



**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 7.45pm  
Day Centre Lounge, Haddenham Village Hall

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**Present:** Cllrs Mr. Lyons, Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. O'Loughlin, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Young (Chair)  
**Ex-Officio:** Mr. Truesdale  
**Clerk:** Ms. Gilbert  
**Assistant Clerk:** Ms. Griffiths  
2 members of public.

**E20 64 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Ms. Poole.

**E20 65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Public Participation**

One member of public commented on phase 2 of the parking restrictions. He requested an update on the LAF funding and was informed that the LAF has been dissolved and will be replaced by community boards. *The application was made for 2020/12 financial year and it isn't known when the decision will be made by the new Council. The PC has budgeted to fund the whole of phase 2 if necessary.*

**E20 66 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed.

**E20 67 STREETLIGHTS**

A shield has been requested for the new light on Dovecote Close, as a resident found it to be too bright and is having difficulty sleeping as a result.

**New Columns**

UK Power Networks (UKPN) transferred the connections for 11 of the new columns on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019: Dovecote, Dovecote Close, The Gables, Stokes Lane (x2) Stokes End, Stokes Croft, Marriotts Way, Wykeham Way (x2) and Slave Hill.

UKPN were unable to transfer the connection for the column outside 19 Stokes Lane as there was a blocked duct. Eldridge have attended and cleared the duct. We are now waiting for a date from UKPN to return to transfer the final connection.

Eldridge have so far removed 7 columns at:

Wykeham Way (x2), Stokes Lane (x2), Stokes Croft, The Gables and Marriotts Way.

## **E20 68 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

- (i) The Aspire monthly reports were received.

### **Allotments**

The hedges along the boundary of the allotments/Wykeham Gate have been trimmed back.

### **Bus Shelters**

The bus shelter on Churchway opposite The Gables has been re-painted.

### **Graffiti**

Post-election graffiti has been removed from several locations around the village. The owners of the wall bordering the Stockwell footpath have been contacted regarding removal of graffiti from their wall.

- (ii) It was agreed to accept Aspire's quote for cleaning the street furniture around. The Clerk will confirm the specific items that require cleaning.
- (iii) The painting of the bus shelters by Aspire was agreed in addition to the work in the contract.

## **E20 69 CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE**

At the request of the Church Wardens, a letter was sent to the relative responsible for one of the ashes internment plots, asking them to remove edging and chippings from their plot as it is against the churchyard regulations and makes maintenance more difficult. After receiving no response, a second letter was sent explaining that the Parish Council would now arrange for the removal of the edging and the chippings, this second letter was acknowledged. The Clerk has now met with the maintenance contractor for the churchyard and discussed the tidying and maintenance of the ashes internment area and asked him to remove the edging and chippings.

## **E20 70 TREE WORKS**

### **Mallard Croft:**

The Council has been asked by a resident to cut back two trees on the edge of Townsend Community Orchard but, on consulting with a tree surgeon, we have been informed that there isn't a lot of green growth that can be removed without getting to the brown wood that wouldn't grow back. We, therefore, wrote to the residents of Mallard Croft likely to be affected by the removal of the trees, requesting their view on replacing the trees with smaller alternatives. We received one response to the consultation opposing the removal of the trees as they prevent his garden from being overlooked. It was AGREED to leave the trees in place and trim them again when there is more green to remove.

### **Allotments:**

The contorted willow that was shading the bore hole solar panels and one of the plots has been removed from the allotments.

The works behind 6 and 14 Slave Hill have also taken place.

### **Sheerstock recreation area:**

The damson trees on the boundary with Station Court were pruned back in early December.

## **E20 71 PONDS**

Consideration of adopting an annual maintenance plan for the ponds was deferred again as a proposed plan has not yet been provided by the pond specialist.

## **E20 72 PLAY AREAS**

- (i) It was noted that ARD are planning to increase the cost of their quarterly inspections by 5% from April 2020.

### **Woodways**

The wheelchair swing has been installed and the post-installation inspection has been carried out. Attachments to secure a wheelchair to the swing are separate and will need to be attached by any users. Instructions for users have been requested from the manufacturer. A safe deposit box will need to be installed at Woodways to store the attachments in.

The replacement seat for the seesaw could not be installed as the fixings did not line up with the existing holes.

The required maintenance to the swing sets has been completed.

The missing bolt caps have been replaced.

### **Banks Park**

The missing bolt caps have been replaced.

### **Sheerstock**

- (ii) The three quotes received for replacement grass matting under the swings at Woodways were not comparable as there were different views on the extent of the work needed. It was AGREED to delegate to the Clerk to finalise and accept the most appropriate quote.
- (iii) It was AGREED to accept the cheapest quote, from Playsource of £1050 + VAT, to clean the play equipment at Woodways.
- (iv) It was AGREED to replace the existing deteriorating bench at Sheertsock play area with two recycled plastic commemorative benches from Sustainable Furniture, costing £699+VAT each for the benches, with additional costs for memorial plaques. The Rotary Club has confirmed its donation of £500 towards a new bench and it was considered to be an appropriate use for the recent bequeathment to the PC for the benefit of the village to use it to fund the remainder of the cost.

