



HADDENHAM Parish Council

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DRAFT MINUTES ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 3rd June 2019, 7.40pm
Day Centre Lounge, Haddenham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. O'Loughlin, Mr. Wheeler, Ms Poole, and Mr Young (Chair)
Ex-Officio: Mr. Truesdale
Clerk: Ms. Gilbert
Deputy Clerk: Mrs Marsden
5 Members of the public and Cllr Mr. Hoare

E20 1 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Wheeler was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED as Vice-Chair of the committee.

E20 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr. Lyons (attending a meeting in another parish in his capacity at District Cllr)

E20 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Public Participation

There were no requests to participate.

E20 4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2019 were AGREED as a true record and signed.

E20 5 CLERK'S REPORT

Review of outstanding and ongoing actions not dealt with on the agenda.

Telephone Box in Churchway

The telephone box in Churchway is in a poor state and needs refurbishing. BT were contacted and they only repaint them when the Queen is visiting or for the Olympics. As we said we would undertake this task on their behalf, BT have provided (free of charge) a full painting kit for the phone box and we have asked The Rotary Club if they will undertake this refurbishment. Ideally it would be good to get this project finished before Best Kept Village judging.

Stockwell bollards and signage

Following a productive site meeting with TfB – they will provide a revised design statement based on 11 bollards situated along grass verges at both ends in Stockwell. There will also be new and improved signage.

Road lines

Faded road lines were identified at Churchway, Dollicott, Station Road, Aston Road, Slave Hill, Whitecross Road and Sheerstock. These were sent through to our Local Area Technician and were actioned very quickly. There was a problem at Sheerstock as the parked cars were in the way, so they were unable to repaint the access restriction lines (hockey lines). The middle section of the road at Sheerstock is in poor condition and would be difficult to paint onto. Our LAT is investigating the best way forward to reinstate lines along this road as it will demonstrate to people who park along Sheerstock that the road is 'two way'.

Haddenham Village Fete

The road closure has been applied for to BCC Highways. We were delighted that our LAT was able to provide the road closure and road diversion warning signs which saved the Parish Council having to buy additional signage.

Filming at Church End

The Pennyworth filming went ahead smoothly, and everything was left back the way it should be, even the dog poo on Ponny was picked up for us (and quickly started to reappear). Feedback received about the production company was positive.

On 5th, 24th & 25th June, Midsummer Murders will be back at Haddenham for filming. They will be filming by Dragon's Tail on the 5th June and on the Woodways Recreation Ground and Pavilion on the 25th June. The Council will receive a donation for the use of its facilities.

E20 6 PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The draft of an informal consultation of the affected residents for the second phase of introducing parking restrictions in the area around the station and Thame Road Business Park was reviewed. Bucks CC had provided a template that was updated following a meeting with BCC officers and representative residents. With some amendments it was AGREED to send the consultation to Bucks CC Officers to finalise the content and then carry out the survey.

The 5 members of the public all left at this point in the meeting.

E20 7 STREETLIGHTS

- (i) All routine maintenance is up-to-date. Eldridge are now starting to work on the identified replacement street lights. This work will continue through the summer and hopefully when the clocks turn back a lot of the replacements will already be operational.
- (ii) Streetlight connections.
New columns have been connected for Rosemary Lane, Willow Rise and the High Street. The High Street and Rosemary Lane columns are the Braemar design to complement the conservation areas. A refund was arranged with UK Power Networks for the High Street as a road closure was not necessary. The High Street's new street light has been universally appreciated, in Rosemary Lane, one complaint has been received that it is too bright. Eldridge have been asked to suggest ways to see if this can be improved for this resident. 4 Woodlands and 2 Standbridge Road have been repaired and are now working.
SparkX have notified us that they now have the accreditation to undertake the 'jointing' of electricity to the street lights. They have been asked to provide costing on how much each connection would be as it would be great to have an alternative supplier to UK Power Networks for this service.
- (iii) It was AGREED to adopt the street lights on Anxey Way as this has been confirmed to be adopted highway.

E20 8 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- (i) The monthly reports from Aspire have been received and a meeting was held with the Director last week. The grass cutting is now being done with a greater emphasis on leaving some areas uncut to

allow wild flowers to grow to support pollinating insects. This is not necessarily cost saving as cutting is slower where more care is taken to avoid flowers. There is a national 'Don't cut in May' campaign that is being publicised and supports what the PC is doing.

It has been noted that there may be some Hemlock growing at Green Lane. A sample has been taken and sent to the RHS for formal identification (as apparently there are a number of plants which are harmless but are routinely mistaken for Hemlock). We are currently awaiting the results. In the meantime, we have spoken with BCC regarding the management of the (suspected) Hemlock, as it is still their Rights of Way. BCC have spoken with their Ecologist and they have advised that we can cut it down. The use of chemicals is not advised and it will be case of continual maintenance. It is worth noting that BCC said that Hemlock was especially prevalent this year.

(ii) Cutting of VAHT roads has been authorised in addition to the contract. A one off cut to deal with the overgrowth cost £420. Ongoing additional monthly cost £320.

(iii) Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT) verges

VAHT stopped cutting the grass on the roads within their area from 1st April 2019, after they discovered that this work should have been undertaken by Bucks CC. Bucks CC have devolved grass cutting (in 30mph zones) to the Parish Council, so therefore had not undertaken any cuts. Unfortunately, the PC was not informed of the extra roads and only became aware when complaints were received. These roads are outside our Devolved Services Agreement and we are trying to get hold of BCC to confirm the exact status. In the meantime, delegated authority has been used to arrange for Aspire to cut the grass for residents.

