

2019/2020 – 329

Minutes of the meeting of the Virtual Parks and Open Spaces Committee held on the 6th October 2020.

Present: Ann Lovesey MBE, Derrick Folbigg, Duncan Edgar, James Rudgley, Graham Pendrey, Di Ames (Chair) Stuart Southall

Apologies: Paul Cook

Clerk: Joanne Lee

MINUTES

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies received for Paul Cook.

2. Declarations of interest in any matter – being prejudicial or personal.

David Garrard – item 9

3. Discuss and agree Bedford Borough Council’s recommendations on the installation of the bollard at the village green.

The Clerk has had a conversation with Gareth Turner and he confirmed that where the bollard is to be placed is on Parish Council land.

He has spoken with Ian Johnson from Planning and Gareth feels the most sensible and easiest option would be to go with a oak bollard, removable with a flap. Installation and cost - £200 by BBC.

By installing an environmentally friendly solution then this should be able to be installed without a consultation from planning. Other non-environmental bollards may cause objections.

Gareth advised if the Parish Council decided that want a bollard other than an environmental option the process becomes complicated as a consultation may be necessary. Also, BBC will most likely be unable to purchase and install this for the Parish Council.

Committee discussed and recommended that the oak bollard should be installed by the BBC at the cost of £200.

Action Clerk to put the Parks and Open Spaces Committee recommendations to the Full Parish.

4. Discuss and agree a football team’s request to use of the football pitch for 2020.

Initial:.....

The football team have been in constant contact with the Parish Council and are keen to use the pitch as soon as possible.

Having inspected the football pitch there are only a few small rabbit holes that would need filling.

The football team would need to mark the football pitch themselves and they could use the Parish Council's equipment.

The football team has been advised that the Parish Council agreed that if they adopt the Great Barford name and allow residents to join then the pitch hire would be free of charge however they would need to contact Louise Geary from the Village Hall Association with regards to costs for hiring the village hall facilities. The football team are happy with these conditions.

Committee discussed and recommended for the team to use the football pitch and a contract should be drawn up to ensure that Covid 19 rules and conditions are followed.

Action: Clerk to put the Parks and Open Spaces Committee recommendations to the Full Parish meeting.

5. Update from Councillor Folbigg on future plans for the cricket pitch.

Councillor Folbigg updated the Parish Council on his findings.

Councillor Folbigg advised that no actions at present were required to the cricket pitch except to remove a few weeds in the centre of the pitch.

Action Clerk to contact the handyman to fork the weeds out on the centre of the cricket pitch.

6. Discuss and agree plan of action for the village hall barrier. Clerk to update insurance recommendations.

The Clerk contacted the Parish Council's insurance with regards to the village hall barrier. They advised that as there are no insurance requirements stating that the barrier must be locked, our policy will provide cover irrespective of whether the barrier is locked, unlocked, closed or open. Obviously whatever the Council can do to reduce the chances of a claim is strongly recommended so ideally the barrier will be closed and locked but we appreciate this isn't always practical.

The Committee discussed and recommended that a letter should be written to the Village Hall Association to suggest that the barrier is closed and not locked which would be a visual deterrent.

Action: Clerk to put the Parks and Open Spaces recommendations on the next Full Parish Council agenda.

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7. Discuss and agree wooden planters sowed with wild flower seed to be placed by street signs.

The Committee discussed Councillor Byrne's suggestion of wooden planters and decided not to proceed due to the maintenance and cost required.

8. Discuss and agree Remembrance Day celebrations.

At the Covid19 Health Champions drop in session the following information was supplied regarding Remembrance Day celebrations.

BBC will be drafting guidance to circulate, but essentially any BBC organised events will be:

- No parade
- Gatherings must follow Rule of 6
- Suggest groups of <6 to lay wreath
- Separate each group into 15 minute slots
- No ceremony with speaker
- No live bugler – but may have recorded sound

As yet no information has been received by BBC.

Councillor Pendrey advised the Parish Council of the BBC recommendations.

