



HADDENHAM Parish Council

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MINUTES ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 4th February 2019, 7.30pm
Day Centre Lounge, Haddenham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Ms. Bedding, Mr. Lyons, Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. O'Loughlin, Mr. Truesdale, Mr. Wheeler, Ms Poole and Mr Young (Chair)
Clerk Ms. Gilbert and Deputy Clerk Mrs Marsden
Cllr Mr. Edwards and 5 members of the public.

E19 94 APOLOGIES - All members were present.

E19 95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - there were no declarations of interest.

Public Participation

All members of the public present were residents of Sheerstock and the Chair allowed them to participate during the item E19 99. There were no other requests to participate.

E19 96 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2018 were AGREED as a true record and signed.

E19 97 CLERK'S REPORT

Review of outstanding and ongoing actions.

Duck Feeding Signage

The new signage has arrived regarding not feeding the ducks bread. We have one for each pond and Aspire will be putting these up shortly, exact locations need to be agreed.

Duck House – Church End

After the removal of the ivy on the Church Wall, the Duck House was more prominent. It isn't currently used by the ducks and is in a poor state of repair. For safety reasons the gate was shut by Aspire. The situation of the duck house is right by the more precarious section of the wall. With the imminent repairs, it would be easier to repair the wall if it was removed. There has been correspondence with the Village Society to ascertain ownership of the Duck House but no one seems to know. We have indicated that we'd like to remove it and possibly replace it after the wall repair has been completed. This has received no objection.

E19 98 DEVOLVED SERVICE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

The Council has received a Devolution Agreement for 2019-20 with a Variation. The Variation adds an additional year to the agreement and a process for dispute resolution. The amount paid to the Council under the agreement will remain at £7595.90. It was AGREED to sign the agreement and the variation.

E19 99 PARKING RESTRICTIONS PHASE 2 PROPOSAL

Since the last Environment Committee meeting there have been two meetings to discuss the phase 2 parking restrictions in Haddenham. This has been at the request of Sheerstock and Wykeham Way residents. The notes of these 2 meetings have been circulated separately.

There is a new parking manager at Bucks CC, Mark Davis, who is taking a different approach, and is suggesting a wider resident's permit scheme. Maps of the proposal have been shared and an amalgamated copy is available in the PC office. An informal consultation will be required in the first instance and BCC would like HPC to carry this out on its behalf.

An email exchange with the Planning Officer for the Pegasus Way shop/ nursery / flats development has established that a contribution to a TRO will be included in the s106 for this application due to concerns raised by the Parish Council about insufficient parking in its objection to the development.

The Clerk had received a draft copy of the informal consultation earlier in the day which not everyone had yet had time to review. The Clerk confirmed that the informal consultation would only be with those residents living on the streets where the restrictions are proposed. If the result of the consultation is in favour of the scheme, or informs a modified scheme a Traffic Regulation Order will be needed and a wider consultation will be undertaken as part of that legal process giving the opportunity for others who live outside the immediate area to comment on the final scheme.

It was PROPOSED and AGREED that the Council will support the proposal and is willing to carry out the informal consultation.

It was PROPOSED and AGREED that a working group is established with delegated authority to progress this project. To be composed of Cllrs, Clerk, residents, BCC officers and a Chiltern Railways representative. No budget as yet agreed.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council should take a lead, possibly through another working group, on establishing a village bus service as when new homes are occupied at the Aston Road site more locals are likely to drive to the station.

It was also noted that the LAF is proposing to additional enforcement for the LAF area and is offering Haddenham the opportunity to fund additional hours of enforcement, which the PC can consider.

E19 100 STREETLIGHTS

- (i) It was AGREED to replace 29 columns that have been identified as in a poor condition as per the street light survey. It was suggested that the streetlight policy should be updated to allow a planned program of replacement of columns to be initiated and report back to the committee twice a year.
- (ii) Column No 2 on Rosemary Lane is covered in Ivy and is not operating correctly. The residents were very reluctant to allow the Council to cut the ivy and so this street light has been referred to UK Power Networks to resolve.
- (iii) New columns have been fitted in 1 & 3 Stokes Croft, 1 to 4 Quakers Mede, 48 Wykeham Way, 4 Run Furrow. They have been connected by UK Power Networks and we will be instructing Eldridge to remove the old columns. There is an issue in Quakers Mede which we are trying to resolve as the new columns are not working properly. This has been reported and we are waiting to hear if it is faulty columns or faulty connection. The connection of 4 Woodlands (by Butte Furlong) has also been requested as this seems to have been missed.
- (iv) It was noted that the responsibility for the streetlights on Platers Road will be transferred to the Parish Council when the highway is adopted which is anticipated to be 30th September 2019. A commuted sum has been agreed with CALA homes.