(iv) Aspire's biodiversity programme was supported and the following improvements to assist the program were AGREED:

- a. Planters around the village (this will have to be for next spring now) £1,200 each estimated cost. The Clerk's will get comparable quotes to select a supplier.
- b. Replanting of trees and shrubs at Longwall £1200
- c. Additional planting at Banks Park (to BPT to fund)
- d. Planting of 5 fruit trees locations to be agreed.
- e. Planting of bulbs at Sheerstock £820
- f. Removal of accumulated green waste from all sites £1800

The Finance and General Purposes Committee will take this expenditure into account or the Q1 budget review.

(v) Climate Change Workshop

To follow up on the presentation and discussion at the Annual Parish meeting the PC would like to host a climate change workshop. At the APM several people were present who had been involved with Haddenham In Transition, a group that has done quite a lot of work in the past on reducing carbon emissions, but had rather faded out in the last couple of years. These people expressed an interest in attending a workshop and would have valuable experience, so a date should be agreed for the workshop that they could make. A Saturday morning was thought to be the most likely time for people to be available. Mr. Lyons would need to lead as the proposer of the climate emergency resolution. It is considered important to have some measurable outcomes to be able to report progress.

E20 9 CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

(i) The grounds maintenance at St. Mary's Churchyard has been doing well, one complaint about an uncut area was dealt with immediately, and was scheduled to be done in any case.

(ii) Churchyard wall repair project.

The first section of the collapsed wall at the front of the churchyard has been fully restored and looks very good. It involved recovering a vast quantity of stone which had fallen into the pond and this was supplemented with carefully sourced stone from a local quarry. The work was of a high

standard and was completed on time and within budget. A subsequent quote has been obtained for the next section along the front of the pond and this includes ivy removal. The quote has been approved by Full Council just prior to this meeting so work will now go ahead in the next few weeks.

E20 10 TREE WORKS

- (i) Mrs Mardsen met with Tree Contractor to review the tree survey and action any work which has been identified for the summer. This included re-assessing seven trees which have had ivy severed and the ivy has now died back, allowing the trees to be fully surveyed. A consultation process will be undertaken for the Lleyandii at Sheerstock to make sure we can schedule this work in effectively.

Work authorised under delegated powers:

Playing field rear of Roberts Road - quotation of £595 (+VAT) to undertake the cutting back of overhanging branches over the property.

Snakemoor - A tree branch came down at Snakemoor which blocked the pathway. This was visited by our Tree Surgeon to ensure not dangerous and was actually cleared by a volunteer who wanted some of the wood. A survey of Snakemoor has resulted in the recommendation to pollard two willow trees, cost to be confirmed and work booked in.

Allotments rear of Slave Hill - a resident reported overhanging branches into their garden from the allotment site. The contractor has been asked to survey the area and provide the Council with a cost.

It was AGREED that emergency signs are needed for use when trees (or branches) fall and DELEGATED to the Clerk in consultation with Mr Young, Mr. Truesdale and Mr. O'Hanlon to identify and purchase something suitable.

- (ii) Tree Policy review
The policy had been updated and with some amendments it was AGREED to adopt the revised policy.

E20 11 SPEED MONITORING

- (i) Sentinel speed watch equipment.
The equipment has not been taken out in Haddenham since the last meeting, but has been regularly used in Cuddington. The Cuddington volunteer has offered to support Haddenham volunteers as they get used to using the equipment, so this will be arranged.
- (ii) Data analysis report from the MVAS.
The data has not been downloaded and the equipment is still set up opposite the Post Office. It will be relocated to the next position as soon as possible.

E20 12 PLAY AREAS

- (i) Sheerstock play area improvements
The first site meeting with Proludic regarding the new playground has been held. A start date of 8th July has been agreed and an additional meeting with the installation manager prior to this date will be scheduled. Reaction from residents has been really positive and we hope this will be straightforward install.
- (ii) It was AGREED to install a wheelchair compatible swing, location to be confirmed but Woodways is thought to be the most appropriate. The AVDC S106 officer will be asked if it can be funded through s106 but if not the PC will pay. The Clerks will research and obtain quotes but initial searching suggests a cost of around £8,000. It is known that a Facebook funding page has been set up but as none of the residents who have approached the PC about this were present at the meeting it is not known how much has been raised.

E20 13 WW1 CENTENARY SILHOUETTES

The Clerk was asked to check with the local Royal British Legion representative if there is any particular protocol for future use of the silhouettes purchased to commemorate the end of WW1.

E20 14 COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE

- (i) The draft minutes of the committee meeting held on 10th April 2019 were noted. Mr. Lyons was not present to give a report.

- (ii) An additional quotation for the repair of the Witchert Wall at Townsend Green had not been received in time for the meeting.

E20 15 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Wheeler reported:

Two audits of the allotment plots have been carried out and 3 tenants have been evicted (one had moved to Buckingham and not informed us). There are 4-5 people on the waiting list which is good. The wood to build the composting area for woodchips has arrived, this will allow recycling of green waste on the allotment site. A price to purchase a second hand wood chipper from Aspire is being negotiated.

E20 16 SNAKEMOOR

A branch has fallen off one of the willows across the path at the rear of the reserve. Thanks to a resident who cut up the branch to move it. A report from Robyn Thorogood was circulated in May.

E20 17 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

A resident has written to request more VAS signs in the village, on Thame Road and Station Road. There have been several correspondents about the suspected hemlock on Green Lane.

E20 18 MATTERS OF REPORT

None.

E20 19 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 23rd September 2019.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.21pm.

Signed: _____ DRAFT _____
Chair

Date: 23rd September 2019