The Parks and Open Spaces Committee discussed and recommended that the Remembrance Day Service parade should be postponed this year due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The Parks and Open Spaces Committee felt that the organisations should be given specific time slots to lay their wreaths.

Action Clerk to liaise with the church and send out letters to the relevant organisations to request if they would like to lay a wreath this year.

Action Clerk to put the findings on the Full Parish Council meeting for the councillors to discuss a final plan of action.

9. Discuss and agree pest control quotations and further access to rabbit holes.

The Clerk advised the Committee that Angus Lammie has now completed the Playing fields hedge/shrub clearance. The rabbit holes have been filled with earth since the playing field hedge cut and we have been advised to leave the pest control for a month to allow the rabbits to reborrow through the holes. A few pest control experts have advised the best time to complete the pest control is the winter months so this will coincide with the rabbits reborrowing the filled holes.

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The pest control experts also advised that it would be a good idea to consider netting after the ferreting has taken place to help prevent future rabbits. It was advised that they should be 4 foot high with 1 foot underground.

Councillor Garrard has since advised that there are new rabbit holes in the ditch on the Birchfield Road side which will need clearing. Parish Council to discuss and agree a plan of action.

The Clerk advised the Committee that the Parish Council had received a written quotation prior to Covid 19 lockdown from Ace Pest Control :

Following our site survey, we have pleasure in submitting the following quotation for two visits for the treatment of rabbits in the recreational / play area on Green End Road. 900.00 1 180.00 1,080.00

The initial visit to ferret holes and fill in holes afterwards, 2nd visit to retreat any reopened holes.

The MAXIMUM price is £900+VAT dependent upon how much clearance is done by contractors

Please note that our first visit must be before 01 April 2020 as discussed

Sub Total:	900.00
VAT (20.00%)	180.00
Estimate Total (GBP):	1,080.00

DC Pest Control are scheduled to submitted a quotation before the Full Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk is currently attempting to obtain contact details from the Cricket Club on who they previously used.

David Garrard advised that he had received a verbal quotation that a handyman had offered pest control services on the playing field free of charge.

The Committee discussed and agreed that the verbal offer of pest control free of charge from David Garrard was not accepted.

Councillor Southall agreed to cut the ditch by Birchfield Road to allow the pest control team access to all the rabbit holes.

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Action Clerk to contact David Garrard and advise that the verbal quotation of pest control free of charge was not accepted and request that a written quotation with costings is provided which can then be discussed at the full Parish Council meeting.

Action Clerk to obtain written quotation from DC Pest Control and the Cricket club rabbit contact.

Action Clerk to put Parks and Open Spaces recommendations to the Full Parish Council and submit all written quotation.

9. Discuss and agree a request from the organisers for a permanent location for Covid19 snake.

The Parish Council received the following response from the organisers of the Covid19 snake.

As you are aware over lockdown and the summer holidays our lovely children of the village decorated stones to make a Covid snake around the green at Willoughby Close. The children have had so much fun in creating this and going for walks to view the snake that I wondered if we could make something to commentate it. The year 2020 has been one that will go down in history. One of my ideas was to create a sand pit block and fill it with cement to place the snake within and maybe laser children's names on a plaque.

Therefore I am emailing you to see if this is something the council would support? If so I am happy to take the lead on the project too. If you would like to discuss further please let me know.

The Parks and Open Spaces Committee discussed and agreed that this was a good suggestion from the resident and felt that this should be recommended to the Full Parish Council. It was recommended that the stones should be repainted with permanent paint to avoid discolouration. Willoughby Close central green space would be the preferred location.

Action Clerk to put the Parks and Open Spaces recommendations to the full Parish Council

Action Clerk to contact the resident and invite them to the full parish meeting to discuss their suggestion.

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10. Discuss and agree Bedford Borough Council's free tulip giveaway.

The Clerk to contact BBC to accept the offer of the tulips giveaway.

Action Clerk to contact Bedford Borough Council to request the free tulips.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Initial:.....