



MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 10th August 2020, 7.40pm
Held remotely on Zoom

Present: Cllrs Mr. O’Hanlon, Mr. O’Loughlin, and Mr. Young (Chair)
Ex-Officio: Mr. Truesdale
Bucks Cllr: Mr. Foster
Clerk: Ms. Gilbert
Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Marsden
Assistant Clerk: Ms. Griffiths
Members of public: 8 plus Cllrs Mr Brown and Mr. Hoare as members of public.

E21 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Wheeler (illness). No apologies were received from Mr Lyons and Ms Poole.

E21 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. What is the communication strategy for the climate emergency report and what is the process for public consultation and feedback?
Mr O’Hanlon explained that the council is reaching out to various interest groups around the village. This strategy is being adopted to maximise the number of people from across the village who are reached and engaged. This method will also allow more opportunity for people to speak up, ask questions and make suggestions than simply holding one large meeting for the entire village. Consultation will take place at these meetings and throughout the pilots.
2. The vehicle warning sign by the crossroads near the medical centre, flashes up even when vehicles drive below 30mph.
The Clerk explained that the sign is to alert drivers to the junction regardless of speed.
3. Would it be possible to have a copy of the project initiation document for the parking restrictions?
The project initiation document is included with the additional documents for the meeting available on the Parish Council website.
4. Where are the parking consultation survey results published?
The Clerk explained that the results hadn’t been published as Buckinghamshire Council had suggested further analysis needs to be carried out first.

E21 3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2020 were AGREED as a true record. The Chair will sign the agreed minutes in the Parish Council office at a later date.

E21 4 STREETLIGHTS

Since the last meeting held in January:

11 new low energy lamps have been fitted.

1 new photocell fitted.

The perspex casing that had fallen off one streetlight has been replaced.

Slave Hill footpath - a local resident had complained of light pollution in his back garden, he is an astronomer and the light spillage is affecting his astrological pictures. The streetlight has been sprayed on the resident's side to dilute light without reducing light to the footpath.

Dragontail footpath – A new lamp has been fitted but it was reported that a new column is needed and that the lantern is hidden in an overhanging tree from neighbouring property. A subsequent visit to identify a possible new location was unable to find anywhere suitable. Residents deliberately allow the tree to grow to block light to their property. Ultimately it was decided to fit a new Jade LED lantern on the existing column and fit a new secondary cut-out.

There are currently 2 outages awaiting repair.

E21 5 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) The monthly reports from Aspire were received.

(ii) It was noted that another skip has been hired to deal with tree work waste.

E21 6 CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

The Bucknell family provide a skip for green waste, free of charge, at the back of the Churchyard. They have raised concerns about the amount of plastic material being placed in the skip, which has to be removed before collection. Therefore, a larger general waste bin has been installed at the back of the Churchyard and Aspire have been asked to check and empty it twice a week. A new sign has also been installed to direct people to the correct bin.

E21 7 TREE WORKS

(i) **Mallards Croft:**

Complete trees have assessed the tree work required on the boundary of Mallards Croft within the Orchard. A quote was received and accepted and the work will be carried out when permission is received, as it is within the Conservation Area.

Wykeham Way and Thame Road Junction:

The two horse chestnuts at the junction need crown lifting and thinning. Both these trees are the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council. Following our request, Buckinghamshire Council has scheduled the work for August.

Woodways Playground:

The encroaching bushes within the playground were cut back as a priority prior to the reopening of the play areas.

Harts Road / Willis Road Junction:

The cherry tree has been crown-lifted and side-backed at this junction.

Church End, Entrance to the Paddocks:

After receiving a request to crown-lift and side-back, a quote has been received and accepted and we are awaiting permission to carry out work as the tree is within the conservation area.

(ii) **Leyalndii hedge on boundary of Sheerstock and Thame Road Business Park**

The surveyors report was received. It was noted that the trees are low risk so no urgent work is required, only regular maintenance.

It was AGREED to accept the quote from Complete Trees, of £2,100 exc VAT, to trim back the

leylandii hedge this year. It was understood that this quote may be increased slightly due to the additional growth since the quote was received. It was agreed to work on a long-term management and phased replacement plan. Priorities will be to maintain screening where it is needed and make improvements to support biodiversity.

E21 8 PONDS

- (i) The recent works carried out to Banks Park Pond and Rudd Lane Pond were noted.
- (ii) The Council DECLINED to install a new duck house at Church End pond using the proposed donation.
- (iii) It was AGREED to secure the water tap at Rudds Pond. The Clerk will be attending a course on pond management and will report back on environmental recommendations for the use of mains water to fill the ponds.

E21 9 PLAY AREAS

- (i) The recent inspection reports were noted. The two high risk items that were picked up on the June report have already been addressed and quotes have been requested for the other work that was identified.
- (ii) It was noted that the play equipment in Woodways was cleaned and treated in May.
- (iii) The installation of the 2 donated benches at Sheerstock was noted.
- (iv) A report was received on the ageing equipment at Woodways. The results of the Resistograph, and the need to replace wooden posts on several pieces of equipment in future were noted, as well as the recommendation in the June inspection report to replace or repair the grass mats beneath multiple pieces of equipment. Quotes are still being received for the work to equipment identified in the June report but it may prove more cost effective to replace rather than repair some items.

