

Minutes of the Works Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 6.00 p.m. at the Parish Centre, Gerald's Way
in accordance with notice given

In the Chair: Cllr Samaroo

Present: Cllrs Funnel, Gardiner, Oakley, D Taylor, L Taylor, Wood

In attendance: Clerk

Cllr Samaroo wished everyone a Happy New Year. She expressed her disappointment at Cllr Mayo's resignation and gave her thanks to Cllr Mayo for everything she had done during her time on the Council and indeed the Works Committee; it was a pleasure to work with her and she will be missed. The Clerk will send thanks from the Works Committee. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Samaroo reminded members of the rules of a meeting. Cllrs should raise their hand when they want to speak. If anyone chooses to abstain or object, this is their prerogative, and they should not be questioned.

W.01.01.24 Apologies – None. Chris Attwood was unable to attend.

W.02.01.24 Public participation – None

W.03.01.24 Declarations of interest – None

W.04.01.24 Minutes of last meeting - Cllr wood proposed “**acceptance of the minutes of 15th November 2023**” This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed.

W.05.01.24 Clerk's Report –

Bus Shelter Mural – Year 8 students from Thomas Keble School will be starting their Hunderwasser module shortly. They should be in a position to show their design(s) for the Marle Hill bus shelter in late April. The Committee look forward to receiving designs.

Graffiti at Bussage Pleasure Ground – This continues to be a problem with several more incidents since we met in November. Each spate of graffiti has been reported to the Police. Our PCSOs are going to erect notices around the skate ramps and teen shelter advising that they will be carrying out regular patrols of the area. We are investigating what else can be done to prevent further incidents.

Foliage at the Neighbourhood Centre – Complaints about the dangerous foliage in this area continue to come in. Highways are currently pursuing this matter; we await further information as to what action can be taken.

Pavement at Middle Hill – The back edge of the pavement outside Sycamore Grove has been reported to Greensquare Accord as there is no back edge. Greensquare advised that they are finalising the remedial work with Highways, this work should be carried out imminently.

Coppice Hill Car Park - Our Tree Surgeon was unable to carry out the necessary tree works to Coppice Hill car park as only a few cars had been moved. Due to Sam Kelly's busy work schedule, he will not be able to attempt to carry out this work again until April. The management of this car park is due to be discussed by Full Council at their next meeting on the 7th March.

W.06.01.24 Correspondence – ChalCAN Biodiversity are carrying out the planting which was previously approved by the Works Committee to the rear of the allotment border on the 20th January. They have asked if they can add a crab apple tree to the hedge line. Cllr Wood proposed “**we agree**”

to the addition of a crab apple tree to the planting of the hedge line at the Middle Hill allotment site” This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

A local company is due to carry out some work for a resident and they have asked if they can use the Middle Hill allotment car park to temporarily store some gravel while they wait for collection; it will be stored for a maximum of two days. The Committee agreed, but the following conditions should apply; the ground must be reinstated if there is any damage, the company accept liability if other items are added to the pile of stone. ”Cllr Gardiner proposed **“we allow the company to store the stone in the Middle Hill allotment car park subject to the agreed conditions”** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed.

An email was received from the resident who organised the building of the Cotswold stone wall at Sycamore Grove. The Committee considered their response, the Clerk will respond to the resident. **ACTION: Clerk**

An email was sent to the Clerk and Cllr Oakley by a resident of Sycamore Grove asking why the stone wall can't remain. Cllr Oakley had drafted a response which he read to the Committee; it was agreed that Cllr Oakley will respond, the Clerk will reply referring the resident to Cllr Oakley's reply.

Cllr Gardiner raised concern about the planting that has been carried out along the boundary of the development. It was agreed to defer discussion of this matter.

W.07.01.24 Works Budget – There were no questions.

