

Minutes of the Works Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 20th March 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 Gardiner, Oakley, Wood

In attendance: Clerk, Assistant Clerk & Chris Attwood

W.01.03.24 Apologies – Cllrs Funnell, D Taylor, L Taylor.

W.02.03.24 Declarations of interest – Agenda item 11: Cotswold Rangers FC request to use the football pitch at Bussage Pleasure Ground – Cllr Gardiner declared an interest.

W.03.03.24 Public participation – Agenda item 8: Community Composting – A member of ChalCAN attended.

Cllr Samaroo suggested that agenda item 8 was brought forward to this stage of the meeting, the Committee agreed.

W.08.03.24 Community Composting; Proposal from ChalCAN's Food and Waste Group. Cllrs were furnished with a copy of ChalCAN's proposal prior to the meeting. It was noted that the proposal was thorough and well considered. Cllrs raised questions such as how much the scheme would cost to start up, how problems with potential fly tipping would be managed, and noted previous concern with the ongoing management of the scheme. The Committee agreed that two members should meet with members of ChalCAN to further explore this initiative and to consider an appropriate area of land for the possible siting of a community composting facility. Cllr Samaroo proposed "**we meet with members of ChalCAN to further consider this scheme**" This was seconded by Cllr Gardiner and unanimously agreed. Cllrs Gardiner and Samaroo volunteered to meet with members of ChalCAN. **ACTION: Cllrs Gardiner, Samaroo and the Clerk.**

W.04.03.24 Minutes of last meeting – Cllr Oakley proposed "**acceptance of the minutes of 21st February 2024**" This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed.

W.05.03.24 Clerk's Report – attached

Meadow Way signage: ChalCAN are finding it somewhat of a challenge to source an appropriate wooden sign and would value to Committee's input. Cllr Samaroo and Wood will meet with ChalCAN to discuss. **ACTION: Cllrs Samaroo, Wood and the Clerk.**

Overgrown Footpath: At our February meeting Cllr Wood highlighted an overgrown path near to the Silver Street phone box. Chris Attwood agreed to look at this area but subsequently remembered that the Footpath Working Group (FWG) had agreed to undertake this work. Cllr Oakley had been to look at the path and felt that the area was too small for the FWG volunteers to work on. Chris Attwood will carry out this work. **ACTION: Chris Attwood.**

W.06.03.24 Correspondence – ChalCAN contacted the Clerk to ask if Chris Attwood could assist them with moving some chippings at Bussage Primary School during the Easter break. The chippings are to be used as mulch for the hedge that they have recently planted. Chris Attwood has estimated that this task will take a few hours to carry out. It was agreed that Chris Attwood could assist ChalCAN by moving the chippings to the bottom of the field, but volunteers will need to arrange for the chippings to be spread. Cllr Gardiner offered to assist if necessary. **ACTION: Chris Attwood, Clerk.**

W.07.03.24 Works Budget – Cllr Oakley queried why the play rangers budget code showed a deficit balance. The Clerk will ask the RFO to clarify. **ACTION: Clerk/RFO.**

W.09.03.24 Memorial Bench at France Lynch Pleasure Ground. The Committee agreed that a memorial bench would be appropriate sited in the area near to the Muga at the top end of the pleasure ground. It was also agreed that the bench should be made from recycled plastic as it would fare better under the trees; the colour should be a natural brown. The Committee felt that the wording of the plaque was a little lengthy, but they were happy for the resident to proceed with this wording should they wish. It was agreed that Chris Attwood would carry out the installation of the bench and a charge of £100 would be made to cover the cost of the materials. Cllr Oakley proposed **“we approve the installation of a recycled plastic memorial bench in FPLG including a plaque. Chris Attwood will carry out the installation at a charge of £100.00”** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. Chris Attwood will meet with the resident to finalise details. **ACTION: Chris Attwood, Clerk.**

W.10.03.24 Neighbourhood Centre Bench – A resident requested that this bench was repositioned from its current position, which is very close to parked cars, to the grassy area near to the Drs surgery and bike rack. Cllr Samaroo discussed the proposed new position of the bench with the Practice Manager of Frithwood Surgery to ensure that he was happy with the proposal. Cllr Samaroo drew a sketch of the area showing two options for the new siting of the bench which she showed to the Committee; 1) near to the wall and parish noticeboard. 2) near to the Drs surgery and bike rack. The Committee agreed that option 2 was the most suitable as there was concern that people could climb on the bench and wall should we choose option 1. **Cllr Oakley proposed “Chris Attwood removes the bench from its current position and repositions it onto the grassy area near to the bike rack”** This was seconded by Cllr Gardiner and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Chris Attwood.**