E21 10 SPEED MONITORING

- (i) The Community Speedwatch program has been temporarily suspended by Thames Valley Police while a total revamp of how the program works is undertaken. During lockdown, volunteers haven't been allowed in to the police stations to process data because of social distancing concerns, so it has been many months since the Sentinel equipment has been used. It is anticipated that the Community Speed Watch will be restarted in September. Under the new scheme, sites will have to be assessed and volunteers trained, so it will take some time before it is properly up and running again.
- (ii) It was AGREED not to renew the service contract for the MVAS due to the recurrent faults experienced with current equipment and to research alternative equipment instead.

E21 11 PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Project Initiation Document (PID) provided by Transport for Bucks was received. The next Community Board meeting has now been scheduled for 24th September where the application for funding will be considered.

E21 12 CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROJECT

- (i) An update was received. Correspondence regarding the project was noted.
- (ii) The reLeaf proposal to establish woodland along the permissive path on the Airfield site was noted. It was explained that planting trees around Haddenham is included within the Climate Emergency Plan.

E21 13 ACTIVE TRAVEL

- (i) It was noted that Haddenham has been selected by Buckinghamshire Council to participate in the Emergency Active Travel Plan. In August, a temporary eastbound advisory cycle lane will be implemented on Thame Road from Haddenham and Thame Parkway Station to Tacks Lane, just past its junction with Fort End. Where required, the carriageway surface will be repaired prior to installation of the cycle lane. To complement the temporary eastbound cycle lane, an advisory 20mph speed limit will be implemented along the whole route between the Haddenham and Thame Parkway Station access and Woodways and Stanbridge Road junction. Letters will be going out to homes along the route this week.
- (ii) The announcement by Oxfordshire Growth Board of the withdrawal of funding for the Haddenham – Thame cycleway was noted.
- (iii) It was noted that the Parish Council has worked with the landowner to resolve issues with the permissive footpaths alongside Station Road (HAD/P22/1 & HAD/P22/2) to ensure they can remain. A budget of £500 was AGREED to fund new signage along the path.
- (iv) The Parish Council has been asked to support an extension to the existing permissive path on the Airfield to complete the 'Round Haddenham Route'. It has been confirmed that Lands Improvement Holdings are willing to consider this, however it was pointed out in the meeting that the proposed route would cross over into land owned by CALA homes who do not appear to have been consulted. Confirmation of permission from the landowner(s) and route of the path is needed before the Parish Council can support the additional permissive footpath

E21 14 WOODWAYS PAVILION DRAINS

Earlier in the year, there was a blockage within the manhole cover serving the drains on the footpath side of the pavilion. Drain Doctor came out to clear the blockage and carried out CCTV investigations whilst on site. They provided a defects report and a quote for recommended repairs. Clearfast were asked to provide a comparable quote. Both CCTV investigations identified a number of issues concerning the structural condition of the drainage at Woodways Pavilion. These defects affect the flow of waste, the drainage is not watertight and the structural integrity of the pipework is compromised.

It was AGREED to accept the quote from Clearfast to replace with new pipework and install a root barrier to protect the pipes at a cost of £6,680.00 as this was the cheaper and more comprehensive of the quotes.

E21 15 COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE

- (i) No formal working groups have taken place during lockdown but, following a risk assessment, it was decided that two people could safely work together, so some tasks have been undertaken. Aspire continue to cut the main paths and the core seating area. Haymaking will take place on Saturday 15th August. The first Zoom committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th August.
- (ii) It was noted that the restoration of the Orchard wall is scheduled to take place at the end of August.

E21 16 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

One of the plots has been vandalised. Funding for additional solar panels and batteries for the bore hole was agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 20th July 2020.

E21 17 SNAKEMOOR.

The following report was received from Snakemoor Manager Julian Watson.

Since the last Snakemoor working group on 22nd February, the Covid 19 outbreak has overtaken all other activities.

Lockdown has had a significant impact on Snakemoor:

Much increased footfall

A wider range of visitors

More family interest

Some security and behavioural issues (Reports of possible drug use, increased littering and minor nuisance damage)

Fortunately, one very important item of seasonal activity has been completed this week. Michael Whitney has again managed the mowing of the meadow area - a large undertaking, and very gratefully appreciated.

Overall, my belief is that the resources of Snakemoor have provided a much needed space for the people of Haddenham. Particularly during the period of highly restricted movement, the ability to enjoy nature at close hand to the village has been a significant benefit. I expect this will also have raised the awareness of Snakemoor.

Looking ahead to when we can sensibly and safely resume volunteer working groups, I would like to identify three areas of focus:

1. Improving access, particularly the quality of the footpaths during the winter.
2. Communicating the features of Snakemoor, particularly to residents who have recently moved in to Haddenham.
3. A programme of activities to raise the quality of the pond, which has become very overgrown with weeds and algae.

E21 18 CLERK'S REPORT

An update was provided on the following non-agenda items:

Vandalism

In addition to the previously reported issues, the lock on one of the cast Iron bins at Church End has been drilled out, rendering the bin unusable. We are in contact with the manufacturer to arrange a new lock mechanism.

Village Gate on Stanbridge Road

A village gate has been agreed and ordered from Transport for Bucks and will be installed when the Speed limit signs are installed, which we understand is scheduled for mid-August.

E21 19 CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Nothing to note.

E21 20 MATTERS OF REPORT

Nothing to note.

E21 21 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd November 2020.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 9.38pm

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: 2nd November 2020