E19 101 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

The monthly reports from Aspire have been circulated when received. Some non-routine maintenance that has been carried out includes:

Old Mill Close

Aspire have removed overhanging debris from the hedge and cleared the pavement. Thanks were received from residents.

Stokes Croft

The footpath area by Stokes Croft and Mallard Croft has been cut back as there were excess brambles & ivy which had encroached some distance into the road (on the Stokes Croft side). The resident who requested this work has written with thanks.

The other end of Stokes Croft, to Quakers Mede, there is also a 'hedge / scrub' area. This has had some clearance work to keep it tidy. On the Quakers Mede side it looks like some residents have been maintaining it themselves. A resident requested that the Parish council replaces the fence and tidies up the area, but it's not known who owns this land. Mr. Wheeler reported that he and the handyman had put up the low picket fence for residents while the shrubs were still small and there were concerns that vehicles would drive through the flower bed when it was dark. The area is now very well established so it was agreed that the Parish Council would remove the rotting fence and tidy up but not replace the fence.

The junction of The Croft and Stockwell

Aspire undertook some siding out as the pavement area gets very muddy with all the silt and debris which gets washed down from Stockwell.

Slave Hill / allotment path

The removal of excess mud and leaves which is making the path difficult to walk along.

Thame Road

Despite many communications the management company responsible for Chilworth Park development have not cut the hedge along Thame Road. This resulted in a section of the hedge collapsing and blocking the pavement. This was dealt with swiftly by Aspire who cleared the vegetation and the Clerk using devolved powers issued a hedge cutting notice. The Management Company has been invoiced for this work and will maintain the hedge in the future.

E19 102 CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

(i) The grounds maintenance at St. Mary's Churchyard continues to be good. The Church wardens have said that the volunteer who looks after the memorial bed at the front of the Church is no longer able to do this so the PC will need to make alternative arrangements. It was suggested someone from the Horticultural Society might be able to help.

(ii) Tree work

Waiting for permission to come through from the Faculty for the outstanding crown lifting work. It is anticipated this work will be completed before the nesting season.

(iii) Churchyard wall repairs.

At the beginning of December Mr. Truesdale, Mr. Young and the Clerk met with Christian Randall of Conservation Architects. In the past, Christian has been commissioned by St. Mary's Church to carry out the quinquennial inspection so is familiar with the site. Following the meeting it was agreed that Christian would extend his original report as follows:

1. Add condition detail to the boundary wall report.
2. Adapt the report so it can be used as an outline Schedule of Work - to be priced by contractors.
3. Provide an outline specification for the specialist repair work.

This will provide the basic information that the various Heritage Groups will want to look at, it will give us costs for funding and provide a base document for Grant Applications. It is quite a bit of work and will need to be further developed as the project moves on. The cost to do this will be £650.00.

We are now waiting for this more detailed report, which is expected in the next couple of weeks.

It was PROPOSED and AGREED that a small working group is given delegated authority to progress this work within the budget of the current Ear-Marked Reserve for this project, £51,390 in the current financial year.

E19 103 TREE WORKS

Woodways Playground

All the trees have had their crowns lifted away from the play equipment and cut back along the border with the rear of the infant school.

Woodways Recreation Ground.

On the original tree survey it required some ivy removal from a cluster of trees by the container and BMX track. On review, it was decided the Ivy actually provided a natural screen for both and this work wasn't taken forward.

The hedge line along the recreation ground and Old Mill Close required the removal of ivy. Again this provided a natural screen to the residents of Old Mill Close. The tree work needed was revised to bring it all level and to reduce the width of the ivy on the recreation side (as it is creeping to near the football pitches). This tree work scheduled for 4th February.

Householder – Roberts Road.

Trees overhanging their property from Woodways Recreation Ground. Complete Trees have surveyed but requires access from householder to undertake further quotes.

Banks Park

Tree work undertaken as per the Tree Survey, including the felling of unsafe tree.

Footpath by Haddenham Junior School.

Work is scheduled for the 15th February. This includes the removal of dead trees and the cutting back of overhanging branches and the removal of self-seeded saplings.

Footpath behind the allotment

The removal of overhanging branches and lots of ivy severing needed. This is scheduled in for the 15th February.

