

Minutes of the meeting of the Virtual Parks and Open Spaces Committee held on the 14th July 2020.

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

Apologies: Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant

Clerk: Joanne Lee

MINUTES

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

None.

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

None.

3. Update from the Working Group with suggestions to improve the village green's current issues.

Councillor Pendrey updated the Committee with the Working Group's findings (see Appendix 1).

The Committee discussed and agreed that the signs in the graveyard should be altered to allow use of the carpark and not just graveyard visitors, White posts should be put in along New Road before the entrance of Woodpecker to discourage parking, a drop down bollard should be installed in the Village Green wide entrance and existing bins should be removed and replaced with large wheelie bins with a shelter enclosure to help assist with excess rubbish.

Action Clerk to put suggestions from the Committee to the Full Parish Council to discuss and agree.

Action Clerk to investigate suggestion of installing large wheelie bins with Environmental services at Bedford Borough Council.

4. Discuss and agree entries for the Front Garden competition.

The Committee discussed and agreed the recommendation to the Full Parish Council would be a first and second prize for Small Garden and Large Gardens and possible commendations to other gardens. The Prizes agreed were - £50 Roxton Garden Centre vouchers for First Prize small and large garden and £25 Roxton Garden Centre vouchers for small and large garden. Clerk advised that Roxton Garden Centre had been contacted and were happy to donate some of the prizes. They will confirm via email what prizes they are able to donate shortly. .

Action Clerk to short list 4 large and 4 small garden entries and Councillor Folbigg and Councillor Pendrey will view the gardens and suggest first, second and commendations.

Action Clerk to put on Full Parish Council to discuss and agree recommendations and to update what prizes Roxton Garden Centre are able to supply.

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5. Discuss and agree new resident representative for the Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

The Committee discussed and agreed that providing the current Standing Orders permitted a member of the public to join the Parks and Open Spaces Committee as a permanent member the new representative Paul Cook was recommended.

Action Clerk to check Standing Orders.

Action Clerk to put Committee's recommendations to Full Parish Council.

6. Discuss and agree plan of action for unauthorised planting in Woodpecker Close open space.

The Clerk update the Committee on the history of the unauthorised planting. Paul Cook attended the Committee meeting as a representative for the Riverside Association and had confirmed that the Riverside Association had agreed that they would not plant anything without the prior consultation and approval from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the small conifer bushes planted by the Riverside Association would remain however if they caused issues in the future then this would be reviewed.

The Committee advised the Riverside Association to formally make a request to the Parish Council for approval to continue to plant/replace bedding plants around the trees.

Action Clerk to update the Full Parish Council.

7. Discuss and agree quotations for cutting back of overhanging vegetation between Brambles and the footway alongside the Jubilee Play area.

The Clerk gave the following quotations : Russell Harley £170 : Paul Clark £200 but this could not be actioned until end of August and Warners of Bedford we are currently till awaiting a quotation. The Committee agreed to Russell Harley's quotation. The height of the hedge should be the same height as the fence, the full width of the footpath should be clear and both sides of the bush should be cut vertically and as short as possible.

Councillors also discussed other areas in the village in need of cutting. It was agreed that councillors should send their suggestions to the Clerk so a rolling programme can be compiled.

Action Clerk to put Committee's suggestion to agree Russell Harley's quotation and cutting instructions to the Full Parish Council meeting.

Action Clerk to ask Gary Davison if Russell Harley can dispose of Jubilee Play area cuttings on his farm.

Action Councillors to send suggestions of bushes/trees that need cutting in the village.

Action Clerk to put a rolling programme to Full Parish Council to approve.

8. Discuss and agree quotations for repairs and installation for the Jubilee Play area equipment.

The Clerk presented the quotations received from Produlic - £1051.03 to supply the parts and Kettering Play Safe £210 and Reid £350 to install the parts. The Committee discussed and agreed that the parts quotation of £1051.03 from Produlic and Kettering

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Play Safe quote of £210 to install the parts should be recommended to the Full Parish Council.

