



HATFIELD BROAD OAK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2021

PRESENT:

Cllrs Tessa Pemberton (TP), (Chairman) Cllrs Terry Marsh (TM), Tracy Marsh, (TB), Susan Smith (SS), Chris Webb (CW) in attendance Clerk to the Council Ernie Fenwick and 2 members of the public.

351. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and opened the meeting and advised everyone that the meeting is being recorded

There were no items were raised by members of the public

352. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Mark Strutt (MS), Accepted. Keith Artus (KA) at 19:41.

353. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 26th January were approved and signed

Proposed TP

Seconded TB

Carried unanimously

354. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

SS, TM and TB declared personal non-pecuniary interests as they live near Village Green

TB declared a personal non-pecuniary interest as she is the PC representative on the Village Hall Committee

355. COVID-19 MEASURES

The new Government regulations do not affect us at present. The relaxation of lockdown will need to be watched.

356. KEYHOLDER REGISTER

The replacement padlock key opens all of the other padlocks so will need to be returned. Proposed that we have new keys engraved with a number. Clerk to investigate Master key system that cannot be copied.

357. MOTIONS

None

358. MAINTENANCE ITEMS

358.1. Safety Inspections and Issues.

358.1.1. Contractors quotes. Not all quotes have been received yet

358.1.2. Tree works.

- Three contractors have been walked around the green and are aware of the requirements of the council. All three were passionate about trees.
- Ongoing tree maintenance is going to be quite costly.
- Blackthorn is spreading on the recreation ground and the village green.
- Replacement trees for the copse.

358.1.3. Inspection of Oak tree 101. Report required as it is believed it may be hollow and if it is 40% hollow it should not be climbed. The tree may well be 1000 years old.

358.1.4. Anne Lees path. Steve Matthews has suffered an injury so the work is delayed. The stream is running clearly despite all of the recent rain.

358.2. Recreation Ground.

358.2.1. Gate closer. Still waiting for Steve to source a suitable closer.

358.2.2. Play equipment. Grateful to the Village Hall Committee for allowing us to store the equipment when it was delivered much earlier than expected.

358.2.3. Weed killing

- 358.2.4. Request from resident to allow access with a cherry picker to lop a poplar tree. The contractor will lay suitable matting to protect the ground. Clerk to request site of insurance certificate and licence to drive the cherry picker.
- 358.3. Village Green.
- 358.3.1. Gate closer. Complaint by an irate person regarding the gate not closing. The gate closer has been checked and does close, but it closes slowly and should do so to prevent animals and children being trapped.
- 358.3.2. Request from a disabled person for a picnic table and if the village green is suitable for disabled access. Motion to council and ask district councillors for a contribution. Since we laid concrete to the recreation ground entrance, she is now able to visit the recreation ground whereas she could not do before.
- 358.3.3. Parasite report from Pauline Sell, Veterinary Surgeon, and found no trace, so it appears that owners are worming their dogs.
- 358.3.4. Storage containers.
- 358.3.4.1. Update on painting of old container. We are grateful to Cllr Artus for his offer to paint the containers when the weather improves.
- 358.3.5. Vermin Control. Nothing further on the rabbits.
- 358.3.6. Football Goals.
- 358.3.6.1. Weekly safety check. Not received as yet. Possibly due to the weather conditions.
- 358.3.7. Youth Shelter.
- CW looked at it yesterday and it looks very sad. We could have it removed, but if we removed two centre sections, the two halves could be used and repositioned. If the Youth shelter was removed, we could position a piece of Outdoor Gym Equipment on the hardstanding.
- 358.3.8. Repairing Fences. No progress due to weather conditions.
- 358.3.9. Ring Drain. This would be helpful to improve the quality of the football pitch. TP has spoken to Cllr Armstrong at UDC regarding funding. UDC
- 358.4. Outdoor Gym Equipment. Discussed previously (358.3.7)
- 358.5. Other Areas.
- 358.5.1. Grass Cutting & Maintenance. TP has cut back a number of footpaths today. And perhaps a working party could be organised in the Spring, and dependant on the lockdown restrictions.
- 358.5.2. Risk Assessment for Tractor and equipment.
- 358.5.3. Update on contract for contractor. Clerk to seek advice.

359. ITEMS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO FULL COUNCIL

Youth shelter & Gym;

360. MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

361. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

30th March

Meeting closed at 8:52 pm

27th April

25th May