Sheerstock Leylandii Hedge

This is an ongoing problem with the hedge being incredibly tall and costly to maintain.

The trees overhang the footpath and some work is needed ASAP to rectify and make the path accessible.

There are options to consider:

- 1) Continue to maintain the hedges as they are on a 12 -18 month basis.
- 2) Remove the hedge which faces garages and parish council land only.
- 3) Remove all the hedge and replant with new trees – in specific places, which can be managed correctly and still provide screening.
- 4) Remove all hedge and put a close boarded fence up or leave existing chain link fence.

It was AGREED that option (3) is the best approach and can be done in a phased manner, starting at the Thame Road end where residents are least affected. Some work will need to be done before the nesting season to ensure the path is kept clear and in the autumn the replacement program can start. Residents will be kept informed of any work that will impact on their property. Access from the business park side may be needed and proved difficult previously.

E19 104 SPEED MONITORING

(i) Sentinel speed watch.

Ms. Bedding has arranged two training session in the library so there is now a group of people who can book and use the equipment. As yet none of the newly trained volunteers have booked the equipment out. A Facebook group has been set up to encourage volunteers to contact each other to make arrangements for a monitoring session. The volunteers will have different capabilities and interest in the project, and could be divided into those wanting to stand at the side of the road and capture the data and those with the technical ability to view the images on a computer to obtain the number plate information, some may want to do both. Ms. Bedding needs some help with the co-ordination of the volunteers which she is finding quite burdensome. Mr Edwards said his wife had been trained and he felt sure she would be willing to help.

(ii) MVAS - no data has been downloaded.

(iii) VAS for Stanbridge Road

Bucks CC have agreed the sign can go in and have sent back information confirming utilities are in that area of the verge. Mr Lyons clarified that a CAT scan to detect underground cables is needed. It was suggested that our LAT can follow up on providing better information about where the pole can be installed without damage to underground cables. Unfortunately in December we were told that Dave Smith would no longer be our LAT and we have not yet found out who his replacement is.

In the meantime there was another accident at the Woodways / Stanbridge Road junction, although the car involved was travelling in the opposite direction.

E19 105 PLAY AREAS

(i) Improvements at Banks Park

The initial installation meeting has taken place with HAGS regarding the new equipment. The contractors hope to be on site w/c 4th February (weather dependent) to start the project, with a lead time of approximately two weeks.

Improvements at Sheerstock.

The initial scheme was not compliant with The Fields of Trust guidelines and therefore was not acceptable to AVDC for S106 funding. In November a meeting was arranged with HAGS and their technical team to rework the scheme. When the revised plan came in after Christmas it was extremely disappointing, so it has been sent back again for further revision. A further onsite meeting was scheduled for 1st February but was postponed due to the weather forecast. We hope to move this project forward soon. If HAGS are proving difficult it might be preferable to go back to other companies.

- (ii) The quarterly play area inspection report was received from ARD. It had been carried out prior to the maintenance work scheduled as a result of the annual inspection. The report is very thorough and possibly over-cautious, the majority of the issues raised are low risk so can be monitored, anything with a higher risk will be dealt with. The next inspection is due in March.
- (iii) The repairs and maintenance identified as a result of the annual inspections have now been carried out at Woodways.
- (iv) A play area inspection training course is being arranged by Berryfields PC and HPC has asked if it would like to send anyone. It has been agreed that the course will be attended by the Deputy Clerk, the cost being £135 for the course and £100 for the exam. Separate arrangements have also been made for two Aspire staff to attend.

E19 106 ORCHARD COMMITTEE REPORT

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2018 were noted.

Woodchip has been spread over the path which has improved the surface during the winter months. The new shed is going to be delivered for installation on the 9th February working party.

E19 107 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

(1) Stockwell resident who has been asking for something to be done about damage to the verges has been told by the Clerk about the application to Bucks CC to install bollards and has asked for them to be wooden to be in keeping with the area.

The Clerk reported that the specification is in keeping with the conservation area guidance but is not wood. This could be discussed further with Bucks CC.

(2) The PC has received a request to film Pennyworth at Church End during the half term holiday, when inconvenience and parking will be less, likely dates are 21 - 22 February. The filming will require road closures which Pennyworth are working to arrange with Bucks CC. All affected residents will receive letters and alternative arrangements for parking will be put in place. The Parish Council will receive a fee for use of the village green. There were no objections raised.

E19 108 MATTERS OF REPORT - None

E19 109 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - Monday 25th March 2019.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING - the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: 25th March 2019