Action Clerk to put Committee's recommendations to Full Parish Council to discuss and agree.

9. Discuss free playground equipment offer from Kompan Playgrounds.

The Committee discussed the free equipment offer which expires 30th September 2020. Councillor Ames updated the Committee of a design your own equipment from Kompan and suggested a children's competition to design it. The Committee agreed that this was a good idea however recommended that the cost and timescales of building the equipment were explored initially.

Action Clerk to contact Kompan and investigate the design your own equipment suggestion and obtain examples of prices and timescales and also confirm if the equipment free offer is valid when ordering these types of self designed pieces of equipment. Clerk also to confirm if the expiry date of 30th September 2020 is when the order needs to be placed by or installed.

Action Clerk to put findings to the Full Parish Council.

10. Discuss and agree suggestion of wild flower verges.

The Committee discussed and agreed that this would be a viable idea however it would be necessary to identify suitable areas in the village.

Action Clerk to obtain pricing for wild flower seeds from Bedford Borough Council and Councillor Southall.

Action Clerk to put findings to the Full Parish Council. The suitable areas would need to be discussed further

11. Half yearly comments on grasscutting and handyman tasks.

The Committee discussed and agreed that more regular cuts were needed especially the playing fields.

The Clerk updated the Council on a meeting with a company regarding treatments for the Playing Fields and Woodpecker Close green open space and the Clerk was currently awaiting a quotation.

Paul Cook advised the shrubs next to the graveyard bushes and along the ditch backing onto the properties on Woodpecker had become overgrown.

Action Clerk to update the Full Parish Council of comments regarding Grasscutting, quotation for the treatment to improve the playing fields and Woodpecker Close green open space.

Action Paul Cook to send an email to the Clerk requesting that the graveyard bushes and along the ditch backing onto the properties on Woodpecker require cutting. Clerk to add this onto rolling programme of bushes/trees that need cutting/trimming in the village.

Initial:.....

Appendix 1

Village Green Working Group

Suggestions from site meeting 30 June 2020.

Present:

Di Ames, Duncan Edgar, David Garrard, Stephen Moon, Graham Pendrey, Jim Rudgley.

Problems:

People have excess leisure time during Covid-19/Furlough period.
Great Barford has become over visited – Canoe/Swimmers
Excessively busy during good weather – Picnickers/Social Distancing
Dangerous activities – Jumping from Road Bridge/Swimming in Lock.
On-road Parking becomes nuisance to through traffic.
No facilities.
Litter.

Parking on New Rd

Request BBC Highways to install Bollards to protect/reinforce Highway Code 243 to not park opposite or within 10m of a junction – New Rd/Woodpecker Cl. – Reason: to stop verge parking and enable improved vision splay on exit of Woodpecker Cl.
Enquire about use of Scout Field parking.

PC Car Park Sign

Clean both signs and remove some vinyl lettering to read:-

Parking for visitors
No overnight parking.
By order of
Great Barford Parish Council.

This will allow some off-street parking for about 10 cars.

Litter Bins

Remove current litter bins, and replace with “large” wheelie-bins close to “lion head stand-pipe”.
Camouflage in secure compound.
Relocate “dog waste” bin to FP entrance at New Rd.

Vehicle Access to Village Green

Leave Public Footpath adjacent to Bridge Cottage.
Install Drop Bollard to inhibit unauthorised vehicle access to second entrance from New Rd, while retaining sufficient width for invalid/push-chair access down slope. Possibly move northern side rail to reduce entrance width as well.

Signage

The Village Green is for use of Local Residents.
Keep Tidy and take Litter Home.
Reminder there are no Toilet facilities.
No commercial activities without consent from Great Barford Parish Council.
All river craft to have appropriate Environment Agency Licence.
EA to provide safety/warning sign to install on post near road bridge.

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Village Green

RoW FP18 – cannot obstruct

Close VG ?

Open to residents only ?

Useful info:

Manage your town and village greens

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-your-town-and-village-greens#local-visitors-rights>

Town and village greens: how to register

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/town-and-village-greens-how-to-register>

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

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