

Minutes of the Works Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 19th February 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 Humberstone, Oakley, D Taylor, L Taylor, Golding

In attendance: Assistant Clerk, Chris Attwood

Cllr Samaroo welcomed everyone including our new Cllr Lin Golding to the meeting 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 March.

W.01.02.25 Apologies – Cllr Woodfine, Cllr Funnell

W.02.02.25 Declarations of interest – Cllr L Taylor ref agenda item 10.

W.03.02.25 Public participation – None

W.04.02.25 Minutes of last meeting –Cllr D Taylor proposed “**acceptance of the minutes of 15th January 2025**” This was seconded by Cllr Oakley. There was one abstention.

W.05.02.25 Clerk's Report – attached

Bussage Pleasure Ground Project – The project will start 24th February 2025 and should take 3-4 weeks. Cllr Samaroo would like a confirmed start time so she can attend. A revised plan and quote is being prepared by Wicksteed which incorporates the relocation of one springer and encloses both springers within the fenced in area. This will be circulated as soon as it is received. **ACTION:Clerk**

France Lynch Pleasure Ground Lime Tree Dangerous Limb – This work has been carried out at a cost of £50

W.06.02.25 Correspondence – A letter has been received requesting permission to plant two dwarf apple trees on the green on Sturmyes Road, France Lynch. As this was received too late for this meeting it will be added to the March agenda.

W.07.02.25 Works Budget – The RFO provided a report. Cllr Golding asked for clarification of the existence of an emergency fund should it be required. Cllr Oakley explained that any surplus goes into the General Fund and in an emergency can be called upon. Cllr Humberstone queried whether any surplus can be used at the end of the year for projects that did not have funding available, Cllr Oakley explained that any surplus not used is not carried over but goes into General Funds. (These are budgeted each new financial year) Cllr Oakley observed that there is underspend in certain categories. Cllr Samaroo pointed out that there are still two months remaining of the current financial year and that with the current fluctuations in the cost of living more accurate budgeting is very difficult and that there are often unforeseen costs incurred. Cllr L Taylor queried the expenditure of £16 for cleaning the Landrover and asked why this was not cleaned in house, the Groundsman explained that this is for sale and there was not time for him to carry out this work prior to taking it to a potential buyer. Cllr Oakley commented that our Groundsmans' time is far more valuable than the cost of this cleaning.

W.08.02.25 Community Composting – The working group provided an update further to their visit to Bisley Compost Scheme and their subsequent meeting on 12th February. Their recommendation being that Middle Hill is not suitable for this scheme. The Committee had a long discussion,

considering the many factors involved in using the Middle Hill allotment site for this project. Cllr Oakley confirmed there is no other land available that the Parish can provide. Cllr Samaroo noted that all the existing work carried out by the Community Compost Group can be used on any future site they are able to secure.

Taking everything into consideration. Cllr Humberstone proposed **“we support the idea of a community compost scheme however after intensive investigation it is with sincere regret that we have concluded that Middle Hill is not a viable site”** This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor, and was unanimously agreed. A communication will be prepared and circulated for approval and then sent to the Composting Group and the Parish Council website and facebook pages. **ACTION: Asst.Clerk**

W.09.02.25 Bussage Pleasure Ground Memorial Plaque – Cllr Oakley proposed that **“permission is granted for a memorial plaque to be placed on a tall stake by the Silver Birch in Bussage Pleasure Ground with the wording ‘In Memory. Names. Dates’.”** This was seconded by Cllr Golding and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Asst.Clerk**

W.10.02.25 Frith Wood Path Clearance – A discussion took place regarding how the path had become so untidy. Cllr Oakley confirmed that it was in fact FOFW who had requested the branches be left for their use, but who have subsequently realised they do not need them. Cllr L Taylor mentioned that this path used to be strimmed twice yearly, our Groundsman confirmed it is now done annually. Cllr Golding suggested using the chippings that are produced to address the quagmire at the top of the path and Cllr Oakley suggested this strip of land be discussed at the next Local Nature Action Plan meeting.

Cllr Oakley proposed **“we go ahead with the quotation from Mr Adamson regarding chipping the branches.”** This was seconded by Cllr Golding and was unanimously agreed with one abstention.

W.11.02.25 a) Footpath Group report – A copy of Cllr Oakley’s report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Blackness Banks – Cllr Oakley explained that having completed the work last month it has been noted that children could still slip under the rail. He proposed a second rail is added below the first to improve safety.

Task MCH56 – previously £565 was approved by the Committee to spend on materials for this project. Cllr Oakley advised that GCC have been able to provide some of the materials to them free of charge, but that with 21 fence post holes required, would it be possible to use the funds to hire a post hole digger for 4 days at a cost of £240

Cllr Samaroo proposed **“we allow the FWG to proceed with this work and use of funds”** This was seconded by Cllr Humberstone and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley/FWG**

W.12.02.25 Chris Attwood’s report – A copy of Chris Attwood’s report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. He advised that the skip was emptied this week so will appear on the budget. Cllr Oakley asked if it is acceptable for the plastic tree rings in Frith Wood to be put in the Groundsmans skip, Chris confirmed this was fine. Chris also updated the Committee that 50 posts have already been replaced on the Old Common and there are a further 20 minimum to do.

W.13.02.25 Ward Matters –

Cllr D Taylor requested clarification that there are two separate historic cemetery sites being visited, and not just one. Chris Attwood confirmed there are two and where they are.

W.14.02.25 Any Other Matters – Thanks were given to Cllr L Taylor for supplying the brass plaque and it was confirmed that the Parish Council will pay for the engraving of the plaque. Wording to read **“In Memory of David Wood. Councillor of this Parish. 2025”**. **ACTION: Clerk**