## **E20 73 UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS CONSULTATION**

- (i) The Clerk was asked to avoid selecting one of the prescriptive responses to the misleading questions of the survey, in order to prevent the Council's response from being misinterpreted, but to respond to say that the Parish Council is happy with the existing law on unauthorised encampments, as are the majority of the Police (75% of police responses indicated that their current powers were sufficient and/or proportionate. Additionally, 84% did not support the criminalisation of unauthorised encampments and 65% said lack of site provision was the real problem).

The Clerk was also asked to write to the MP for Buckingham to point out that the questions in the survey are misleading and could lead to responses being misinterpreted. As stands, the questions are worded in such a way that it is not possible to disagree with a proposition without supporting another, although this may not be obvious to all who complete the survey.

The MP should also be asked to ensure that the Parish Council's response is not treated as a spoilt ballot due to the way it had been completed and to request that respondents of the survey should be contacted to check whether they intended their answers to support one statement by saying they disagreed to another.

- (ii) The Clerk was asked to raise the same concerns in response to the NALC consultation regarding the same subject.

## **E20 74 COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

- (i) Mr Lyons reported that the Wassail was successful and was well attended. Mr Lyons also reported that the Orchard Committee were holding an informal meeting tonight where planning for the year ahead would be discussed. The Orchard Committee were planning to host the Handlebards, a small travelling Shakespeare theatre group, for a performance of Macbeth on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- (ii) It was agreed to accept the quote from Chris Bowler of £3590 + VAT to restore the witchert wall between Townsend and the Orchard as the quote was more comprehensive than the others received.

## **E20 75 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr Wheeler reported that the new water trough had been installed. This should make it easier to rent out some of the more remote plots as they now had much easier access to water. The lock to the allotments gate has been changed after the key had not been returned. Tree work including the removal of the willow overshadowing the bore hole has been carried out and the bore hole has been pumping better since.

## **E20 76 CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROJECT**

(i) Mr O' Hanlon advised that since his update at the Full Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the Village Society had held a meeting on Haddenham as a sustainable village but he had been unable to attend. He had met with reLEAF who had outlined the proposals to plant trees on the small grassy area at Sheerstock and along the verges at the top of Wykeham Way. Mr O' Hanlon, Mr Truesdale and the Clerk are to meet to discuss the funding for the climate change project.

(ii) It was AGREED to allow reLEAF to plant fruit trees on the council owned land at Sheerstock. A vote was held on whether to support reLEAF's proposal to plant trees on the grass verge at Wykeham Way, which is owned by Bucks County Council (BCC). One member voted against the proposal, one abstained and four members voted in support of the proposal. It was therefore AGREED to support the proposal, subject to permission being granted by BCC.

## **E20 77 PHASE 2 PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

(i) The deadline for response to the consultation was 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Over 300 responses have been received from residents. The results of the informal consultation will be published once the results have been processed.

(ii) A report was received from the meeting with Chiltern Railways.

## **E20 78 VILLAGE GATES**

The proposed design for the village gates was approved, but a quote from Transport for Bucks was not yet available.

## **E20 79 LITTER PICKING RISK ASSESSMENT**

The litter picking risk assessment was reviewed and it was AGREED that no changes were needed.

## **E20 80 BLEDLow RIDGE HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**

The update from Bledlow Ridge Household Recycling Centre CIC was noted.

## **E20 81 SNAKEMOOR**

A report was received from the volunteer manager, Robyn Thorogood.

## **E20 82 CLERK'S REPORT**

### **Stockwell**

Further issues have been experienced at Stockwell with the large refuse lorry churning up the verges. Pictures of the lorry and the damage done have been forwarded to Aylesbury Vale District Council, who have agreed to send a smaller refuse lorry to the site in future.

The deteriorating road surface has been reported to Bucks County Council.

### **New Post Box**

Following a request by a new resident, the Assistant Clerk has arranged for a new post box to be installed on the junction of Pegasus Way and Cotts Field. Royal Mail has been contacted to find out when collections will begin, as it is currently wrapped in a plastic coating.

## **SPEED MONITORING**

### **Sentinel**

The speed watch equipment has not been out in Haddenham since the last meeting.

At the request of residents of Willis Road, Thames Valley Police have carried out an assessment and have approved the use of the Sentinel equipment to monitor speeding, which has been particularly observed when the road is used as a rat-run in the early morning. Additional volunteers may be needed to take the sentinel equipment out.

#### **E20 83 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

##### **Footpath to Garden Centre**

A complaint has been received regarding the quality of the footpath along Standbridge Road leading to the Garden Centre. Rectory Homes are responsible for laying the footpath and have been contacted about the issue. They have advised that they are waiting for Thames Water to carry out works before finishing the surface of the footpath. Thames Water will not speak to Council staff about the job due to data protection. We are waiting to hear back from Rectory Homes regarding when they anticipate the work finishing and if there is anything that can be done to improve the surface of the footpath in the meantime.

#### **E20 84 MATTERS OF REPORT**

The volunteer litter pick will take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

It was noted that the Parish Council could submit an expression of interest for the place-based devolution pilot scheme to be run by the new Buckinghamshire Council.

#### **E20 85 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

#### **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

The Clerk provided an update from the solicitors regarding the trees on Sheerstock.

#### **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020