W.11.03.24 Bussage Pleasure Ground; a) To consider Cotswold Rangers FC hiring the pitch at BPG. Cllr Wood proposed **“ we allow Cotswold Rangers FC to hire the football pitch at BPG”** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley. There was one abstention. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) To review the rental charge for the 2024/2025 season. Cllr Oakley proposed **“ we keep the rent at £150 per”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood. There was one abstention. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cotswold Rangers FC also asked if we would consider letting them use the football pitch at France Lynch Pleasure Ground. This will be added to the April agenda for consideration. However, the Committee feel that the club should have a close look at the pitch to check that it is suitable as it is on a slope. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.12.03.24 Moles at Valley Pleasure Ground – Cllr Samaroo, Wood and Chris Attwood carried out a site visit following concern from a resident about glass being brought to the surface by moles. Temporary signs were erected immediately to warn users of the hazard, however, the Committee agreed that permanent signage needs to be erected, and that we should advise residents of the problem via our Facebook page, mailing list and newsletter. The Clerk will form some wording and circulate to the Committee for approval before ordering the signs. After a through discussion, it was agreed that this is a difficult problem to tackle. Chris Attwood will ensure that he inspects frequently, but this won't stop the problem of glass/pottery being brought to the surface by the moles in the days following an inspection; it is impossible to inspect the area every day. The Clerk made enquiries with two pest control companies who advised that they would trap the moles, but this would involve killing them. The Committee didn't feel that this was the appropriate course of action. Cllr Gardiner will investigate other humane methods of trapping the moles with the possibility of releasing them and will report on his findings at the April meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Gardiner, Chris Attwood, the Clerk.**

W.13.03.24 Bussage Pleasure Ground fencing a play equipment project. Cllr Samaroo updated the Committee. The working group met with Wicksteed to discuss requirements and a quote has been provided. The group are in the process of arranging meetings with two more play equipment providers. Grant funding will be required to support this project. The RFO is in the process of applying for funding via the National Lottery Awards for All, and both the Clerk and RFO are sourcing other grant funding

providers. It was agreed for the working group to meet on Wednesday 27th March at 10am to discuss the project and decide next steps. The Clerk will investigate other play equipment providers and will gather brochures/prices. **ACTION: Cllrs Samaroo, Oakley and Wood, Clerk.**

W.14.03.24 Footpath Group report – A copy of Cllr Oakley's report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. Cllr Samaroo thanked the FWG for their hard work.

Tasks: a) Purchase of hoggin for various entrances b) MCH70 Jacobs Ladder gully and step repair

Cllr Wood proposed “**we approve both tasks a and b**” This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. The Clerk will place the order for Hoggin with Travis Perkins for delivery at the Cemetery. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley/Clerk**

W.15.03.24 Chris Attwood report – Chris Attwood's report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Clerk thanked Chris for carrying out the removal of the markings at Silver Street car park. This not only saved the PC £450.00, but it also prevented the need to close the car park to residents while this work was undertaken.

Next month Chris will have his Assistant working with him. Cllr Samaroo requested that the tasks the Assistant carries out are also recorded in the monthly report. **Action: Chris Attwood/Kieran Attwood.**

A health and safety course is being arranged for the new Assistant Groundsman. **ACTION: Clerk/RFO.**

W.16.03.24 Ward Matters –

Cllr Oakley has noticed a significant amount of graffiti around the parish, in particular on the bus shelter on Tanglewood Way. Chris Attwood clears the graffiti and has noticed that there seems to be a lot of blue graffiti. The Clerk will inform our PCSOs. **ACTION: Chris Attwood, Clerk.**

Cllr Wood noticed that the bin on Parish Bank has been cracked. Chris Attwood confirmed that this bin belongs to Stroud District Council, and they are aware of the damage that has been caused to it. The Clerk will contact SDC to ensure that they are aware and to see if they plan to replace it. **ACTION: Clerk.**

Cllr Gardiner has noticed an area of significant flooding on the canal path in St Marys, although this area falls just outside of our parish, many of our residents use this path. The Clerk will contact County Cllr Turner and the Clerk at Brimscombe and Thrupp PC to see what can be done about this. **ACTION: Clerk.**

W.17.03.24 Any Other Matters – There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.44pm.