W.08.01.24 Bussage Pleasure Ground Project – Concerns continue to be raised about the lack of fencing at BPG which means that dogs can run freely up to children, dogs fouling near to play equipment also remains a problem. A working group consisting of Cllrs, Oakley, Samaroo and Wood met at Bussage Pleasure Ground to have a look at the area. This project has been on the agenda since concerns were raised by parents several years ago, however until now the PC have not been in a position to take this project forward. It is proposed that the working group will consider fencing off an area of play equipment and installing two new items of play equipment. This idea is in its infancy, the working group will investigate what is possible, consider items of play equipment, obtain quotes etc to get this project re-started.

Cllr L Taylor expressed his dissatisfaction. He strongly feels that there is a need to extend the skate ramps and feels that this idea hasn't been considered. Cllr Wood/Oakley explained that the need for fencing is greater at this time. Cllr L Taylor asked why grants can't be obtained for a skate ramp extension. The Clerk confirmed that a project to extend the skate ramps hasn't been agreed and it isn't on the agenda for discussion this evening, however this item can be brought to the February meeting for consideration. It was agreed to add to February's agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Oakley proposed **“we agree for the working group to re-start the project at Bussage Pleasure Ground, to investigate fencing and additional play equipment”** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo. There was one abstention. The working group will feedback to the Works Committee. **Action: Cllrs Oakley, Samaroo and Wood.**

W.9.01.24 ChalCAN Biodiversity Proposal to name the area of land behind Tesco - A copy of the Biodiversity Group's proposal was circulated to the Committee prior to meeting. The Committee agree in principle to the name 'Meadow Way' and to the installation of a sign but felt that the style of sign should be more natural and should differ from a road sign. The Committee suggested that a wooden carved sign would be more suitable and requested alternative designs be submitted for their consideration. ChalCAN should keep in mind keeping the sign as vandal proof as possible. Cllr Wood proposed **“we agree to this area of land being named Meadow Way and to the installation of a sign, subject to finalising the style of sign”** This was seconded by Cllr Gardiner and unanimously agreed.

W.10.01.24 Footpath Group report – A copy of Cllr Oakley's report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Cllr Oakley reported that FWG numbers are back up to previous numbers, he may have been a bit hasty in reporting that recruitment was required. That said, the advert was posted, and a resident has shown interest in joining the group. Cllr Oakley will make contact with the resident again. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley**

Cllr Wood asked about the entrance to FLPG as it is stoney and the surface is difficult for users of wheelchairs/buggies; the work was started but has not been finished. Cllr Oakley explained that this task hasn't been forgotten, and work will be restarted to provide a more suitable surface at this entrance.

Cllr Samaroo gave her thanks to the FWG, as always, their hard work is very much appreciated.

W.11.01.24 Chris Attwood report – Chris Attwood's report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. Cllr Wood gave thanks to Chris on behalf of ChalCAN for carrying out the digging ready for them to plant on Brantwood Green. The Clerk will pass this message on. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.12.01.24 Ward Matters –

Cllr L Taylor expressed his dismay at the number of potholes around the Parish. Cllr Wood reminded him to report all potholes via www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet. Cllr Samaroo reiterated that the higher the number of reports the further the problem is progressed.

Cllr Gardiner reported that a bin was removed in Randalls Green, this leaves the nearest bin being a dog waste bin which is generally overflowing. Cllr Gardiner feels that this area could benefit from an additional bin. The Clerk confirmed that SDC did remove a bin from this location as it was an older style open top bin and it was causing a litter problem; SDC were due to monitor usage of nearby bins. The Clerk will contact SDC to enquire about the installation of a new bin. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr D Taylor thanked the Clerk for pursuing the ownership and responsibility of the soakaway in Freme Close as this has been unresolved for many years. Cllr D Taylor also asked the Clerk to pass thanks to the resident for dealing with this so efficiently. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Wood advised the Committee that the Assistant Groundsman vacancy was been discussed during the Finance and Management meeting earlier that day. Cllr Gardiner reported that a working group has been set up to finalise the details. The group will be made up of Cllrs Gardiner, Morris-Wyatt, Samaroo, Chris Attwood and the Clerk.

W.13.01.24 Any Other Matters – There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.32pm.