

Minutes of the Works Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 19th July 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

In attendance: Clerk & Chris Attwood

W.01.07.23 Apologies – Cllr Wood

W.02.07.23 Public participation – None

W.03.07.23 Declarations of interest – None

W.04.07.23 Minutes of last meeting -

Cllr Oakley proposed, “**acceptance of the minutes of 21st June 2023**” This was seconded by Cllr Mayo and unanimously agreed.

W.05.07.23 Clerk's Report –

Bus shelter mural – The student has started to create the mural which should be ready for installation during August. This project has come in significantly under the budget of £400 that was originally set. Cllr Samaroo highlighted the time and hard work that the student has devoted to this project for us; the Committee agreed. Cllr Samaroo suggested that we consider gifting the student an amount of money as a gesture of our thanks. Cllr Oakley proposed “**we gift the student £50 as a token of our appreciation**” This was seconded by Cllr Mayo. There was one abstention. **ACTION: Clerk**

Mountain Biking Track – At the June meeting, the Committee considered a resident's request to install a mountain biking track in one of our playing fields. As agreed, Cllrs Samaroo and Wood undertook a site visit to explore the feasibility of this idea further. Cllr Samaroo provided the Committee with an update. There are many considerations such as space, cost, maintenance. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee were in agreement that there is no budget to undertake this project. It is also difficult to accommodate this request due to the space that would be required. Cllr Mayo proposed “**we are unable to agree to the installation of mountain biking tracks in one of our playing fields**” This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

Lime tree FLPG – Our Tree Surgeon has confirmed that he will be able to carry out the work to the diseased Lime tree in December.

Agenda item 11 – A further two quotes have been obtained from Tom Organ Arboriculture and Tree Maintenance. These were circulated to the Committee for their consideration prior to the meeting.

W.06.07.23 Referrals – Full Council have asked the Works Committee to allow further investigation of an alternative siting for the notice board and map board. Valley Cllrs Morris-Wyatt and Roberts will investigate and report back in time for their next meeting in September. Cllr Samaroo emailed Full Council to provide a bit of background to this, and has requested that Cllrs Morris-Wyatt and Roberts submit their findings by 15th August.

W.07.07.23 Correspondence –

A request was received from Ridgeway Playgroup to allow the use of a bouncy castle in Bussage PG on Friday 21st July for families as an end of year celebration. As this was requested at short notice, the Playgroup decided to change venue so therefore did not require our permission.

Chalfest – Unfortunately the driver of a large lorry enroute to Chalfest in France Lynch PG took the wrong turning and drove towards the band hut, this unfortunately resulted in a large limb being torn from one of our trees. One of the Chalfest organisers will clear the fallen limb from the band hall track.
ACTION: Clerk

The Environment Agency advised us that they will be carrying out an 'electric fishing survey' at Valley PG stream on August 17th from 10am until approximately 12pm. This survey is carried out bi-annually and covers a stretch of approximately 100 meters.

W.08.07.23 Works Budget – There were no questions although the committee raised concern with the budget for trees.

W.09.07.23 Purchase of Strimmer

Cllr Oakley proposed **"we agree to the purchase of the Stihl strimmer at a cost of £600, to be taken from capital equipment and refer to the Finance and Management Committee for authorisation"** This was seconded by Cllr Mayo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.10.07.23 Replacement Bench

Cllr Mayo proposed **"we agree to the installation of a replacement recycled bench at Middle Hill allotments"** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.11.07.23 Tree Work -To consider attached report

The Committee gave each quote consideration. Concern was raised about the length of time until the work can be carried out, it was agreed to install the new signage at entrances and inside the PC owned part of the wood warning, members of public of the danger of falling branches, high winds etc. Chris Attwood will meet with Cllr Oakley to finalise the most appropriate siting's for the signs and Chris Attwood will install the signage as soon as possible. The trees in question are covered by a TPO; the Clerk is awaiting confirmation from Stroud District Council as to whether a new planning permission application needs to be submitted or whether our previous licence to fell will cover this work. After a lengthy discussion Cllr D Taylor proposed **"we go ahead with the quote from Sam Kelly Tree Surgery and refer to the Finance and Management Committee for their approval"** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley. There was one abstention. It was agreed to ask Sam Kelly if he can carry the work out as soon as possible. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.12.07.23 ChalCAN Planting Proposal

Cllr Samaroo proposed **"we advise ChalCAN that they need to liaise directly with SDC about this matter, however we request that the agreement we gave to the planting proposal still stands"** This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed. SDC already have a copy of the proposal the PC have agreed to, but the Clerk will reiterate our agreement and advise of our decision to put ChalCAN in touch directly with them. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.13.07.23 Assistant Groundsman

The Committee were furnished with a report from Chris Attwood which thoroughly explains his need for a permanent Assistant. Cllr Samaroo explained that she had met with Chris and the Clerk to discuss this matter in detail. Cllr Samaroo proposed **"we ask the Finance and management Committee to consider employing a part-time Assistant (3 days per week) year-round."** This was seconded by Cllr Mayo. There was one abstention.

W.14.07.23 Footpath Group report

Great work as always by the Footpath working Group. The Committee pass on their thanks to all involved.

W.15.07.23 Chris Attwood report – attached

Unfortunately, there have been several incidents of graffiti at the skate ramps at BPG over the last few weeks. This has resulted in a significant amount of Chris's time being spent trying to remove it. The latest graffiti has proved particularly difficult to remove and paint stripper has now been ordered. The Clerk has been in communication with the Administrator and Youth lead at FYC who are helping with enquiries. Cllr Samaroo raised her concern at the amount and frequency of graffiti in recent weeks. The Police are aware and have advised that this needs to be reported via 101 as it is criminal damage. We await to hear from the FYC before taking action. Cllr L Taylor confirmed that when the skate park was installed originally, there was a clause stating that no graffiti would be permitted on the ramps, this still stands. The Clerk will advise FYC of this. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.16.07.23 Ward Matters

Cllr D Taylor thanked the Clerk for making investigation about the drain at Freame Close. Highways are now investigating who 'owns' this drain, so we are possibly closer to establishing who responsibility falls to.

Cllr L Taylor raised concern at the road conditions near to The Frith; some repairs were carried out but a pothole that was very close by was ignored. Cllr Oakley and the Clerk confirmed that County Cllr Chloe Turner reported at Julys Full Council meeting that GCC are looking at the criteria and method/materials used to repair potholes so things should improve, it was acknowledged that it is a slow process for change to be implemented but at least there is a possibility that change could be on the horizon. The new Cabinet Member for Transport is keen to make improvements.

W.17.07.23 Any Other Matters –

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.34pm.