

Minutes of the Works Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 20th September 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.01.09.23 Apologies – Cllr L Taylor

W.02.09.23 Public participation – None

W.03.09.23 Declarations of interest – None

W.04.09.23 Minutes of last meeting -

Cllr Oakley proposed, “**acceptance of the minutes of 19th July 2023**” This was seconded by Cllr Mayo. There was one abstention.

W.05.09.23 Clerk's Report –

Bus shelter mural – The student informed that she was unable to complete the mural. This is disappointing but we must respect her decision. The PC have spent just under £250 on materials for this project; the student is currently in possession of these items; we are attempting to make arrangements to collect them. **ACTION: Clerk**

Frith Wood tree work – At our July meeting it was agreed to instruct Tom Organ Arboriculture to carry out the necessary tree work. Tom Organ was instructed, and the necessary planning application was submitted to Stroud District Council as the trees are covered by a TPO. Unfortunately, we have not received any form of communication from Tom Organ since early August despite many attempts to contact him. Given that our planning application is expected to be determined imminently, we contacted Sam Kelly Tree Surgery to check his availability; he confirmed that he can carry out the work w/c 11th December, this would however mean that the annual tree inspection would need to be carried out in April rather than December. After a brief discussion, Cllr Wood proposed “**we instruct Sam Kelly Tree Surgery to carry out the necessary work in Frith Wood**” This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. It was agreed to contact Tom Organ to advise of our decision not to proceed with his quote. **ACTION: Clerk**

Chalfest – Following Chalfest the map board in Randalls Green was vandalised. One of the goals in France Lynch P.G also required further securing following its replacement. The organisers of Chalfest are due to carry out this work on Friday 22nd September.

Further to my report, the monorail in France Lynch P.G has broken. Chris met with Valley Forge who are due to carry out the necessary repairs within the next week; this will be at a cost of £175. In the meantime, Chris has removed the carriage to prevent risk to users.

Two of the safety signs in Bussage P.G have been vandalised. An order has been placed with Stroud Signs for their replacement; total cost £155.

Unfortunately, there has been further spates of graffiti at Bussage P.G to both the ramps and the teen shelter, a litter bin has also been vandalised. This is irreparable and requires replacing. It was agreed to monitor the situation and report further incidents to the Police. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.06.09.23 Referrals – None

W.07.09.23 Correspondence –

We received two wishes of thanks and compliments for our Grounds staff in relation to the cutting of verges in both Brownhill and France Lynch.

Some time ago ChalCAN submitted a planting proposal to Highways for the planting of 3 trees on an area of land called Brantwood Green. ChalCAN didn't receive a response from Highways and requested our assistance in helping them reach the correct department. Subsequently, Highways confirmed that they would not allow a resident to plant trees on the public maintainable highway unless it was immediately outside their property, permission would be subject to Highways approval and the necessary licence to cultivate. Cllr Wood has since been approached by ChalCAN about this proposal and he wanted to gain the views of the Committee. After careful consideration, it was agreed that this location is not ideal due to sightlines and the houses within close proximity. If possible, ChalCAN should consider another more suitable location. Cllr Wood will liaise with ChalCAN.

Friends of Frith Wood have advised that a Wych Elm within the nature sanctuary has died. They have suggested that it is lopped but not taken down to the ground. Next to it is a Sycamore that may need to be taken down as it is crowding a Beech tree. Chris Attwood will have a look and advise. **ACTION: Chris Attwood.**

W.08.09.23 Works Budget a) The budget for trees is running low and is due to go into a negative balance following the tree work that is due to be carried out in Frith Wood and France Lynch P.G at the end of the year. The Finance and Management Committee have considered this and agreed to transfer £6500.00 from general reserves into the tree budget to cover the planned tree work, plus any further emergency works. This matter is due to be ratified at the October Full Council meeting.

b) Consideration of Works precept requirements - The Committee were provided with current Works budget figures and earmarked reserves for their consideration prior to the meeting. The Committee discussed their requirements for the 24/25 precept, however this was a preliminary discussion and this will be discussed in more detail and finalised at the October meeting. The RFO will provide the Committee with the current Works spending budget. **ACTION: Clerk/RFO**

W.09.09.23 To approve plaques for two oak trees in France Lynch pleasure Ground as requested by The Garden Trail.

The committee felt that the proposed wording was too lengthy. After careful consideration Cllr Wood suggested **"The King Edward VII Oak planted in celebration of his coronation in August 1902 by Mr and Mrs Restall"** and **"Quercus Regal Prince planted in 2023 in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III."** Cllr Mayo proposed **"we agree to the installation of the two plaques subject to the suggested wording being used"** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.10.09.23 To consider a) a resident's request to plant a tree in France Lynch P.G near to the Burcombe Way entrance.

The Committee agreed that an oak tree is the most appropriate species to plant in this location to protect the character and ambience of the pleasure ground. It was agreed that after the initial 2 years of maintenance by the residents who plant the tree, the PC would look after the ongoing maintenance of the tree as it will grow significantly larger than a Rowan tree. Cllr Mayo proposed **"we agree to the planting of an oak tree in the space near to Burcombe Way"** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) To consider a resident's request to install a memorial plaque in France Lynch P.G The Committee considered this request carefully, however plaques for individuals have not been agreed in the past as this may set a precedent. The Committee have no objection to the laying of cut flowers by

the tree on the anniversary/important dates, along with a note in memory of their loved one by way of a temporary celebration. Cllr Wood proposed “**we cannot permit the installation of a plaque but suggest the laying of cut flowers on the anniversary**” This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.11.09.23 Re-consider replacement posts at Stonecote Ridge

It was agreed to leave current arrangements as they are. Chris has not replaced any posts and complaints have not been received about the existing posts. It is confusing as to why we are maintaining this area of land as Bisley with Lypiatt PC own it. The Clerk was asked to make some enquiries. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.12.09.23 Consideration of a) the installation of the mural in the Marle Hill bus shelter - Cllrs were disappointed that the student had decided not to finish her piece of artwork. It was suggested to reconsider this idea in the Spring, in the meantime, it was agreed to contact Thomas Keble School to ask if GCSE students may be interested in creating a mural. Cllr Wood proposed “**we will review this matter in the Spring**” This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) To finalise the installation of the noticeboard on the A419 triangle – Cllr Mayo proposed “**we install the new noticeboard on the A419 triangle as originally agreed with Highways**” This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed. Chris Attwood confirmed that he already has the necessary materials and will make then noticeboard within the next fortnight. We will need to hire a scanner to ensure there are no underground cables **ACTION: Clerk/Chris Attwood**

W.13.09.23 Footpath Group report - Cllr Oakley provided a report which was circulated to all committee members prior to the meeting. Cllr Oakley updated that the bike rack installation at France Lynch Church Rooms took one week not two.

W.15.09.23 Chris Attwood report – Cllr Samaroo thanked Chris Attwood for his very thorough report.

W.16.09.23 Ward Matters

Cllr Mayo queried when the broken play equipment (chains and posts) will be removed from France Lynch P.G. Chris confirmed that he will remove this. **ACTION: Chris Attwood**

Cllr Oakley noticed a fairly large advertisement which has been fixed onto the fence along Tanglewood Way. Chris Attwood will remove and store at the office. **ACTION: Chris Attwood.** Cllr Oakley also commented about the number of highways signs that have been left on the junction with The Vatch/The Ridgeway. Chris agreed to collect these and store in his workshop. **ACTION: Chris Attwood.**

W.17.09.23 Any Other Matters –

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.44pm.