. This implies that the grass will be cut away and removed, and if re-seeded there is a potential for it to be re-seeded with the wrong type of grass. Cllr wood stated that Gigaclear should instead cut the turf, lift it and replace it. This should be a non-negotiable condition to ensure

that Parish Bank is protected. If this is not possible then we cannot grant permission. Cllr Samaroo proposed **“we contact Gigaclear to see if it is possible for them to cut, lift and replace the turf. If so, we agree to option 2 subject to this being a condition for the protection of Parish bank. If this is not possible we can not give authority for this work”** A vote realised 5 in favour, there was one objection. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.15.06.23 Middle Hill Allotments Planting Proposal

Cllr Oakley provided an update for the Committee as he had met with members of ChalCAN to discuss the area of planting. He feels that their proposal is excellent. Cllr Oakley proposed **“we accept ChalCAN’s planting proposal”** This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed.

W.16.06.23 FOOTPATH GROUP

a) report – attached. Cllr Oakley advised the Committee that the Garden Trail had kindly awarded the Footpath Working Group a grant of £300 from the garden trail. This money will be used to purchase a sack truck and to improve the Burcombe Way entrance at France Lynch Pleasure Ground. Unfortunately, Cllr Oakley is unable to attend the presentation but will send a formal thank you and another member of the group will attend. Cllr Oakley requested the Clerk send him the PC bank details/who to make the cheque payable to. Chris Attwood will research a suitable sack truck to be purchased. **ACTION: Chris Attwood/Clerk**

b) Task MCH99/100. This task has already been approved. Cllr Oakley explained that there has been an amendment to the original task. Cllr Wood proposed **“we accept the amendment to the original task”** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed.

W.17.06.23 CHRIS ATTWOOD REPORT – attached

The bench at the Drs Surgery has now been installed.

Cllr Samaroo raised her concern regarding Chris Attwood’s increasing workload. If The Council are to consider employing an Assistant, the Finance and Management Committee require further information in readiness for their consideration at their meeting in July/August. Cllr Samaroo requested a meeting with Chris Attwood and the Clerk, Cllr Mayo volunteered to join the discussion. **ACTION: Cllrs Mayo, Samaroo, Chris Attwood, Clerk.**

W.18.06.23 WARD MATTERS

Cllr D Taylor asked about the soakaway in Freame Close. The soakaway is not only flooding, but it is broken and poses a health and safety hazard. Historically we have been unable to establish who is responsible for this area; further enquiries will be made. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Wood noticed that the footpaths are very overgrown near to Bournes Green Farm. A letter should be sent to the landowner asking them to cut this area back. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr L Taylor raised his concern at the road conditions near to The Frith. The Clerk confirmed that the PC have submitted their questions to Stephen Bace, Democratic Services at County Council regarding road conditions/repairs and we await his response. Cllr L Taylor also raised his concern with the neighbourhood Centre carpark flooding, overgrown foliage. The Clerk confirmed that we continue to attempt to contact the management company, SEP Properties about the maintenance of this area. Cllr L Taylor noticed that the goal mouth at BPG is deeply rutted and requires repair work. Chris Attwood agreed to refill and reseed this area. **ACTION: Chris Attwood.**

W.19.06.23 ANY OTHER MATTER –

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.46pm.

DRAFT