

Minutes of the Works Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 6.00 p.m. at the Parish Centre, Gerald's Way
in accordance with notice given

In the Chair: Cllr Samaroo

Present: Cllrs Funnell, Gardiner, Humberstone, Oakley, D Taylor, L Taylor

In attendance: Clerk, Chris Attwood

Cllr Samaroo welcomed everyone including our new Cllr Sharon Humberstone to the first meeting of the year and gave a brief reminder of meeting rules. Cllr Woodfine has also joined the Works Committee; he is unable to attend this evening and will join us in February.

In light of the incredibly sad news of the passing of former Cllr David Wood, Cllr Samaroo held a one-minute silence in his memory. David was a valued member of Chalford Parish Council for over 25 years, and a valued member of the Works Committee, he will be greatly missed.

W.01.01.25 Apologies – Cllr Woodfine

W.02.01.25 Declarations of interest – None

W.03.01.25 Public participation – None

W.04.01.25 Minutes of last meeting – Cllr Oakley commented that minute 13.11.24 d) should have read "the Clerk should order two signs" not one. The Committee agreed to this amendment. Cllr Oakley proposed subject to this amendment **"acceptance of the minutes of 20th November 2024"** This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor. There were four abstentions.

W.05.01.25 Clerk's Report – attached

Bussage Pleasure Ground Project – Grant funding is in process and the play equipment has been ordered. The Clerk asked the Committee to consider the installation date so that she could relay this to Wicksteed; the installation is expected to take two weeks. The Committee agreed that the installation should take place during the second half of March so that the ground is drier, and the installation is complete before the Easter holidays. The Contracts Manager will be contacting the Clerk to arrange a pre-start meeting; the Clerk will keep the working group informed about this.

The Clerk confirmed that the frog bin and rainbow bench have been ordered and due to a reduction in the fencing materials, the total cost of the project is now £43,474.39, this means that the PC will be contributing approximately £7,500 which is far less than originally anticipated.

Cllr Oakley thanked the Clerk and her team for not only securing grant funding but for securing such a substantial amount, meaning that the project can proceed, and that the PC has less expenditure than originally budgeted for.

Thomas Keble Mural – Cllrs had their photo taken with the mural at 10am this morning. Stroud News and Journal will run an article.

France Lynch Pleasure Ground Lime Tree Dangerous Limb – There is a fairly large limb which needs removing as soon as possible. Chris Attwood is due to meet the tree surgeon on Friday 16th January 2025 with the intention for this work to be carried out on the same day.

W.06.01.25 Correspondence – None

W.07.01.25 Works Budget – The RFO provided a report, there were no questions.

W.08.01.25 Community Composting – Cllrs Gardiner and Samaroo provided an update further to the Clerk's report. The Committee had a long discussion, considering the many factors involved in getting the composting scheme up and running. There are still many details to finalise, some of which are listed below.

The Committee agree that any fly tipping which may be left at the composting site will be the responsibility of the Community Composting Group (CCG) to remove. The PC does not have the funds to dispose of this. We understand that the CCG are investigating bulk waste collection with SDC and the Committee wish to be kept updated about this.

The working group would like to: review the public consultation results which is to be held on 29th January 2025, see the information being provided by the CCG to members of the scheme, ie a terms of reference, see the necessary risk assessments and public liability insurance policy. Understand how the CCG will ensure that only members of the scheme have access to the area.

The PC may require legal advice with regard to the tenancy agreement, if there are associated costs this will need to be funded by the CCG.

The Committee understand that the CCG need commitment from the Works Committee in order to be able to apply for funding to Stroud Funding Project, however there was some concern from Committee members as this money will be pledged by residents and at this stage there are still many unknowns such as will the relevant licences be approved. If the scheme does not proceed, will the money pledged be returned to the donator. The Committee gave this careful consideration and can only suggest at this stage that within the CCG's grant application, they must state that the use of this area of land has been agreed subject to the above requirements being fulfilled and that if in the event the Charity required the land back for additional allotment plots in the future, the land would need to be returned to its original condition.

Taking everything into consideration. Cllr Oakley proposed **"we agree to the composting scheme running on a trial basis of two years subject to review by the Works Committee every quarter. We refer to the working group to discuss the finer detail and investigate and draw up draw the tenancy agreement. We appreciate that the CCG would like to get started in April so as not to miss a season and will aim to take this matter back to the February Works Committee meeting to approve the tenancy agreement. The Works Committee recommendation to proceed with the scheme will then be taken to the Charity Committee for ratification in March"** This was seconded by Cllr Humberstone, a vote realised three in favour, one objection and one abstention. **ACTION:**
Clerk

W.09.01.25 France Lynch Pleasure Ground Easter Egg Hunt – The tennis club at Chalford Sports and Social Club are planning to hold an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 13th April around the area of France Lynch and they have asked if they can put some notices up in the pleasure ground on trees. It was agreed that if the signs are secured to trees with string this is not a problem. Cllr Samaroo proposed **"we allow the tennis club to install notices on trees within France Lynch Pleasure Ground with string for their Easter Egg Hunt"** This was seconded by Cllr Gardiner and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.10.01.25 Non ANPR Camera – The Clerk confirmed that there have been no further incidents of vandalism to the camera since the anti-climb paint and signage were installed. The Committee felt that it was unnecessary to add any further measures at this time. However, this can be reviewed if needed. The Committee agreed that should there be a need for an anti-climb spike in the future, a less

aggressive design would be more appropriate. Cllr Oakley proposed **“it is not necessary to install an anti-climb spike at this time”** This was seconded by Cllr Funnell and unanimously agreed.

W.11.01.25 a) Footpath Group report – A copy of Cllr Oakley’s report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Cllr Oakley explained that the FWG would also like to install a wooden rail of about one metre in height by the gate at Blackness as there is a drop of about 3 metres and the rail would be helpful. The rail may be funded by GCC but if not should only cost around £50.00. Cllr Oakley proposed **“we allow the Footpath Working Group to install a rail of one metre near to the gate at Blackness”** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed.

b) Task: MCH56 to replace approximately 40m of decayed safety rail - Cllr Oakley provided members with a copy of the FWG’s request to replace a length of the decayed safety rail prior to meeting. Cllr Oakley proposed **“we allow the FWG to proceed with this work”** This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley/FWG**

Cllr Samaroo gave thanks to the FWG.

W.12.01.25 Chris Attwood’s report – A copy of Chris Attwood’s report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

W.13.01.25 Ward Matters – Cllr Oakley asked if the signage for the Community Speedwatch camera coming from the Eastcombe direction could be moved as he doesn’t feel it is in the most prominent position to be visible to road users. The Clerk confirmed that she will ask the question to the Community Speedwatch Liaison Officer, but feels that when the area was assessed by the team the criteria for attaching to existing poles/distance from camera is quite strict so this pole may have been the only viable option. The Clerk will contact the Community Speedwatch Liaison Officer. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr L Taylor noted that when the road sweeper was working in Bussage recently clearing the edges of the road, it created a mess and scuffed the kerbs.

Cllr Gardiner has noticed that since the new 30MPH sign has been installed on Middle Hill opposite to the entrance to Sycamore Grove, the GPS on his satnav displays that the speed limit between there and Fourways crossroads is now national maximum speed limit (60mph). Cllr Morris-Wyatt raised this with our Local Highways Manager and the Road Safety Team. The Clerk will ask Cllr Morris-Wyatt for the outcome on this. **ACTION: Clerk**

W.14.01.25 Any Other Matters - There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 19.35 pm.